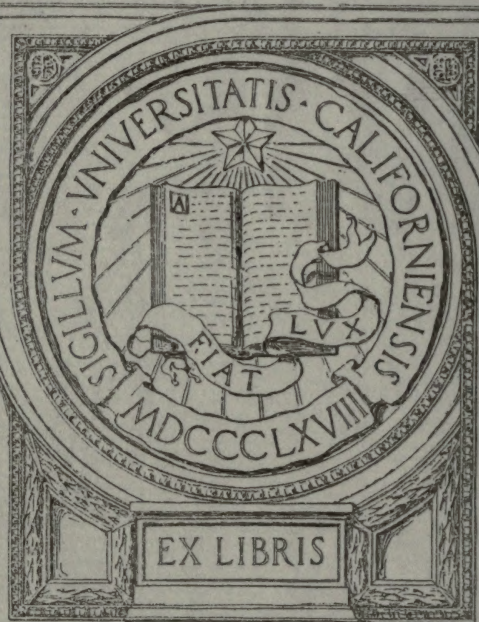




IN MEMORIAM

George Davidson 1825-1911



EX LIBRIS

1836

A merry Christmas

& a
Happy

to
his Father

Geo. F. Davidson

San Francisco



Ham. What! frighted with false fire!

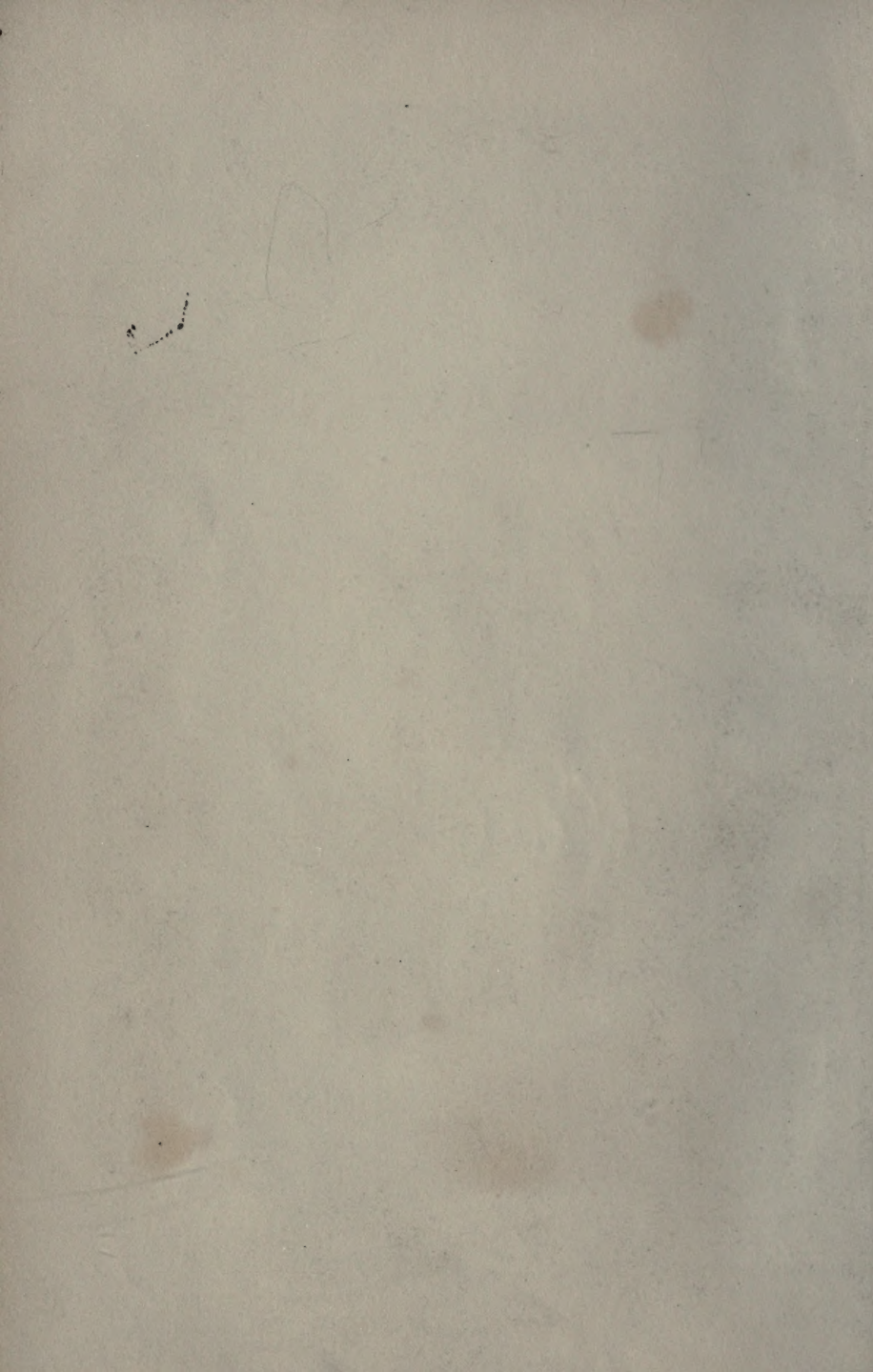
Queen. How fares my lord?

Pol. Give o'er the play.

King. Give me some light:—away! p. 823.

HE WAS NOT OF AN AGE BUT FOR ALL TIME





THE
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE
DRAMATIC WORKS

OF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WITH

COPIOUS GLOSSARIAL NOTES

AND

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

BY ROBERT INGLIS.

Four Engravings on Steel.

GALL & INGLIS.

Edinburgh:

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London:

25 PATERNOSTER SQ.

THE

DRAMATIC WORKS

In remembrance of

George Washington

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931

1871a

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

NEARLY all that has come down to us of the *personal* history of Shakespeare may be expressed in the words of one of his biographers: "All that is known with any degree of certainty is, that he was born at Stratford-upon-Avon—married, and had children there—went to London, where he commenced actor, and wrote poems and plays—returned to Stratford, made his will, died, and was buried." It is most remarkable of such a man as Shakespeare, "that no letter of his writing, no record of his conversation, no fully drawn character of him by any contemporary has yet been discovered." The industry of his commentators has indeed discovered various documents in which he is mentioned, but the information is of the most meagre kind, and the history derived from the discovery, of a merely conjectural character.

At first sight one is disposed to imagine that, great as Shakespeare has been esteemed since his death, possibly he may have been undervalued by his contemporaries, but several incidental notices of him by writers of his age, show that not only were his writings appreciated, but that his plays had introduced a new era in the progress of dramatic literature.

So far as we can gather from the scanty facts which have been collected, Shakespeare seems to have had a most supreme indifference as to the place he was to occupy in the annals of literature; he has left us no records of his own life, nor does he appear ever to have taken the slightest trouble to have his dramas issued to the world in the state in which he wrote them. During his lifetime, edition after edition was published of many of his plays, unauthorised by him, and in a most imperfect and garbled form, yet he never seems to have interfered, and at his death no authorised copy of Shakespeare's plays was known to have been in existence. How much of Shakespeare we have in the generally received text is quite a matter of conjecture, and the text itself is as much a subject of discussion as the dramas of ancient Greece. The editors of the first collected edition of Shakespeare,—the famous edition of 1623,—did their duty most conscientiously, but their materials were of the most uncertain character, being chiefly collected from the manuscripts preserved in the various theatres, but not one of them bearing the authentication of Shakespeare. In this edition twenty plays were published for the first time.

The first certain information regarding the Shakespeares begins with his father, John Shakespeare, who is believed to have been the son of a substantial farmer in Snitterfield, about three miles from Stratford-on-Avon. John appears to have commenced business in Stratford about the year 1551, and it is singular that the first mention we have of him is in April, 1552, in a prosecution for "piling up a dunghill in Henley Street, contrary to the laws." In 1553 he again appears in the Court roll as being fined fourpence for not keeping his gutters clean. The first trade he seems to have taken up was a glover, and he is so described in 1556 in a register of the Bailiff's Court. He soon after engaged in other occupations, as in 1564 he appears as selling timber, and still later to have "taken to agricultural pursuits," and "to have been a considerable dealer in wool." In 1579 he is styled in the chamberlain's accounts as "a yeoman," and probably the early tradition that he was a butcher, may have originated in his occasionally slaughtering his stock for the Stratford market. In these various occupations he seems at first to have been very successful, and to have raised himself to easy circumstances. He was much esteemed by his townsmen, and filled in succession the various offices of the corporation, till in 1563 he was elected High Bailiff. It is significant of the state of education at this time that this the Chief Magistrate of Stratford could not sign his own name

In 1557 John Shakespeare married Mary Arden, daughter of Robert Arden, then deceased, a gentleman of ancient family, and a considerable landed proprietor in the neighbourhood. They had a large family. The following is a copy of the baptisms from the Stratford Register :—

1558, Sept. 15, Joan. [Died in infancy.]	1569, Apr. 15, Joan. [Married W. Hart. Died 1646.]
1562, Dec. 2, Margaret. [Died 1563.]	1571, Sept. 28, Anne. [Died 1579.]
1564, April 26, William. [Died 1616.]	1574, Mar. 11, Richard. [Died 1613.]
1566, Oct. 13, Gilbert. [No information.]	1580, May 3, Edmund. [An actor. Died 1607.]

The marriage into the Arden family not only gave John Shakespeare a greatly superior position in society, but he inherited through his wife the estate of Asbies, about 54 acres in extent, and some other valuable tenements in Snitterfield; these were held no inconsiderable dower in his days.

As John Shakespeare advanced in years he seems to have got into difficulties through unfortunate speculations and heavy losses in his business, so much so that in 1587 we find him actually in prison for debt,—a sad downfall for the Chief Magistrate of Stratford. After this, however, he appears to have again emerged into comfort and affluence; for, in 1596, we find John Shakespeare applying for and obtaining a grant of arms from the Herald's College; and we have the assertion of Garter King-at-Arms that he was at this time worth £500 in tenements and lands. In 1599, a farther application is recorded, to authorise the impalement of the Arden arms with those of Shakespeare: the permission was granted. But it is more than probable that William Shakespeare had helped his father, and was the moving spring of these applications, as he was by this time fast accumulating wealth in a profession then so much looked down upon that he was precluded from seeking the honours for himself.

There is a curious document, dated 1592, being a "return of all recusants or persons who, from various causes, did not attend church;" in this document John Shakespeare's name occurs, and there is a note appended that his absence was caused by a "feare of processe of debts." Yet we find him at this very time assisting in making an inventory of the effects of a tanner, not apparently afraid of arrest for debt. Some have held that these contradictions could only be reconciled by supposing a relapse from the Protestant faith, but the facts stated are too slight to justify such a conclusion.

John Shakespeare did not long enjoy his heraldic honours. He died in September, 1601. His wife survived him for seven years, dying in 1608.

William Shakespeare, the third child of John Shakespeare, was born on 23rd April, 1564. An entry in the register of Stratford records his baptism on the 26th April, and an early tradition that he died on the anniversary of his birth fixes the 23rd as the day on which he first saw the light. A house is still pointed out in Henley Street as that in which he was born.

From this time till his eighteenth year we have not a word of reliable history. Such information as we possess we gather from traditions not collected till about fifty years after his death.

It is believed that he received the elements of his education at the Free Grammar School of Stratford, which he entered about the age of seven, and at which he remained for six or seven years. We have few indications to guide us in judging of his proficiency there. One of the traditions makes him out "in his younger years to have been a schoolmaster in the country, and that he understood Latin pretty well." Some have supposed from this that in the Free Grammar School he had assisted "in teaching the young idea how to shoot." Ben Jonson, an intimate friend of his, makes the remark, "And though thou hadst small Latin and less Greek," so that it is likely that he had made progress, at all events in the classics. It is also asserted that he was apprenticed to a lawyer in Stratford, but the proof of this is very insufficient.

When William Shakespeare was about the age of fourteen, it is supposed that the difficulties into which his father was fast getting induced him to take William from school to assist in his business. It has been already said that his father killed his stock for the market; and it may have been while with his father that, as tradition asserts, "when he (Shakespeare) killed a calf, he would do it in a high style, and make a speech." The occupations in which he would thus naturally be engaged may have given rise to one of the traditions that Shakespeare was apprenticed to a butcher.

It has been supposed that it was about this time that he first became acquainted with the strolling players, who occasionally visited Stratford, and under whose influence his mind received that impulse which some years later produced such wonderful results.

We now come to one of those events in the life of Shakespeare upon which the evidence is documentary—his marriage with Anne Hathaway, a resident of the neighbourhood. A marriage bond, dated 28th November, 1582, is still preserved, in which two persons, Fulk Sandells and John Richardson, come under a penalty of £40, to be forfeited to the Bishop in the event of any cause appearing hereafter why William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway should not be married, this bond being required to enable a clergyman to unite them after only a single publication of banns. The reason of this haste is not, unfortunately, difficult to find: their first child, Susanna, was born about the 26th May, 1583, scarcely six months after the date of the bond. Endeavours have been made to explain away the above circumstance by a suggestion that a previous marriage before witnesses had taken place, and that this was only to enable the religious part of the ceremony to be performed. But on this supposition the haste is unaccountable, especially with the responsibility which it threw on the signers of the bond. The bond, too, mentions a marriage to be performed afterwards; and as there is a seal R. H. also attached to the document, which is supposed to be that of Anne's father, then dead, it is but too plain why the various parties pushed on the legal solemnisation of the union. The truth is, the editors of Shakespeare have a feverish anxiety to show that his character was all but immaculate. The slightest incident in his favour is magnified to absurdity, while aught showing he was but a man, with the frailties of his age and times, is discarded as unworthy of credit.

Anne was seven or eight years older than her husband, and there is little in their future life to make us think that Shakespeare had much love for her. She seems, however, to have been a faithful and dutiful wife, and to have borne his long absences with at least equanimity. Shakespeare, on his departure for London, left his wife and family behind him, and there is no appearance of their ever having been with him during his residence there. It is said that he paid a yearly visit to his family at Stratford, until he finally gave up his profession, when he took up his abode with them in his native town.

In 1585 were born at Stratford Shakespeare's two children—Hamnet and Judith—twins.

We now come to a great event in Shakespeare's life, his leaving Stratford for London. Great controversy has taken place as to the cause of this. The reason commonly assigned is "the deer-stealing story." The original statement of the matter is as follows:—"He had, by a misfortune common enough to young fellows, fallen into ill company, and amongst them some that made a frequent practice of deer-stealing, engaged him more than once in robbing the park that belonged to Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlcoate, near Stratford. For this he was prosecuted by that gentleman, as he thought, somewhat too severely; and, in order to revenge that ill usage, he made a ballad upon him; and though this, probably the first essay of his poetry, be lost, yet it is said to have been so very bitter, that it redoubled the prosecution against him to that degree, that he was obliged to leave his business and family in Warwickshire for some time, and shelter himself in London."

Though mere tradition cannot prove the above account to be a narrative of facts, there appears nothing in the nature of the case to make the incidents unlikely. In all ages game-stealing has been a crime constantly before the law courts; and that Shakespeare, a young, active man, mingling with the class among whom the actors in these depredations are usually found, should engage with them in such an escapade, is not at all unnatural. It may be remarked, too, that the lower classes of society have ever had a difficulty in understanding a breach of the game laws to be a moral offence.

In the *Merry Wives of Windsor* (p. 49) Sir Thomas Lucy is plainly introduced as Justice Shallow; and when the Justice is made to threaten to make the deer-stealing a "Star Chamber business," it seems likely that Shakespeare refers to the manner in which he had been prosecuted for the offence. There is also a clear allusion to Sir Thomas Lucy's name and coat of arms in the same chapter where Slender refers to the *luce* (a pike.) Lucy's coat of arms contains three *luces*.

Though the above story seems to have been a strong reason for Shakespeare's departure, it is more than probable that the unsatisfactory state of his father's affairs gave additional reasons for his leaving home to push his fortunes in the world.

He appears to have left Stratford in 1586-7, and to have directed his course to London, but we have no reliable information regarding his occupation for the next two years. An improbable story is told, that he held gentlemen's horses at the doors of the theatres, and became a great favourite in the occupation. It is not at all consistent, however, with the well-ascertained fact, that so early as 1589, within two or three years of his entering London, he was one of the twelve proprietors of Blackfriars' Theatre. We have a document, dated November, 1589, in which this information is given. It seems probable that Shakespeare had early obtained an introduction to the company of actors, and his genius and business activity must have raised him quickly through the lower situations till he became a sharer in the profits of the theatre itself.

Shakespeare was now fairly launched as an actor and writer of plays. Mr Halliwell has recently discovered documentary evidence of Shakespeare's having acted on two occasions before Queen Elizabeth in 1594. Many discordant statements have been made as to his talents as an actor; some asserting that his "top character was the Ghost in Hamlet;" but another story, if true, shows he had the ready appreciation of the part he had to play, which is the indication of a first-class actor. The story is as follows:—Queen Elizabeth on one occasion honoured the theatre with her presence while Shakespeare was personating a king. She, happening to walk across the stage near Shakespeare, dropped her glove, but Shakespeare took no notice of the circumstance. Elizabeth, desirous of ascertaining if this was intentional or a mere inadvertence, again moved past him, and dropped her glove. Shakespeare picked it up, and still personating the monarch in the play, said,

"And though now bent on this high embassy,
Yet stoop we to take up our cousin's glove."

He then presented it to Elizabeth, who was greatly pleased with his ready wit. Queen Elizabeth was a great admirer of Shakespeare's plays, and in *Midsummer-Night's Dream* (p. 137) he pays her one of the most refined tributes ever paid to woman. The passage ends with

"And the imperial votaress passed on
In maiden meditation, fancy free."

As a writer of dramas, it is likely that Shakespeare produced some of his plays at a very early period of his theatrical career, and it is probable that it was to his pen more than to his acting that he owed his rapid rise in his profession; at first he seems to have confined himself to the remodelling of plays already in existence, and to this class belong *Pericles* (his first drama), *Titus Andronicus*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Comedy of Errors*; some of these are supposed to have appeared as early as 1588. It was not till 1591 or 1591 that his first original play, *Love's Labour Lost*, appeared; but no reliable information has ever been obtained as to the dates when the rest of his plays were first produced. The dates when the following were first published (unsanctioned by Shakespeare) have been ascertained pretty correctly; but they must have been acted in the theatres long before—

1597. <i>King Richard II.</i>	1600. <i>A Midsummer-Night's Dream.</i>
" <i>King Richard III.</i>	" <i>Much Ado About Nothing.</i>
" <i>Romeo and Juliet.</i>	" <i>Titus Andronicus.</i>
1598. <i>Love's Labour's Lost.</i>	1602. <i>Merry Wives of Windsor.</i>
" <i>First Part of King Henry IV.</i>	1603. <i>Hamlet.</i>
" <i>The Merchant of Venice.</i>	1607. <i>King Lear.</i>
1600. <i>Second Part of King Henry IV.</i>	1609. <i>Troilus and Cressida.</i>
" <i>King Henry V.</i>	" <i>Pericles.</i>

A question has been keenly discussed as to whether Shakespeare ever visited Scotland; there are circumstances which deserve notice as being the grounds for this supposition. A portion of the "Queen's players," with whom Shakespeare was connected, actually visited Scotland, and went as far as Aberdeen, having frequent opportunities of acting before King James; some have surmised that Shakespeare must have been in this company, of which he was usually a member, and that only his visit to the north would account for the marvellous descriptions in *Macbeth*. Adverse to this idea, it is remarkable that, though several members of the company are named as having received rewards and honours, Shakespeare's is not even mentioned. It is also to be remembered that it

was only a detachment of the company which visited Scotland, the main body exhibiting at Court during the same seasons, and it is natural to suppose Shakespeare was with it, especially when we consider that he was at this time exceedingly busy with the dramas, which shortly after came out in rapid succession. All things considered, it is not probable, though quite possible, that he was ever in Scotland.

In the year 1592 the plague broke out in London, and an order was issued by the Privy Council to shut up all theatres and places of public concourse as a preventative to infection. Shakespeare, thus finding "Othello's occupation gone," took the opportunity of his forced leisure to issue a volume of poems, written some years before, entitled "Venus and Adonis." The poetry is of a most licentious character, and could not have appeared in a purer age, but its popularity was decided, and several editions were rapidly issued. It was followed by "Lucrece," which also became very popular. These are the only poems of Shakespeare which were published under his own sanction. They were dedicated to Lord Southampton, and obtained the immediate patronage of the Earl, who presented him shortly after with £1000.

It has been supposed that this munificent donation was made to enable Shakespeare to meet his share of the expense of building a new theatre, "The Globe." This theatre was opened in 1595; it was a large round building of wood, open to the sky, while only the stage was protected from the weather by an overhanging roof well thatched. In bad weather or in winter the players adjourned to "The Blackfriars," which was entirely covered in. "The Globe was a great success, most probably because in it were first acted the noble dramas written by Shakespeare at this period.

Shakespeare was now on the highway to wealth and fame. His profits from the Britannia and Globe must have been very large, and he had besides his regular salary as an actor, which would enable him to make his frequent investments in the purchase of houses and lands in his native town. In 1597 he purchased New Place, one of the best houses in Stratford; in 1602 we find him acquiring, for £320, 107 acres of arable land, which he annexed to New Place; and in 1605 he purchased, for £440, a share in a lease of tithes at Stratford. Money at that time represented about five times the amount it does at present, so that the sums invested would come to no inconsiderable sum for a man in his position.

In the midst of his own success, our dramatist had the deepest sympathy with his brother poets who were struggling into fame; the petty jealousies which but too often arise among authors were unfelt by Shakespeare; a striking example of this occurs in his introduction of Ben Jonson to public notice. Ben Jonson, at this time unknown, had offered a play to one of the theatres; the person who received it, after carelessly and superciliously turning it over, rejected it. Shakespeare luckily happened to notice it, saw the merit of the piece, and brought it before the public. It was the beginning of a bright career for Jonson, and the friendship thus begun seems to have endured through life. It is said that Shakespeare acted in 1598 in one of Ben Jonson's plays.

Shakespeare seems, up to 1604, to have retained his position as an actor. A document, recently discovered by Mr Halliwell, shows that on the 15th March of that year, "4½ yards skarlet red cloth" was supplied to Shakespeare for his dress in a representation to be made before King James on his first visit to London. Shakespeare's name appears first on the list of the company, who were similarly supplied. James, on his accession, took the drama under his special patronage, and by a warrant, dated 17th May, 1603, he authorised Shakespeare's company, under the title of "The King's Players," to exercise their "arte and faculty" throughout his dominions. Shakespeare, in *Macbeth*, acknowledged this patronage, and is said to have delighted James by describing the long line of Scottish kings, who would at last

"The twofold balls and treble sceptre carry."

It is remarkable that the first proclamation of James closed the theatres on Sunday, on which day they had been accustomed to be open. This was only a sop for the time to the religious public, for we know, from the entries in the "Accounts of the Revels," that on Sunday, 4th November, 1604, the *Merry Wives of Windsor* was played before the King. This is quite in keeping with the "Book of Sports" which he afterwards forced on the community

The Tempest.

Persons Represented.

ALONSO, *King of Naples.*
 SEBASTIAN, *his Brother.*
 PROSPERO, *the rightful Duke of Milan.*
 ANTONIO, *his Brother, the usurping Duke of Milan.*
 FERDINAND, *Son to the King of Naples.*
 GONZALO, *the honest old Counsellor of Naples.*
 ADRIAN, } *Lords.*
 FRANCISCO, }
 CALIBAN, *a savage and deformed Slave.*
 TRINCULO, *a Jester.*

STEPHANO, *a drunken Butler.*
 Master of a Ship, Boatswain, and Mariners.
 MIRANDA, *Daughter to Prospero.*
 ARIEL, *an airy Spirit.*
 IRIS, }
 CERES, } *Spirits.*
 JUNO, }
 NYMPHS, }
 REAPERS, }
 Other Spirits attending on Prospero.

SCENE.—*The Sea with a Ship; afterwards an uninhabited Island.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—ON A SHIP AT SEA.

A tempestuous noise of Thunder and Lightning heard.

Enter a Ship-master and a Boatswain.

Mast. Boatswain!

Boats. Here, Master: what cheer?

Mast. Good, speak to th' mariners: fall to't yarely,¹ or we run ourselves aground: bestir, bestir.

[*Exit.*]

Enter Mariners.

Boats. Heigh, my hearts! cheerly, cheerly, my hearts! yare, yare. Take in the top-sail; tend to th' Master's whistle.—Blow, till thou burst thy wind, if room enough!

Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Ferdinand, Gonzalo, and Others.

Alon. Good Boatswain, have care. Where's the Master? Play the men.

Boats. I pray now, keep below.

Ant. Where is the Master, Boatswain?

Boats. Do you not hear him? You mar our labour. Keep your cabins; you do assist the storm.

Gon. Nay, good, be patient.

Boats. When the sea is. Hence! What care these roarers for the name of king? To cabin: silence! trouble us not.

Gon. Good, yet remember whom thou hast aboard.

Boats. None that I more love than myself. You are a Counsellor: if you can command these elements to silence, and work the peace of the present, we will not hand a rope more. Use your authority: if you cannot, give thanks you have liv'd so long, and make yourself ready in your cabin for the mischance of the hour, if it so hap-

¹ Nimbly.

—Cheerly, good hearts!—Out of our way, I say!

[*Exit.*]

Gon. I have great comfort from this fellow: methinks he hath no drowning mark upon him; his complexion is perfect gallows. Stand fast, good Fate, to his hanging! make the rope of his destiny our cable, for our own doth little advantage! If he be not born to be hang'd, our case is miserable.

[*Excunt.*]

Enter Boatswain.

Boats. Down with the top-mast: yare; lower, lower. Bring her to: try wi' th' main-course. [*A cry within.*] A plague upon this howling! they are louder than the weather, or our office.—

Enter Sebastian, Antonio, and Gonzalo.

Yet again! what do you hear? Shall we give o'er, and drown? Have you a mind to sink?

Seb. A plague o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous, incharitable dog!

Boats. Work you, then.

Ant. Hang, cur, hang! You insolent noise-maker, we are less afraid to be drown'd than thou art.

Gon. I'll warrant him for drowning; though the ship were no stronger than a nutshell.

Boats. Lay her a-hold, a-hold! Set her two courses. Off to sea again: lay her off.

Enter Mariners, wet.

Mar. All lost! to prayers, to prayers! all lost!

[*Excunt.*]

Boats. What! must our mouths be cold?

Gon. The King and Prince at prayers! let's assist them,

For our case is theirs.

Seb. I'm out of patience.

Ant. We are merely¹ cheated of our lives by drunkards.—

¹ Entirely.

This wide-chapp'd rascal, — would thou might'st
The washing of ten tides ! [lie drowning,

Gon. He'll be hanged yet,
Though every drop of water swear against it,
And gape at wid'st to glut him.

[*A confused noise within.*] Mercy on us ! —

We split, we split ! — Farewell, my wife and
children ! — Farewell, brother ! — We split,
we split, we split ! —

Ant. Let's all sink wi' th' King. [*Exit.*
Seb. Let's take leave of him. [*Exit.*

Gon. Now would I give a thousand furlongs
of sea for an acre of barren ground ; long heath,
brown furze, anything. The wills above be
done ! but I would fain die a dry death. [*Exit.*

SCENE II.

THE ISLAND : BEFORE THE CELL OF PROSPERO.

Enter Prospero and Miranda.

M. If by your art, my dearest father, you have
Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them.
The sky, it seems, would pour down stinking
pitch,

But that the sea, mounting to th' welkin's cheek,
Dashes the fire out. O ! I have suffered
With those that I saw suffer ; a brave vessel,
Who had, no doubt, some noble creature in her,
Dash'd all to pieces. O ! the cry did knock
Against my very heart. Poor souls, they perish'd.
Had I been any god of power, I would
Have sunk the sea within the earth or e'er
It should the good ship so have swallowed, and
The freighting souls within her.

Pro. Be collected :
No more amazement. Tell your piteous heart,
There's no harm done.

Mira. O, woe the day !

Pro. No harm.
I have done nothing but in care of thee,
(Of thee, my dear one ! thee, my daughter !) who
Art ignorant of what thou art, naught knowing
Of whence I am ; nor that I am more better
Than Prospero, master of a full poor cell,
And thy no greater father.

Mira. More to know
Did never meddle with my thoughts.

Pro. 'Tis time
I should inform thee farther. Lend thy hand,
And pluck my magic garment from me. — So :

[*Lays down his mantle.*

Lie there, my art. — Wipe thou thine eyes ;
have comfort.

The direful spectacle of the wrack, which touch'd
The very virtue of compassion in thee,
I have with such provision in mine art
So safely order'd, that there is no soul —
No, not so much perdition as an hair,
Betid to any creature in the vessel
Which thou heard'st cry, which thou saw'st sink.

Sit down :

For thou must now know farther.

Mira. You have often
Begun to tell me what I am : but stopp'd,
And left me to a bootless inquisition,
Concluding, — "Stay, not yet."

Pro. The hour's now come ;
The very minute bids thee ope thine ear :

Obey, and be attentive. Canst thou remember
A time before we came into this cell ?

I do not think thou canst ; for then thou wast
Out three years old. [not

Mira. Certainly, sir, I can.

Pro. By what ? by any other house, or person ?
Of any thing the image tell me, that
Hath kept with thy remembrance.

Mira. 'Tis far off,

And rather like a dream than an assurance
That my remembrance warrants. Had I not
Four or five women once, that tended me ?

Pro. Thou hadst, and more, Miranda. But
how is it,

That this lives in thy mind ? What seest thou else
In the dark backward and abysm of time ?

If thou remember'st aught, ere thou cam'st here,
How thou cam'st here, thou may'st.

Mira. But that I do not.

Pro. Twelve years since, Miranda, twelve years
Thy father was the Duke of Milan, and [since,
A prince of power.

Mira. Sir, are not you my father ?

Pro. Thy mother was a piece of virtue, and
She said thou wast my daughter ; and thy father
Was Duke of Milan, and his only heir
And Princess, no worse issued.

Mira. O, the heavens !

What foul play had we, that we came from
Or blessed was't, we did ? [thence !

Pro. Both, both, my girl ;

By foul play, as thou say'st, were we heav'd
But blessedly help hither. [thence ;

Mira. O ! my heart bleeds

To think o' th' teen¹ that I have turned you to,
Which is from my remembrance. Please you,
farther.

P. My brother, and thy uncle, called Antonio, —
I pray thee, mark me, — that a brother should
Be so perfidious ! — he whom, next thyself,
Of all the world I lov'd, and to him put
The manage of my state ; as, at that time,
Through all the signiories it was the first,
(And Prospero the prime Duke, being so reputed
In dignity) and, for the liberal arts,
Without a parallel : those being all my study,
The government I cast upon my brother.
And to my State grew stranger, being transported
And rapt in secret studies. Thy false uncle —
Dost thou attend me ?

Mira. Sir, most heedfully.

Pro. Being once perfected how to grant suits,
How to deny them, whom to advance, and whom
To trash² for over-topping, new created 'em,
The creatures that were mine, I say, or chang'd
Or else new form'd 'em ; having both the key
Of officer and office, set all hearts i' th' State
To what tune pleas'd his ear, that now he was
The ivy, which had hid my princely trunk,
And suck'd my verdure out on't. — Thou attend'st
I pray thee, mark me. [not

Mira. O good sir ! I do.

Pro. I thus neglecting worldly ends, all dedicate
To closeness, and the bettering of my mind
With that, which but by being so retir'd
O'er-prized all popular rate, in my false brother
Awak'd an evil nature ; and my trust,

Like a good parent, did beget of him
A falsehood, in its contrary as great
As my trust was; which had, indeed, no limit,
A confidence sans bound. He, being thus lorded,
Not only with what my revenue yielded,
But what my power might else exact,—like one,
Who having, unto truth, by telling of it,
Made such a sinner of his memory,
To credit his own lie—he did believe
He was indeed the Duke; out o' th' substitution,
And executing th' outward face of royalty,
With all prerogative:—hence his ambition
Growing,—Dost thou hear?

Mira. Your tale, sir, would cure deafness.

Pro. To have no screen between this part he
And him he play'd it for, he needs will be [play'd,
Absolute Milan. Me, poor man!—my library
Was dukedom large enough. Of temporal royal-
He thinks me now incapable; confederates [ties
(So dry he was for sway) wi' th' King of Naples—
To give him annual tribute, do him homage,
Subject his coronet to his crown, and bend
The dukedom, yet unbow'd, (alas, poor Milan!)
To most ignoble stooping.

Mira. O the heavens!

Pro. Mark his condition, and th' event; then
If this might be a brother. [tell me,

Mira. I should sin
To think but nobly of my grandmother.

Pro. Now the condition,
This King of Naples, being an enemy
To me inveterate, hearkens my brother's suit;
Which was, that he, in lieu o' th' premises
Of homage, and I know not how much tribute,
Should presently extirpate me and mine
Out of the dukedom, and confer fair Milan,
With all the honours, on my brother. Whereon,
A treacherous army levied, one midnight,
Fated to th' purpose, did Antonio open
The gates of Milan; and i' th' dead of darkness
The ministers for the purpose hurried thence
Me, and thy crying self.

Mira. Alack, for pity!
I, not remem'ring how I cried out then,
Will cry it o'er again: it is a hint,
That wrings mine eyes to 't.

Pro. Hear a little farther,
And then I'll bring thee to the present business
Which now's upon's; without the which this
Were most impertinent. [story

Mira. Wherefore did they not
That hour destroy us?

Pro. Well demanded, wench:
My tale provokes that question. Dear, they
durst not,

(So dear the love my people bore me) nor set
A mark so bloody on the business; but
With colours fairer painted their foul ends.
In few, they hurried us aboard a bark,
Bore us some leagues to sea, where they prepared
A rotten carcass of a boat, not rigg'd,
—Nor tackle, sail, nor mast; the very rats
Instinctively have quit it. There they hoist us,
To cry to th' sea that roar'd to us, to sigh
To th' winds, whose pity, sighing back again,
Did us but loving wrong.

Mira. Alack! what trouble
Was I then to you?

Pro. O! a cherubim
Thou wast, that did preserve me. Thou didst
Infused with a fortitude from heaven, [smile,
When I have deck'd the sea with drops full salt,
Under my burthen groan'd; which rais'd in me
An undergoing stomach,¹ to hear up
Against what should ensue.

Mira. How came we ashore?

Pro. By Providence divine.
Some food we had, and some fresh water, that
A noble Neapolitan, Gonzalo,
Out of his charity (who being then appointed
Master of this design), did give us, with
Rich garments, linens, stuffs, and necessities,
Which since have steaded much. So, of his
gentleness,

Knowing I lov'd my books, he furnish'd me,
From mine own library, with volumes that
I prize above my dukedom.

Mira. Would I might
But ever see that man!

Pro. Now I arise:— [Puts on his robe.
Sit still, and hear the last of our sea-sorrow.
Here in this island we arriv'd; and here
Have I, thy schoolmaster, made thee more profit
Than other princes can, that have more time
For vainer hours, and tutors not so careful.

Mira. Heavens thank you for't! And now, I
pray you, sir,
(For still 'tis beating in my mind) your reason
For raising this sea-storm?

Pro. Know thus far forth.
By accident most strange, bountiful Fortune
(Now my dear lady) hath mine enemies
Brought to this shore; and by my prescience
I find my zenith doth depend upon
A most auspicious star, whose influence
If now I court not, but omit, my fortunes
Will everafter droop. Here cease more questions,
Thou art inclin'd to sleep: 'tis a good dulness,
And give it way:—I know thou canst not choose.—

[Miranda sleeps.

Come away, servant, come! I am ready now:
Approach, my Ariel: come.

Enter Ariel.

Ariel. All hail, great master; grave sir, hail. I
To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, [come
To swim, to dive into the fire, to ride
On the curl'd clouds; to thy strong bidding task
Ariel, and all his quality.

Pro. Hast thou, spirit,
Perform'd to point² the tempest that I bade

Ari. To every article. [thee?
I boarded the King's ship; now on the beak,
Now in the waist, the deck, in every cabin,
I flam'd amazement. Sometimes, I'd divide,
And burn in many places: on the topmast,
The yards and bowsprit, would I flame distinctly,
Then meet and join. Jove's lightnings, the
precursors

O' th' dreadful thunder-claps, more momentary
And sight-outunning were not: the fire and
cracks

Of sulphurous roaring the most mighty Neptune
Seem to besiege, and make his bold waves
Yea, his dread trident shake, [tremble,

Pro. My brave spirit!
Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil
Would not infect his reason?

Ari. Not a soul
But felt a fever of the mad, and play'd
Some tricks of desperation. All, but mariners,
Plung'd in the foaming brine, and quit the vessel
Then all a-fire with me: the King's son, Ferdinand,
With hair up-staring (then like reeds, not hair)
Was the first man that leap'd.

Pro. Why, that's my spirit!
But was not this nigh shore?

Ari. Close by, my master.

Pro. But are they, Ariel, safe?

Ari. Not a hair perish'd:
On their sustaining garments not a blemish,
But fresher than before; and, as thou bad'st me,
In troops I have dispers'd them 'bout the isle.
The King's son have I landed by himself,
Whom I left cooling of the air with sighs
In an odd angle of the isle, and sitting,
His arms in this sad knot.

Pro. Of the King's ship
The mariners, say, how thou hast dispos'd,
And all the rest o' th' fleet?

Ari. Safely in harbour
Is the King's ship: in the deep nook, where once
Thou call'dst me up at midnight to fetch dew
From the still-vex'd Bermoothes,² there she's
The mariners all under hatches stow'd; [hid;
Who, with a charm join'd to their suffer'd labour,
I have left asleep: and for the rest o' th' fleet
Which I dispers'd, they all have met again,
And are upon the Mediterranean floe,³
Bound sadly home for Naples,
Supposing that they saw the King's ship wrack'd,
And his great person perish.

Pro. Ariel, thy charge
Exactly is perform'd; but there's more work.
What is the time o' th' day?

Ari. Past the mid season.

Pro. At least two glasses. The time 'twixt
six and now

Must by us both be spent most precious.

Ari. Is there more toil? Since thou dost
give me pains,

Let me remember thee what thou hast promis'd,
Which is not yet perform'd me.

Pro. How now! moody?

What is 't thou canst demand?

Ari. My liberty.

Pro. Before the time be out? no more.

Ari. I pr'ythee
Remember, I have done thee worthy service;
Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, serv'd
Without or grudge, or grumbings. Thou didst
To bate me a full year. [promise]

Pro. Dost thou forget
From what a torment I did free thee?

Ari. No.

Pro. Thou dost; and think'st it much, to tread,
Of the salt deep, [the ooze]
To run upon the sharp wind of the north,
To do me business in the veins o' th' earth,
When it is bak'd with frost.

Ari. I do not, sir. [forgot]

Pro. Thou liest, malignant thing! Hast thou

1 Bustia.

2 Bermudas.

3 Wave.

The foul witch Sycorax, who, with age and envy,
Was grown into a hoop? hast thou forgot her?

Ari. No, sir.

Pro. Thou hast. Where was she born? speak

Ari. Sir, in Argier.¹ [tell me.

Pro. O! was she so? I must,
Once in a month, recount what thou hast been,
Which thou forget'st. This vile witch, Sycorax,
For mischiefs manifold, and sorceries terrible
To enter human hearing, from Argier, [did,
Thou know'st, was banish'd: for one thing she
They would not take her life. Is not this true?

Ari. Ay, sir. [with child,

Pro. This blue-ey'd hag was hither brought
And here was left by th' sailors. Thou, my slave
As thou report'st thyself, wast then her servant:
And, for thou wast a spirit too delicate
To act her earthy and abhor'd commands,
Refusing her grand 'hests, she did confine thee,
By help of her more potent ministers,
And in her most unmitigable rage,
Into a cloven pine; within which rift
Imprison'd, thou didst painfully remain
A dozen years; within which space she died,
And left thee there, where thou didst vent thy
groans [island]
As fast as mill-wheels strike. Then was this
(Save for the son that she did litter here,
—A freckl'd whelp, hag-born) not honour'd with
A human shape.

Ari. Yes; Caliban, her son.

Pro. Dull thing, I say so; he, that Caliban,
Whom now I keep in service. Thou best know'st
What torment I did find thee in: thy groans
Did make wolves howl, and penetrate the breasts
Of ever-angry bears. This Sycorax
Could not again undo: it was mine art,
When I arriv'd and heard thee, that made gape
The pine, and let thee out.

Ari. I thank thee, master.

P. If thou more murmur'st, I will rend an oak,
And peg thee in his knotty entrails, till
Thou hast howl'd away twelve winters.

Ari. Pardon, master:

I will be correspondent to command,
And do my spriting gently.

Pro. Do so, and after two days
I will discharge thee.

Ari. That's my noble master!

What shall I do? say what—what shall I do?

Pro. Go, make thyself like a nymph o' th'
sea: be subject

To no sight but thine and mine; invisible
To every eyeball else. Go, take this shape,
And hither come in't: go hence, with diligence.
[Exit Ariel.]

Awake, dear heart, awake! thou hast slept well;
Awake!

Mira. The strangeness of your story put
Heaviness in me.

Pro. Shake it off. Come on:
We'll visit Caliban, my slave, who never
Yields us kind answer.

Mira. 'Tis a villain, sir,
I do not love to look on.

Pro. But, as 'tis,
We cannot miss him: he does make our fire,

1 Algiers.

Fetch in our wood, and serves in offices
That profit us.—What ho! slave! Caliban!
Thou earth, thou! speak.

Cal. [Within.] There's wood enough within.

Pro. Come forth, I say: there's other business
Come, thou tortoise! when? [for thee.

Enter Ariel, like a Water-nymph.

Fine apparition! My quaint Ariel,

Hark in thine ear.

Ari. My lord, it shall be done. [*Exit.*

Pro. Thou poisonous slave, come forth!

Enter Caliban.

Cal. As wicked dew as e'er my mother brush'd
With raven's feather from unwholesome fen
Drop on you both! a south-west blow on ye,
And blister you all o'er! [cramps,

Pro. For this, be sure, to-night thou shalt have
Side-stitches that shall pen thy breath up;
urchins!

Shall, for that vast of night that they may work,
All exercise on thee: thou shalt be pinch'd
As thick as honey-comb, each pinch more stinging
Than bees that made 'em.

Cal. I must eat my dinner.
This island's mine, by Syceorax my mother,
Which thou takest from me. When thou camest
first,

Thou strok'dst me, and mad'st much of me,—
would'st give me

Water with berries in 't, and teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night: and then I lov'd thee,
And shoud' thee all the qualities o' th' isle,
The fresh springs, brine pits, barren place and
fertile.

Curs'd be I that did so!—All the charms
Of Syceorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!
For I am all the subjects that you have,
Which first was mine own king; and here you
sty me,

In this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me
The rest o' th' island.

Pro. Thou most lying slave,
Whom stripes may move, not kindness, I have
us'd thee, [thee

Filth as thou art, with human care; and lodg'd
In mine own cell, till thou didst seek to violate
The honour of my child. Abhorred slave,
Which any print of goodness will not take,
Being capable of all ill! I pitied thee, [hour
Took pains to make thee speak, taught thee each
One thing or other: when thou didst not, savage,
Know thine own meaning, but would'st gabble
like

A thing most brutish, I endow'd thy purposes
With words that made them known: but thy vile
race, [good natures
Though thou didst learn, had that in 't which
Could not abide to be with: therefore wast thou
Deservedly confin'd into this rock,
Who hadst deserved more than a prison. [on't

Cal. You taught me language; and my profit
Is, I know how to curse. The red plague rid'st
For learning me your language! [you,

Pro. Hag-seed, hence!

1 Fairies.

2 Destroy.

Fetch us in fuel; and be quick, thou!—'t best,
To answer other business. Shrug'st thou, malice?
If thou neglect'st, or dost unwillingly
What I command, I'll rack thee with old cramps,
Fill all thy bones with aches, make thee roar,
That beasts shall tremble at thy din.

Cal. No, 'pray thee!—
I must obey. [*Aside.*] His art is of such pow'r,
It would control my dam's god, Setebos,
And make a vassal of him.

Pro. So, slave; hence!

[*Exit Caliban.*

*Enter Ariel invisible, playing and singing,
Ferdinand following him.*

ARIEL'S Song.

Come unto these yellow sands,

And then take hands:

Court'sied when you have, and kiss'd—

(The wild waves whistle),—

Foot it feally here and there;

And, sweet sprites, the burthen bear.

Hark, hark!

[Burthen.] Bowgh-wowgh. [Dispersedly.

The watch-dogs bark:

Bowgh-wowgh.

ARI. Hark, hark! I hear

The strain of strutting chanticlere

Cry, Cock-a-doodle-doo.

Fer. Where should this music be? 't th' air,
or th' earth?—

It sounds no more;—and sure, it waits upon
Some god o' th' island. Sitting on a bank,
Weeping again the King my father's wrack,
This music crept by me upon the waters,
Allaying both their fury and my passion,
With its sweet air: thence I have follow'd it,
Or it hath drawn me rather;—but 'tis gone.—
No, it begins again.

ARIEL Sings.

Full fadom five thy father lies;

Of his bones are coral made;

Those are pearls that were his eyes:

Nothing of him that doth fade,

But doth suffer a sea-change

Into something rich and strange,

Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:

[Burthen:] Ding-dong.

Hark! now I hear them,—ding-dong, bell.

Fer. The ditty does remember my drown'd
father.—

This is no mortal business, nor no sound
That the earth owes.—I hear it now above me.

Pro. The fringed curtains of thine eye advance
And say, what thou seest yond'.

Mira. What is 't? a spirit?

See how it looks about! Believe me, sir,

It carries a brave form:—but 'tis a spirit.

Pro. No, wench: it eats and sleeps, and
hath such senses [seest

As we have,—such. This gallant which thou
Was in the wrack; and but he's something
stain'd [call him

With grief, that's beauty's canker, thou might'st
A goodly person. He hath lost his fellows,
And strays about to find 'em.

Mira.

I might call him

A thing divine ; for nothing natural
I ever saw so noble.

Pro. [*Aside.*] It goes on, I see,
As my soul prompts it.—Spirit, fine spirit ! I'll
Within two days from this, [free thee

Fer. Most sure, the goddess
On whom these airs attend !—Vouchsafe, my
prayer

May know if you remain upon this island,
And that you will some good instruction give,
How I may bear me here : my prime request,
Which I do last pronounce, is, O you wonder !
If you be maid, or no !

Mira. No wonder, sir ;
But, certainly a maid.

Fer. My language ! heavens !—
I am the best of them that speak this speech,
Were I but where 'tis spoken.

Pro. How ? the best ? [thee ?
What wert thou, if the King of Naples heard

Fer. A single thing, as I am now, that wonders
To hear thee speak of Naples. He does hear me,
And that he does I weep : myself am Naples ;
Who with mine eyes, ne'er since at ebb, beheld
The King, my father, wrack'd.

Mira. Alack, for mercy !
Fer. Yes, faith, and all his lords ; the Duke
of Milan,

And his brave son, being twain.

Pro. [*Aside.*] The Duke of Milan, [thee,
And his more braver daughter, could control !
If now 't were fit to do 't. At the first sight
They have chang'd eyes :—delicate Ariel,
I'll set thee free for this !—[*To him.*] A word,
good sir ! [word.]

I fear you have done yourself some wrong—a

M. Why speaks my father so ungently ? This
Is the third man that e'er I saw ; the first
That e'er I sigh'd for. Pity move my father
To be inclin'd my way !

Fer. O ! if a virgin,
And your affection not gone forth, I'll make you
The Queen of Naples.

Pro. Soft, sir : one word more.—
[*Aside.*] They are both in either's pow'rs : but
this swift business

I must uneasy make, lest too light winning
Make the prize light.—[*To him.*] One word
more : I charge thee,

That thou attend me. Thou dost here usurp
The name thou ow'st not ; and hast put thyself
Upon this island as a spy, to win it
From me, the lord on 't.

Fer. No, as I am a man.
Mira. There's nothing ill can dwell in such a

If the ill spirit have so fair a house, [temple :
Good things will strive to dwell with 't.

Pro. [*To Fer.*] Follow me.—
Speak not you for him ; he's a traitor.—Come.
I'll manacle thy neck and feet together ;
Sea-water shalt thou drink ! thy food shall be
The fresh-brook muscles, wither'd roots, and
Wherein the acorn cradled. Follow. [husks,

Fer. No ;
I will resist such entertainment, till
Mine enemy has more power.

[*He draws, and is charmed from moving.*]

1 Confute.

Mira. O, dear father !
Make not too rash a trial of him, for
He's gentle, and not fearful.¹

Pro. What ! I say :
My foot my tutor ?—Put thy sword up, traitor :
Who mak'st a show, but dar'st not strike, thy
conscience

Is so possess'd with guilt : come from thy ward,
For I can here disarm thee with this stick,
And make thy weapon drop.

Mira. Beseech you, father !

Pro. Hence ! hang not on my garments.

Mira. Sir, have pity :
I'll be his surety.

Pro. Silence ! one word more
Shall make me chide thee, if not hate thee. What ?
An advocate for an impostor ? Hush ! [he,
Thou think'st there are no more such shapes as
Having seen but him and Caliban : foolish !
To th' most of men this is a Caliban, [wench !
And they to him are angels.

Mira. My affections
Are then most humble : I have no ambition
To see a goodlier man.

Pro. [*To Fer.*] Come on ; obey :
Thy nerves are in their infancy again,
And have no vigour in them.

Fer. So they are :
My spirits, as in a dream, are all bound up.
My father's loss, the weakness which I feel,
The wrack of all my friends, nor this man's
threats,

To whom I am subdu'd, are but light to me,
Might I but through my prison once a day
Behold this maid. All corners else o' th' earth
Let liberty make use of : space enough
Have I in such a prison.

Pro. [*Aside.*] It works.

[*Alternately to Fer. and Mira., and to Ari.*
Come on.—

Thou hast done well, fine Ariel !—
Follow me.—Hark, what thou else shalt do me.

Mira. Be of comfort.

My father's of a better nature, sir,
Than he appears by speech : this is unwonted,
Which now came from him.

Pro. [*To Ariel.*] Thou shalt be as free
As mountain winds : but then exactly do
All points of my command.

Ari. To th' syllable.

Pro. Come, follow.—Speak not for him.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND.

*Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Gonzalo,
Adrian, Francisco, and Others.*

Gon. Beseech you, sir, be merry : you have
[So have we all] of joy ; for our escape [cause
Is much beyond our loss. Our hint of woe
Is common : every day, some sailor's wife,
The masters of some merchant, and the merchant,
Have just our theme of woe ; but for the miracle,—
I mean our preservation,—few in millions
Can speak like us : then, wisely, good sir, weigh
Our sorrow with our comfort.

1 Formidable.

Alon. Pr'ythee, peace.

Seb. He receives comfort like cold porridge.

Ant. The visitor will not give him o'er so.

Seb. Look; he's winding up the watch of his wit; by and by it will strike.

Gon. Sir,—

Seb. One:—tell.

Gon. When every grief is entertain'd that's Comes to th' entertainer— [offer'd,

Seb. A dollar.

Gon. Dolour comes to him, indeed; you have spoken truer than you purpos'd.

Seb. You have taken it wiselier than I meant

Gon. Therefore, my lord,— [you should.

Ant. Fie, what a spendthrift is he of his

Alon. I pry'thee, spare. [tongue!

Gon. Well, I have done. But yet—

Seb. He will be talking.

Ant. Which of them, he or Adrian, for a good wager, first begins to crow?

Seb. The old cock.

Ant. The cockrel.

Seb. Done. The wager?

Ant. A laughter.

Seb. A match.

Adr. Though this island seem to be desert,—

Ant. Ha, ha, ha!

Seb. So, you're paid.

Adr. Uninhabitable, and almost inacces-

Seb. Yet— [sible,—

Adr. Yet—

Ant. He could not miss't.

Adr. The air breathes upon us here most sweetly.

Gon. Here is every thing advantageous to life.

Ant. True; save means to live.

Seb. Of that there's none, or little.

Gon. How lush¹ and lusty the grass looks! how

Ant. The ground, indeed, is tawny. [green!

Seb. With an eye² of green in 't.

Ant. He misses not much.

Se. No; he doth but mistake the truth totally.

Gon. But the rarity of it, which is indeed almost beyond credit—

Seb. As many vouch'd rarities are.

Gon.—that our garments, being, as they were, drench'd in the sea, hold, notwithstanding, their freshness and glosses; being rather new dy'd than stain'd with salt water.

Ant. If but one of his pockets could speak, would it not say, he lies?

Seb. Ay, or very falsely pocket up his report.

Gon. Methinks, our garments are now as fresh as when we put them on first in Afric, at the marriage of the King's fair daughter Claribel to the King of Tunis.

Seb. 'Twas a sweet marriage; and we prosper well in our return.

Adr. Tunis was never grac'd before with such a paragon to their Queen.

Gon. Not since widow Dido's time.

Ant. Widow! How came that widow in? Widow Dido!

Seb. What if he had said, widower Æneas too? good lord, how you take it.

A. Widow Dido, said you? you make me study of that: she was of Carthage, not of Tunis.

1 Luscious.

2 Tint.

Gon. This Tunis, sir, was Carthage.

Adr. Carthage?

Gon. I assure you, Carthage.

Ant. His word is more than the miraculous harp.

Seb. He hath rais'd the wall, and houses too.

Ant. What impossible matter will he make easy next?

Seb. I think he will carry this island home in his pocket, and give it his son for an apple.

Ant. And sowing the kernels of it in the sea, bring forth more islands.

Gon. Ay?

Ant. Why, in good time.

Gon. Sir, we were talking, that our garments seem now as fresh as when we were at Tunis at the marriage of your daughter, who is now Queen.

Ant. And the rarest that e'er came there.

Seb. Bate, I beseech you, widow Dido.

Ant. O! widow Dido; ay, widow Dido.

Gon. Is not, sir, my doublet as fresh as the first day I wore it?—I mean, in a sort.

Ant. That sort was well fish'd for.

Gon. When I wore it at your daughter's marriage?

Al. You cram these words into mine ears, against The stomach of my sense. Would I had never Married my daughter there! for, coming thence, My son is lost; and, in my rate, she, too, Who is so far from Italy remov'd, I ne'er again shall see her. O thou, mine heir Of Naples and of Milan! what strange fish Hath made his meal on thee?

Fram. Sir, he may live.

I saw him beat the surges under him, And ride upon their backs: he trod the water, Whose enmity he flung aside, and breasted The surge most swoln that met him: his bold head 'Bove the contentions waves he kept, and oar'd Himself with his good arms in lusty stroke To th' shore, that o'er his wave-worn basis bow'd, As stooping to relieve him. I not doubt, He came alive to land.

Alon. No, no; he's gone.

Seb. Sir, you may thank yourself for this great loss

That would not bless our Europe with your But rather lose her to an African; [daughter, Where she, at least, is banish'd from your eye, Who hath cause to wet the grief on 't.

Alon. Pr'ythee, peace.

Seb. You were kneel'd to, and importun'd other-By all of us; and the fair soul herself [wise Weigh'd, between loathness and obedience, at Which end o' th' beam she'd bow. We have lost your son,

I fear, for ever; Milan and Naples have More widows in them, of this business' making, Than we bring men to comfort them: the fault's Your own.

Alon. So is the dear'st o' th' loss.

Gon. My lord Sebastian, The truth you speak doth lack some gentleness, And time to speak it in: you rub the sore, When you should bring the plaster.

Seb. Very well.

Ant. And most chirurgeonly.

Gon. It is foul weather in us all, good sir,
When you are cloudy.

Seb. Foul weather?

Ant. Very foul.

Gon. Had I plantation of this isle, my lord,—

Ant. He'd sow't with nettle-seed.

Seb. Or docks, or mallows.

Gon.—And were the King on't, what would I do?

Seb. 'Scape being drunk, for want of wine.

G. I' th' commonwealth I would by contraries

Execute all things; for no kind of traffic

Would I admit; no name of magistrate;

Letters should not be known; riches, poverty,

And use of service, none; contract, succession,

Bourn, bound of land, tilth, vineyard, none;

No use of metal, corn, or wine, or oil;

No occupation; all men idle,—all,

And women too, but innocent and pure:

No sovereignty:—

Seb. Yet he would be king on't.

Ant. The latter end of his commonwealth
forgets the beginning.

Gon. All things in common, Nature should

Without sweat or endeavour: treason, felony,

Sword, pike, knife, gun, or need of any engine,

Would I not have; but Nature should bring forth,

Of its own kind, all foison,² all abundance,

To feed my innocent people.

I would with such perfection govern, sir,

T' excel the golden age.

Seb. 'Save his majesty!

Ant. Long live Gonzalo!

Gon. And, do you mark me, sir?—

Alon. Pr'ythee, no more: thou dost talk no-
thing to me.

Gon. I do well believe your highness; and did
it to minister occasion to these gentlemen, who
are of such sensible and nimble lungs, that they
always use to laugh at nothing.

Ant. 'Twas you we laugh'd at.

Gon. Who, in this kind of merry fooling, am
nothing to you; so you may continue, and laugh
at nothing still.

Ant. What a blow was there given!

Seb. An it had not fall'n flat-long.

Gon. You are gentlemen of brave mettle: you
would lift the moon out of her sphere, if she
would continue in it five weeks without changing.

Enter Ariel, playing solemn Music.

Seb. We would so, and then go a bat-fowling.

Ant. Nay, good my lord, be not angry.

Gon. No, I warrant you; I will not adventure
my discretion so weakly. Will you laugh me
asleep? for I am very heavy.

Ant. Go sleep, and hear us.

[All sleep but Alon., Seb., and Ant.]

Al. What! all so soon asleep? I wish mine eyes
Would, with themselves, shut up my thoughts:
They are inclined to do so.

Seb. Please you, sir,

Do not omit the heavy offer of it:
It seldom visits sorrow: when it doth,
It is a comforter.

Ant. We two, my lord,

Will guard your person while you take your rest,
And watch your safety.

1 A plant of Genus Malva.

2 Plenty.

Alon. Thank you.—Wondrous heavy.

[Alonso sleeps. Exit Ariel.]

Seb. What a strange drowsiness possesses

Ant. It is the quality o' th' climate. *[them!]*

Seb. Why

Doth it not, then, our eyelids sink? I find not
Myself dispos'd to sleep.

Ant. Nor I: my spirits are nimble.

They fell together all as by consent; *[might,*

They dropp'd as by a thunder-stroke. What

Worthy Sebastian?—O! what might?—No

And yet, methinks, I see it in thy face, *[more:—*

What thou should'st be. Th' occasion speaks

thee, and

My strong imagination sees a crown

Dropping upon thy head.

Seb. What! art thou waking?

Ant. Do you not hear me speak?

Seb. I do; and surely,

It is a sleepy language, and thou speak'st

Out of thy sleep. What is it thou didst say?

This is a strange repose, to be asleep

With eyes wide open; standing, speaking, mov-

And yet so fast asleep. *[ing,*

Ant. Noble Sebastian.

Thou let'st thy fortunes sleep—die rather; wink'st

Whiles thou are waking.

Seb. Thou dost snore distinctly:

There's meaning in thy snores.

Ant. I am more serious than my custom: you

Must be so too, if heed me; which to do,

Trebles thee o'er.

Seb. Well; I am standing water.

Ant. I'll teach you how to flow.

Seb. Do so: to ebb,

Hereditary sloth instructs me.

Ant. O!

If you but knew, how you the purpose cherish,

Whiles thus you mock it! how, in stripping it,

You more invest it! Ebbing men, indeed,

Most often do so near the bottom run

By their own fear or sloth.

Seb. Pr'ythee, say on.

The setting of thine eye and cheek, proclaim

A matter from thee, and a birth, indeed,

Which throes thee much to yield.

Ant. Thus, sir,

Although this lord of weak remembrance (this,

Who shall be of as little memory,

When he is earth'd!) hath here almost persuaded

(For he's a spirit of persuasion only)

The King, his son's alive, 'tis as impossible

That he's undrown'd, as he that sleeps here,

Seb. I have no hope *[swims,*

That he's undrown'd.

Ant. O! out of that no hope,

What great hope have you? No hope, that way, is

Another way so high a hope, that even

Ambition cannot pierce a wink beyond,

But doubts discovery there. Will you grant,

That Ferdinand is drown'd? *[with me,*

Seb. He's gone.

Ant. Then, tell me,

Who's the next heir of Naples?

Seb. Claribel. *[dwells*

Ant. She that is Queen of Tunis; she that

Ten leagues beyond man's life; she that from

Naples

Can have no note, unless the sun were post,
(The man i' th' moon's too slow) till new-born chins
Be rough and razorable; she, from whom
We all were sea-swallowed, though some cast
And by that destiny to perform an act, [again;
Whereof what's past is prologue, what to come,
Is yours and my discharge.

Seb. What stuff is this! How say you?
"Tis true, my brother's daughter's Queen of Tunis;
So is she heir of Naples; 'twixt which regions
There is some space.

Ant. A space who's every cubit
Seems to cry out, "How shall that Claribel
Measure us back to Naples? Keep in Tunis,
And let Sebastian wake!"—Say, this were death
That now hath seized them; why, they were no
worse [Naples]

Than now they are. There be, that can rule
As well as he that sleeps; lords that can prate
As amply, and unnecessarily,
As this Gonzalo: I myself could make
A chough¹ of as deep chat. O, that you bore
The mind that I do! what a sleep were this
For your advancement! Do you understand me?

Seb. Methinks I do.
Ant. And how does your content
Tender your own good fortune?

Seb. I remember,
You did supplant your brother Prospero.

Ant. True;
And look how well my garments sit upon me;
Much feater than before. My brother's servants
Were then my fellows, now they are my men.

Seb. But for your conscience—

Ant. Ay, sir; wherelies that? if 'twere a kybe,²
'Twould put me to my slipper; but I feel not
This deity in my bosom. Twenty consciences,
That stand 'twixt me and Milan, candied be they,
And melt, ere they molest! Here lies your brother,
No better than the earth he lies upon, [dead,
If he were that which now he's like,—that's
Whom I, with this obedient steel—three inches
of it—

Can lay to bed for ever; whiles you, doing thus,
To the perpetual wink for aye might put
This ancient morsel, this Sir Prudence, who
Should not upbraid our course: for all the rest,
They'll take suggestion as a cat laps milk;
They'll tell the clock to any business that
We say befits the hour.

Seb. Thy case, dear friend,
Shall be my precedent: as thou got'st Milan,
I'll come by Naples. Draw thy sword: one stroke
Shall free thee from the tribute which thou
And I the King shall love thee. [pay'st,

Ant. Draw together;
And when I rear my hand, do you the like,
To fall it on Gonzalo.

Seb. O! but one word.
[They converse apart.

Enter Ariel, with Music, Invisible.

A. My master through his art foresees the
danger

That you, his friend, are in; and sends me forth
(For else his project dies) to keep them living.

[Sings in Gonzalo's ear.

*While you here do snoring lie,
Open-ey'd conspiracy
His time doth take.
If of life you keep a care,
Shake off slumber, and beware:
Awake! Awake!*

Ant. Then let us both be sudden.

Gon. Now, good angels preserve the King!
[They wake.

Alon. Why, how now, ho! awake! Why are
Wherefore this ghastly looking! [you drawn?

Gon. What's the matter?

Seb. Whiles we stood here securing your repose,
Even now, we heard a hollow burst of bellowing
Like bulls, or rather lions: did't not wake you?
It struck mine ear most terribly.

Alon. I heard nothing.

Ant. O! 'twas a din to fright a monster's ear,
To make an earthquake: sure, it was the roar
Of a whole herd of lions.

Alon. Heard you this, Gonzalo?

Gon. Upon mine honour, sir, I heard a hum-
ming— [me.

And that a strange one, too,—which did awake
I shak'd you, sir, and cried: as mine eyes open'd,
I saw their weapons drawn.—There was a noise,
That's verity: 'tis best we stand upon our guard,
Or that we quit this place. Let's draw our
weapons.

A. Lead off this ground, and let's make farther
For my poor son. [search

Gon. Heavens keep him from these beasts,
For he is, sure, i' th' island.

Alon. Lead away. [Exeunt.

Ari. Prospero, my lord, shall know what I
have done:

So, King, go safely on to seek thy son. [Exit.

SCENE II.—ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND.

Enter Caliban, with a burthen of wood.

A noise of Thunder heard.

Cal. All the infections that the sun sucks up
From bogs, fens, flats, on Prosper fall, and
make him

By inch-meal a disease! His spirits hear me,
And yet I needs must curse; but they'll nor pinch,
Fright mew with urchin's shows, pinch me i' th' mire,
Nor lead me, like a firebrand, in the dark
Out of my way, unless he bid 'em. But

For every trifle are they set upon me: [at me,
Sometime like apes, that mow² and chatter
And after, bite me; then like hedgehogs, which
Lie tumbling in my barefoot way, and mount
Their pricks at my footfall: sometime am I
All wound with adders, who with cloven tongues,
Do hiss me into madness.—Lo, now! lo!

Enter Trinculo.

Here comes a spirit of his, and to torment me
For bringing wood in slowly. I'll fall flat;
Perchance he will not mind me.

Trin. Here's neither bush nor shrub to bear
off any weather at all, and another storm brew-
ing: I hear it sing i' th' wind. Yond' same black
cloud, yond' huge one, looks like a foul bumbard³
that would shed his liquor. If it should thunder,

1 A kind of jackdaw.

2 Chapped.

1 Fairy.

2 Make mouths.

3 Leathern jack.

as it did before, I know not where to hide my head: yond' same cloud cannot choose but fall by pailfuls.—What have we here? a man or a fish? dead or alive? A fish: he smells like a fish: a very ancient and fish-like smell; a kind of, not of the newest, Poor-John. A strange fish! Were I in England now (as once I was), and had but this fish painted, not a holiday fool there but would give a piece of silver: there would this monster make a man: any strange beast there makes a man. When they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a dead Indian. Legg'd like a man! and his fins like arms! Warm, o' my troth! I do now let loose my opinion—hold it no longer,—this is no fish, but an islander, that hath lately suffered by a thunder-bolt. [Thunder.] Alas! the storm is come again: my best way is to creep under his gaberdine; there is no other shelter hereabout. Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. I will here shroud, till the dregs of the storm be past.

Enter Stephano, singing.

STE. I shall no more to sea, to sea,
Here shall I die ashore.—

This is a very scurvy tune to sing at a man's funeral.

Well, here's my comfort. [Drinks.]

The master, the swabber, the boatswain, and I,

The gunner and his mate,

Lov'd Mall, Meg, and Marion, and Margery,

But none of us car'd for Kate;

For she had a tongue with a tang,

Would cry to a sailor, "Go hang:"

Then, to sea, boys, and let her go hang.

This is a scurvy tune too; but here's my comfort.

Cal. Do not torment me: O! [Drinks.]

Ste. What's the matter? Have we devils here? Do you put tricks upon's with savages, and men of Inde? Ha! I have not 'scaped drowning, to be afraid now of your four legs; for it hath been said, as proper a man as ever went on four legs cannot make him give ground; and it shall be said so again, while Stephano breathes at's nostrils.

Cal. The spirit torments me: O!

Ste. This is some monster of the isle, with four legs, who hath got, as I take it, an ague. Where the devil should he learn our language! I will give him some relief, if it be but for that. If I can recover him, and keep him tame, and get to Naples with him, he's a present for any emperor that ever trod on neat's-leather.

Cal. Do not torment me, pr'ythee: I'll bring my wood home faster.

Ste. He's in his fit now, and does not talk after the wisest. He shall taste of my bottle: if he have never drunk wine afore, it will go near to remove his fit. If I can recover him, and keep him tame, I will not take too much for him: he shall pay for him that hath him, and that soundly.

Cal. Thou dost me yet but little hurt; thou wilt anon, [upon thee.]

I know it by thy trembling: now Prosper works. Ste. Come on your ways: open your mouth; here is that which will give language to you, cat.

Open your mouth: this will shake your shaking, I can tell you, and that soundly: you cannot tell who's your friend; open your chaps¹ again.

Trin. I should know that voice. It should be—but he is drown'd, and these are devils. O! defend me!—

Ste. Four legs, and two voices! a most delicate monster. If all the wine in my bottle will recover him, I will help his ague. Come,—Amen! I will pour some in thy other mouth.

Trin. Stephano!

Ste. Doth thy other mouth call me? Mercy! mercy! This is a devil, and no monster: I will leave him; I have no long spoon.

Trin. Stephano!—if thou beest Stephano, touch me, and speak to me, for I am Trinculo—be not afraid—thy good friend Trinculo.

Ste. If thou beest Trinculo, come forth: I'll pull thee by the lesser legs: if any be Trinculo's legs, these are they. Thou art very Trinculo, indeed! How cam'st thou to be the siege² of this moon-calf?

Trin. I took him to be killed with a thunder-stroke.—But art thou not drown'd, Stephano? I hope now, thou art not drown'd. Is the storm over-blown? I hid me under the dead moon-calf's gaberdine for fear of the storm. And art thou living, Stephano? O Stephano? two Neapolitans 'scap'd!

Ste. Pr'ythee, do not turn me about: my stomach is not constant. [sprites.]

Cal. These be fine things, an if they be not That's a brave god, and bears celestial liquor: I will kneel to him.

Ste. How didst thou 'scape? How cam'st thou hither? Swear by this bottle how thou cam'st hither. I escap'd upon a butt of sack, which the sailors heaved o'erboard, by this bottle!—which I made of the bark of a tree with mine own hands, since I was cast ashore.

Cal. I'll swear upon that bottle, to be thy true For the liquor is not earthly. [subject:]

Ste. Here: swear, then, how thou escap'dst.

Trin. Swam ashore, man, like a duck. I can swim like a duck, I'll be sworn.

Ste. Here, kiss the book. Though thou canst swim like a duck, thou art made like a goose.

Trin. O Stephano! hast any more of this?

Ste. The whole butt, man: my cellar is in a rock by th' sea-side, where my wine is hid. How now, moon-calf! how does thine ague?

Cal. Hast thou not dropp'd from heaven?

Ste. Out o' th' moon, I do assure thee: I was the man i' th' moon, when time was. [thee:]

Cal. I have seen thee in her, and I do adore My mistress show'd me thee, and thy dog, and thy bush.

Ste. Come, swear to that: kiss the book; I will furnish it anon with new contents: swear.

Trin. By this good light, this is a very shallow monster:—I afraid of him?—a very weak monster.—The man i' th' moon!—a most poor credulous monster.—Well drawn, monster, in good sooth. [island:]

Cal. I'll show thee every fertile inch o' th' And I will kiss thy foot. I'll swear myself thy subject.

Ste. Come on, then : down, and swear.

Trin. I shall laugh myself to death at this puppy-headed monster. A most scurvy monster : I could find in my heart to beat him,—

Ste. Come, kiss.

Trin.—But that the poor monster's in drink. An abominable monster ! [thee berries ;

C. I'll show thee the best springs ; I'll pluck I'll fish for thee, and get thee wood enough.

A plague upon the tyrant that I serve !

I'll bear him no more sticks, but follow thee, Thou wondrous man.

Trin. A most ridiculous monster,—to make a wonder of a poor drunkard ! [grow ;

Cal. I pry'thee, let me bring thee where crabs And I with my long nails will dig thee pig-nuts, Show thee a jay's nest, and instruct thee how To snare the nimble marmozet. I'll bring thee To clustering filberds ; and sometimes I'll get thee [with me ?

Young seamells ! from the rock : Wilt thou go

Ste. I pry'thee now, lead the way, without any more talking.—Trinculo, the King and all our company else being drown'd, we will inherit here.—Here ; bear my bottle.—Fellow Trinculo, we'll fill him, by and by, again.

Cal. [Sings drunkenly.] Farewell, master ; farewell, farewell.

Tri. A howling monster ; a drunken monster.

CAL. No more dams I'll make for fish ;

Nor fetch in firing

At requiring,

Nor scrape trenchering, nor wash dish ;

'Ban 'Ban, Cal-Caliban,

Has a new master—get a new man.

Freedom, hey-day ! hey-day, freedom ! freedom ! hey-day, freedom !

Ste. O brave monster ! lead the way. [Exeunt.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—BEFORE PROSPERO'S CELL.

Enter Ferdinand, bearing a Log.

Fer. There be some sports are painful, and their labour

Delight in them sets off : some kinds of baseness Are nobly undergone ; and most poor matters

Point to rich ends. This my mean task

Would be as heavy to me, as odious ; but

The mistress which I serve quickens what's dead, And makes my labours pleasures. Oh ! she is

Ten times more gentle than her father's crabbed ; And he's composed of harshness. I must remove

Some thousands of these logs, and pile them up, Upon a sore injunction. My sweet mistress

Weeps when she sees me work, and says, such baseness

Had never like executor. I forget :

But these sweet thoughts do even refresh my Most busiest when I do it. [labours ;

Enter Miranda, and Prospero at a distance.

Mira. Alas ! now, pray you,

1 Gulla.

Work not so hard ; I would the lightning had Burnt up those logs that you are enjoined to pile. Pray, set it down, and rest you : when this burns, 'Twill weep for having wearied you. My father Is hard at study : pray now rest yourself : He's safe for these three hours.

Fer. O ! most dear mistress,

The sun will set before I shall discharge What I must strive to do.

Mira. If you'll sit down,

I'll bear your logs the while. Pray, give me I'll carry it to the pile. [that :

Fer. No, precious creature ; I had rather crack my sinews, break my back, Than you should such dishonour undergo, While I sit lazy by.

Mira. It would become me As well as it does you ; and I should do it With much more ease, for my good will is to it, And yours it is against.

Pro. Poor worm ! thou art infected ; This visitation shows it.

Mira. You look wearily.

Fer. No, noble mistress ; 'tis fresh morning with me,

When you are by at night. I do beseech you,— Chiefly that I might set it in my prayers— What is your name ?

Mira. Miranda.—O my father ! I have broke your 'hest to say so.

Fer. Admir'd Miranda !

Indeed, the top of admiration ; worth

What's dearest to the world ! Full many a lady I have ey'd with best regard ; and many a time

Th' harmony of their tongues hath into bondage Brought my too diligent ear : for several virtues

Have I lik'd several women ; never any

With so full soul, but some defect in her

Did quarrel with the noblest grace she ow'd

And put it to the foil : but you, O you !

So perfect, and so peerless, are created

Of every creature's best.

Mira. I do not know

One of my sex ; no woman's face remember, Save, from my glass, mine own ; nor have I seen

More that I may call men, than you, good friend, And my dear father. How features are abroad,

I am skill-less of ; but, by my modesty

(The jewel in my dower), I would not wish

Any companion in the world but you ;

Nor can imagination form a shape,

Besides yourself, to like of.—But I prattle

Something too wildly ; and my father's precepts I therein do forget.

Fer. I am, in my condition,

A prince, Miranda ; I do think, a king ;

(I would, not so !) and would no more endure

This wooden slavery, than to suffer

The flesh-fly blow my mouth.—Hear my soul

The very instant that I saw you, did [speak :

My heart fly to your service,—there resides,

To make me slave to it ; and for your sake,

Am I this patient log-man.

Mira. Do you love me ? [sound,

Fer. O heaven ! O earth ! bear witness to this

And crown what I profess with kind event,

If I speak true ; if ho!lowly, invert

What best is boded me, to mischief ! I,

Beyond all limit of what else i' th' world,
Do love, prize, honour you.

Mira. I am a fool,
To weep at what I am glad of.

Pro. Fair encounter
Of two most rare affections! Heavens rain grace
On that which breeds between 'em!

Fer. Wherefore weep you?

M. At mine unworthiness that dare not offer
What I desire to give; and, much less, take
What I shall die to want. But this is trifling;
And all the more it seeks to hide itself, [ning]
The bigger bulk it shows. Hence, bashful cun-
And prompt me, plain and holy innocence!
I am your wife, if you will marry me;
If not, I'll die your maid: to be your fellow,
You may deny me; but I'll be your servant,
Whether you will or no.

Fer. My mistress, dearest;
And I thus humble, ever.

Mira. My husband, then?

Fer. Ay, with a heart as willing
As bondage e'er of freedom: here's my hand.

M. And mine, with my heart in 't: and now
Till half an hour hence. [farewell]

Fer. A thousand thousand!

[*Exeunt Fer. and Mira.*]

Pro. So glad of this as they, I cannot be,
Who are surpris'd with all; but my rejoicing
At nothing can be more. I'll to my book;
For yet, ere supper time, must I perform
Much business appertaining. [Exit.]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND.

Enter Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo.

Ste. Tell not me:—when the butt is out, we
will drink water; not a drop before: therefore
bear up, and board 'em.—Servant-monster,
drink to me.

Trin. Servant-monster?—the folly of this
island! They say there's but five upon this isle:
we are three of them; if th' other two be brain'd
like us, the State totters.

Ste. Drink, servant-monster, when I bid thee:
thy eyes are almost set in thy head.

Trin. Where should they be set else? He
were a brave monster, indeed, if they were set
on his tail.

Ste. My man-monster hath drown'd his tongue
in sack: for my part, the sea cannot drown me:
I swam, ere I could recover the shore, five-and-
thirty leagues, off and on, by this light!—Thou
shalt be my lieutenant, monster, or my standard.

Trin. Your lieutenant, if you list: he's no
standard.

Ste. We'll not run, monsieur monster.

Trin. Nor go neither; but you'll lie, like
dogs, and yet say nothing neither.

Ste. Moon-calf, speak once in thy life, if thou
beest a good moon-calf.

Cal. How does thy honour? Let me lick thy
I'll not serve him; he is not valiant. [shoe.]

Trin. Thou liest, most ignorant monster: I am
in case to juggle a constable. Was there ever
man a coward, that hath drunk so much sack as
I to-day? Wilt thou tell a monstrous lie, being
but half a fish, and half a monster?

Cal. Lo, how he mocks me! wilt thou let him,
my lord?

Trin. Lord, quoth he!—that a monster should
be such a natural!

C. Lo, lo, again! bite him to death, I pr'ythee.

Ste. Trinculo, keep a good tongue in your
head: if you prove a mutineer, the next tree.—
The poor monster's my subject, and he shall not
suffer indignity.

C. I thank my noble lord. Wilt thou be pleas'd
To hearken once again to the suit I made to thee?

Ste. Marry will I; kneel and repeat it: I will
stand, and so shall Trinculo.

Enter Ariel, invisible. [tyrant,

Cal. As I told thee before, I am subject to a
sorcerer, that by his cunning hath cheated me
Of this island.

Ari. Thou liest.

Cal. Thou liest, thou jesting monkey, thou:
I would, my valiant master would destroy thee:
I do not lie.

Ste. Trinculo, if you trouble him any more
in 's tale, by this hand, I will supplant some of
your teeth.

Trin. Why, I said nothing.

Ste. Mum then, and no more.—[To Caliban.]
Proceed.

Cal. I say by sorcery he got this isle:
From me he got it: if thy greatness will,
Revenge it on him, for I know thou dar'st;
But this thing dare not.

Ste. That's most certain.

C. Thou shalt be lord of it, and I'll serve thee.

Ste. How, now, shall this be compass'd?
Canst thou bring me to the party? [asleep]

Cal. Yea, yea, my lord: I'll yield him thee

Where thou may'st knock a nail into his head.

Ari. Thou liest; thou canst not. [patch!—

Cal. What a pied ninny's this! Thou scurvy
I do beseech thy greatness, give him blows,
And take his bottle from him: when that's gone,
He shall drink nought but brine; for I'll not
Where the quick freshes¹ are. [show him]

Ste. Trinculo, run into no farther danger: in-
terrupt the monster one word farther, and, by
this hand, I'll turn my mercy out o' doors, and
make a stock-fish of thee.

Trin. Why, what did I? I did nothing. I'll
go farther off.

Ste. Did'st thou not say, he lied?

Ari. Thou liest.

Ste. Do I so? take thou that. [Strikes him.]
As you like this, give me the lie another time.

Trin. I did not give the lie.—Out o' your wits,
and hearing too?—This can sack and drinking
do.—A murrain on your monster, and the devil
take your fingers!

Cal. Ha, ha, ha!

Ste. Now, forward with your tale. Pr'ythee
stand farther off.

Cal. Beat him enough: after a little time,
I'll beat him too.

Ste. Stand farther.—Come, proceed.

Cal. Why, as I told thee, 'tis a custom with him
I' th' afternoon to sleep: there thou may'st brain
Having first seized his books; or with a log [aim,

Batter his skull, or paunch him with a stake,
Or cut his wezand¹ with thy knife. Remember,
First to possess his books; for without them
He's but a sot, as I am, nor hath not
One spirit to command: they all do hate him,
As rootedly as I. Burn but his books;
He has brave utensils (for so he calls them),
Which, when he has a house, he'll deck withal:
And that most deeply to consider is,
The beauty of his daughter. He himself
Calls her a nonpareil: I never saw a woman,
But only Sycorax, my dam, and she;
But she as far surpasseth Sycorax,
As great'st does least.

Ste. Is it so brave a lass?

Cal. Ay, lord; she will become thy bed, I war-
and bring thee forth brave brood. [rant,

Ste. Monster, I will kill this man: his daugh-
ter and I will be King and Queen, (save our
graces!) and Trinculo and thyself shall be vice-
roys.—Dost thou like the plot, Trinculo?

Trin. Excellent.

Ste. Give me thy hand: I am sorry I beat
thee, but, while thou liv'st, keep a good tongue
in thy head.

Cal. Within this half hour will he be asleep;
Wilt thou destroy him then?

Ste. Ay, on mine honour.

Ari. This will I tell my master. [pleasure.

Cal. Thou mak'st me merry: I am full of
Let us be joind: will you troll the catch
You taught me but while-ere?

Ste. At thy request, monster, I will do reason,
any reason. Come on, Trinculo, let ussing. [Sings.

*Flout 'em, and skout 'em; and skout 'em,
and flout 'em;*

Thought is free.

Cal. That's not the tune.

[*Ariel plays the tune on a tabor and pipe.*

Ste. What is this same?

Trin. This is the tune of our catch, played by
the picture of No-body.

Ste. If thou beest a man, show thyself in thy
likeness: if thou beest a devil, take't as thou list.

Trin. O, forgive me my sins!

Ste. Mercy upon us!

Cal. Art thou afraid?

Ste. No, monster, not I.

Cal. Be not afraid; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight, and
hurt not.

Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears; and sometimes voices,
That, if I then had wak'd after long sleep, [ing,
Will make me sleep again; and then, in dream-
The clouds, methought, would open, and show
Ready to drop upon me, that when I wak'd [riches
I cry'd to dream again.

Ste. This will prove a brave kingdom to me,
where I shall have my music for nothing.

Cal. When Prospero is destroy'd.

Ste. That shall be by and by: I remember the
story.

Trin. The sound is going away: let's follow
it, and after do our work.

¹ Throat.

Ste. Lead, monster; we'll follow.—I would I
could see this taborer: he lays it on.

T. Wilt come? I'll follow, Stephano. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND.

*Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Gonzalo,
Adrian, Francisco, and Others.*

Gon. By 'r lak'in,¹ I can go no farther, sir;
My old bones ake: here's a maze trod, indeed,
Through forth-rights² and meanders! by your
I needs must rest me. [patience,

Alon. Old lord, I cannot blame thee,
Who am myself attach'd with weariness,
To th' dulling of my spirits: sit down, and rest.
Even here I will put off my hope, and keep it
No longer for my flatterer, he is drown'd,
Whom thus we stray to find; and the sea mocks
Our frustrate search on land. Well, let him go.

Ant. [Aside to Sebas.] I am right glad that he's
so out of hope.

Do not, for one repulse, forego the purpose
That you resolv'd t' effect.

Seb. The next advantage
Will we take thoroughly.

Ant. Let it be to-night;
For, now they are oppress'd with travel, they
Will not, nor cannot, use such vigilance,
As when they are fresh.

Seb. I say, to-night: no more.

[Solemn and strange music; and Prospero above,
invisible. Enter several strange Shapes, bring-
ing in a Banquet: they dance about it with
gentle actions of salutation; and, inviting the
King, &c., to eat, they depart.]

Al. What harmony is this? my good friends,
Gon. Marvellous sweet music! [hark!]

Alon. Give us kind keepers, heaven! What
were these?

Seb. A living drollery. Now I will believe
That there are unicorns; that in Arabia
There is one tree, the phoenix' throne; one phoenix
At this hour reigning there.

Ant. I'll believe both;
And what does else want credit, come to me,
And I'll be sworn 'tis true. Travellers ne'er did
Though fools at home condemn 'em. [lie,

Gon. If in Naples
I should report this now, would they believe me?
If I should say, I saw such islanders
(For, certes, these are people of the island),
Who, though they are of monstrous shape, yet,
note,

Their manners are more gentle, kind, than of
Our human generation you shall find
Many, nay, almost any.

Pro. [Aside.] Honest lord,
Thou hast said well; for some of you there present
Are worse than devils.

Alon. I cannot too much muse, [pressing
Such shapes, such gesture, and such sound ex-
(Although they want the use of tongue) a kind
Of excellent dumb discourse.

Pro. [Aside.] Praise in departing.

Fran. They vanish'd strangely.

Seb. No matter, since

¹ Little lady.

² Straight paths.

They have left their viands behind, for we have stomachs.—

Will 't please you taste of what is here?

Alon. Not I. [were boys,

Gon. Faith, sir, you need not fear. When we Who would believe that there were mountaineers Dew-lapp'd like bulls, whose throats had hanging at 'em

Wallets of flesh? or that there were such men, Whose heads stood in their breasts? which now we find,

Each putter-out on five for one will bring us Good warrant of.

Alon. I will stand to and feed, Although my last: no matter, since I feel The best is past.—Brother, my lord the duke, Stand to, and do as we.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter Ariel like a Harpy, claps his wings upon the table, and with a quaint device, the Banquet vanishes.

Ari. You are three men of sin, whom destiny [That hath to instrument this lower world, And what is in 't) the never surfeited sea Hath caused to throw up,—and on this island Where man doth not inhabit; you 'mongst men Being most unfit to live. I have made you mad; [Seeing *Alon.*, *Seb.*, &c., draw their Swords. And even with such like valour men hang and drown

Their proper selves. You fools! I and my fellows Are ministers of Fate: the elements, Of whom your swords are temper'd, may as well Wound the loud winds, or with bemock'd-at stabs Kill the still-closing waters, as diminish One dowle that's in my plume. My fellow-ministers

Are like invulnerable. If you could hurt, Your swords are now toomassy for your strengths, And will not be uplifted. But, remember, (For that's my business to you), that you three From Milan did supplant good Prospero; Expos'd unto the sea (which hath requit it) Him, and his innocent child: for which foul deed The powers—delaying, not forgetting—have Incens'd the seas and shores, yea, all the creatures, Against your peace. Thee, of thy son, Alonso, They have bereft; and do pronounce by me, Lingering perdition (worse than any death [Can be at once) shall step by step attend [from You, and your ways; whose wraths to guard you (Which here, in this most desolate isle, else fall, Upon your heads) is nothing, but heart's sorrows And a clear life ensuing.

He vanishes in Thunder: then, to soft music, enter the Shapes again, and dance with mocks and moves, and carry out the table.

Pro. [Aside.] Bravely the figure of this harpy hast thou

Perform'd, my Ariel; a grace it had, devouring. Of my instruction hast thou nothing 'bated, In what thou hadst to say: so, with good life And observation strange, my meaner ministers Their several kinds have done. My high charms And these, mine enemies, are all knit up [work, In their distractions: they now are in my power;

1 Feather.

And in these fits I leave them, while I visit Young Ferdinand (whom they suppose is drown'd),

And his and my lov'd darling. [Exit *Pro.* above. *Gon.* I 'th' name of something holy, sir, why In this strange stare?

Alon. O, it is monstrous! monstrous! Methought, the billows spoke, and told me of it; The winds did sing it to me; and the thunder, That deep and dreadful organ-pipe, pronounc'd The name of Prosper: it did base my trespass. Therefore my son i' th' ooze is bedded; and I'll seek him deeper than e'er plummet sounded, And with him there lie mudded. [Exit.

Seb. But one fiend at a time, I'll fight their legions o'er.

Ant. I'll be thy second.

[Exit *Ant. Seb.* and *Ant.*

Gon. All three of them are desperate: their great guilt,

Like poison given to work a great time after, Now 'gins to bite the spirits.—I do beseech you, That are of suppler joints, follow them swiftly, And hinder them from what this ecstasy May now provoke them to.

Adr. Follow, I pray you. [Exit.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE PROSPERO'S CELL.

Enter Prospero, Ferdinand, and Miranda.

Pro. If I have too austere punish'd you, Your compensation makes amends; for I Have given you here a thread of mine own life, Or that for which I live; who once again I tender to thy hand. All thy vexations Were but my trials of thy love, and thou Hast strangely stood the test: here, afore Heaven, I ratify this my rich gift. O Ferdinand! Do not smile at me that I boast her off; For thou shalt find she will outstrip all praise, And make it halt behind her.

Fer. I do believe it, Against an oracle.

P. Then, as my gift, and thine own acquisition Worthily purchas'd, take my daughter: but not Till sanctimonious ceremonies may, With full and holy rite, be minister'd, Then Hymen's lamps shall light you.

Fer. As I hope For quiet days, fair issue, and long life, With such love as 'tis now, the strong'st suggestion My worser genius can, shall never melt [gestion My honour.

Pro. Fairly spoke. Sit then, and talk with her; she is thine own.—What, Ariel! my industrious servant Ariel!

Enter Ariel.

Ari. What would my potent master? here I am.

Pro. Thou and thy meaner fellows your last Did worthily perform, and I must use you [service In such another trick. Go, bring the rabble, O'er whom I give thee power, here, to this place: Incite them to quick motion; for I must Bestow upon the eyes of this young couple

Some vanity of mine art : it is my promise,
And they expect it from me.

Ari. Presently?

Pro. Ay, with a twink.

Ari. Before you can say, 'Come,' and 'go,'
And breathe twice; and cry, 'so, so;'

Each one tripping on his toe,
Will be here with mop and mowe.¹

Do you love me, master? no?

Pro. Dearly, my delicate Ariel. Do not ap-
Till thou dost hear me call. [*proach.*

Ari. Well, I conceive. [*Exit.*

Pro. Look thou be true, or else good night your

Fer. I warrant you, sir. [*vow.*

Pro. Well.—

Now come, my Ariel! bring a corollary,²
Rather than want a spirit: appear, and pertly.—
No tongue, all eyes; be silent. [*Soft music.*

Enter Iris.

Iris. Ceres, most bounteous lady, thy rich leas
Of wheat, rye, barley, vetches, oats, and peas;
Thy turfy mountains, where live nibbling sheep,
And flat meads thatch'd with stover, them to
Thy banks with peonied and lillied brims, [keep;
Which spongy April at thy 'hest betrimms,
To make cold nymphs chaste crowns; and thy
broom groves,

Whose shadow the dismissed bachelor loves,
Being lass-lorn; thy pole-clipt vineyard;
And thy sea-marge, steril, and rocky-hard,
Where thou thyself dost air; the Queen of the
Whose watery arch and messenger am I, [Sky,
Bids thee leave these, and with her sovereign
Here on this grass-plot, in this very place, [grace,
To come and sport. [*Juno descends.*] Her
peacocks fly amain:

Approach, rich Ceres, her to entertain.

Enter Ceres.

C. Hail, many-colour'd messenger, that ne'er
Dost disobey the wife of Jupiter;
Who with thy saffron wings upon my flowers
Diffusest honey-drops, refreshing showers;
And with each end of thy blue bow dost crown
My bosky acres, and my unshrub'd down,
Rich scarf to my proud earth; why hath thy Queen
Summon'd me hither, to this short-grass'd green?

Iris. A contract of true love to celebrate,
And some donation freely to estate
On the bless'd lovers.

Cer. Tell me, heavenly bow,
If Venus, or her son, as thou dost know,
Do now attend the Queen? Since they did plot
The means that dusky Dis my daughter got,
Her and her blind boy's scandal'd company
I have forsworn.

Iris. Of her society
Be not afraid: I met her deity
Cutting the clouds towards Paphos, and her son
Dove-drawn with her.

Cer. Highest Queen of State,
Great Juno comes: I know her by her gait.

Enter Juno.

J. How does my bounteous sister? Go with me,
To bless this twain, that they may prosperous be,
And honour'd in their issue.

¹ Grins and wry faces.

² Overplus.

[They sing.]

JUNO. Honour, riches, marriage, blessing,
Long continuance, and increasing,
Hourly joys be still upon you!
Juno sings her blessings on you.

CER. Earth's increase, foison plenty,
Barns, and garners never empty;
Vines, with clust'ring bunches growing;
Plants, with goodly burthen bowing;
Spring come to you, at the farthest,
In the very end of harvest!
Scarcity and want shall shun you:
Ceres' blessing so is on you.

Fer. This is a most majestic vision, and
Harmonious charmingly. May I be bold
To think these spirits?

Pro. Spirits, which by mine art
I have from their confines call'd to enact
My present fancies.

Fer. Let me live here ever:
So rare a wonder'd father, and a wise,
Makes this place Paradise.

Pro. Sweet now, silence!
[*Juno and Ceres whisper, and send Iris
on employment.*

Juno and Ceres whisper seriously;
There's something else to do. Hush, and be
Or else our spell is marr'd. [*mute,*

Iris. You nymphs, call'd Naiads, of the wan-
d'ring brooks, [*looks,*
With your sedg'd crowns and ever-harmless
Leave your crisp channels, and on this green land
Answer your summons: Juno does command.
Come, temperate nymphs, and help to celebrate
A contract of true love: be not too late.

Enter certain Nymphs.

You sun-burn'd sicklemen, of August weary,
Come hither from the furrow, and be merry.
Make holy day: your rye-straw hats put on,
And these fresh nymphs encounter every one
In country footing.

*Enter certain Reapers, properly habited: they
join with the Nymphs in a graceful dance;
towards the end whereof Prospero starts sud-
denly, and speaks; after which, to a strange,
hollow, and confused noise, they heavily
vanish.*

Pro. [*Aside.*] I had forgot that foul conspiracy
Of the beast Caliban, and his confederates,
Against my life; the minute of their plot
Is almost come.—[*To the Spirits.*] Well done.—

Avoid; no more.

F. This is most strange; your father's in some
That works him strongly. [*passion*
Mira.

Never till this day,
Saw I him touch'd with anger so distemper'd.
Pro. You do look, my son, in a mov'd sort,
As if you were dismay'd: be cheerful, sir.
Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air:
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,

And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on; and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.—Sir, I am vex'd:
Bear with my weakness; my old brain is
Be not disturb'd with my infirmity. [troubled:
If you be pleas'd, retire into my cell,
And there repose: a turn or two I'll walk,
To still my beating mind.

Fer. Mira. We wish your peace. [*Exeunt.*

Pro. Come with a thought: I thank thee,
Ariel: come!

Enter Ariel.

Ari. Thy thoughts I cleave to. What's thy

Pro. Spirit, [pleasure?

We must prepare to meet with Caliban. [*Ceres,*
Ari. Ay, my commander: when I presented
I thought to have told thee of it; but I fear'd,
Lest I might anger thee. [*varlets?*

Pro. Say again, where didst thou leave these

A. I told you, sir, they were red-hot with drink—
So full of valour, that they smote the air [ing:
For breathing in their faces, beat the ground
For kissing of their feet, yet always bending
Towards their projects. Then I beat my tabor,
At which, like unback'd colts, they prick'd their
ears,

Advanc'd their eyelids, lifted up their noses,
As they smelt music: so I charm'd their ears,
That, calf-like, they my lowing follow'd, through
Tooth'd briers, sharp furzes, pricking gorse, and
thorns,

Which enter'd their frail shins: at last I left them
I th' filthy mantled pool beyond your cell,
Up to the chins.

Pro. This was well done, my bird.

Thy shape invisible retain thou still:
The trumpery in my house, go, bring it hither,
For stale¹ to catch these thieves.

Ari. I go, I go. [*Exit.*

Pro. A devil, a born devil, on whose nature
Nurture can never stick: on whom my pains,
Humanely taken, all, all lost, quite lost;
And as with age his body uglier grows,
So his mind cankers. I will plague them all,

Enter Ariel, laden with glistening apparel, &c.
Even to roaring.—Come, hang them on this line.

Enter Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo,
all wet.

Cal. Pray you, tread softly, that the blind
mole may

Not hear a foot fall: we are now near his cell.
Ste. Monster, your fairy, which, you say, is a
harmless fairy, has done little better than play'd
the Jack² with us.

T. Monster, my nose is in great indignation.

Ste. So is mine. Do you hear, monster? If I
should take a displeasure against you; look you,—

Trin. Thou wert but a lost monster.

Cal. Good my lord, give me thy favour still.
Be patient, for the prize I'll bring thee to
Shall hoodwink this mischance: therefore, speak
All's hush'd as midnight yet. [softly;

T. Ay, but to lose our bottles in the pool,—

1 Bait.

2 Ignis fatuus.

Ste. There is not only disgrace and dishonour
in that, monster, but an infinite loss.

Trin. That's more to me than my wetting:
yet this is your harmless fairy, monster.

Ste. I will fetch off my bottle, though I be o'er
ears for my labour.

C. Pr'ythee, my King, be quiet. Seest thou here,
This is the mouth o' th' cell: no noise, and enter:
Do that good mischief, which may make this
Thine own for ever, and I, thy Caliban, [island
For aye thy foot-licker.

Ste. Give me thy hand. I do begin to have
bloody thoughts.

Trin. O King Stephano! O peer! O worthy
Stephano! look, what a wardrobe here is for thee!

Cal. Let it alone, thou fool: it is but trash.

Trin. O, ho, monster! we know what belongs
to a frippery:—O King Stephano!

Ste. Put off that gown, Trinculo: by this hand,
I'll have that gown.

Trin. Thy grace shall have it.

Cal. The dropsy drown this fool! what do you
mean,

To doat thus on such luggage? Let's alone,
And do the murder first: if he awake,
From toe to crown he'll fill our skin with pinches;
Make us strange stuff.

Ste. Be you quiet, monster.—Mistress line, is
not this my jerkin? Now is the jerkin under the
line: now, jerkin, you are like to lose your hair,
and prove a bald jerkin.

Trin. Do, do: we steal by line and level,
and 't like your grace.

Ste. I thank thee for that jest; here's a gar-
ment for't: wit shall not go unrewarded, while
I am King of this country. "Steal by line and
level," is an excellent pass of pate; there's an-
other garment for't.

Trin. Monster, come, put sometime upon your
fingers, and away with the rest.

C. I will have none on't, we shall lose our time,
And all be turn'd to barnacles, or to apes
With foreheads villainous low.

Ste. Monster, lay-to your fingers: help to bear
this away, where my hoghead of wine is, or I'll
turn you out of my kingdom. Go to; carry this.

Trin. And this.

Ste. Ay, and this.

A noise of Hunters heard. Enter divers Spirits,
in shape of hounds, and hunt them about;
Prospero and Ariel setting them on.

Pro. Hey, Mountain, hey!

Ari. Silver! there it goes, Silver! [hark:

Pro. Fury, Fury! there, Tyrant, there! hark,

[*Cal., Ste., and Trin.* are driven out.

Go, charge my goblins that they grind their joints
With dry convulsions; shorten up their sinews
With aged cramps, and more pinch-spotted make
them,

Than pard¹ or cat o' mountain.

Ari. Hark! they roar.

P. Let them be hunted soundly. At this hour
Lie at my mercy all mine enemies:
Shortly shall all my labours end, and thou
Shalt have the air at freedom. For a little,
Follow, and do me service. [*Exeunt.*

1 Leopard.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE THE CELL OF PROSPERO.

Enter Prospero in his magic robes; and Ariel.

Pro. Now does my project gather to a head :
My charms crack not, my spirits obey, and Time
Goes upright with his carriage. How's the day?

A. On the sixth hour ; at which time, my lord,
You said our work should cease.

Pro. I did say so,
When first I raised the tempest. Say, my spirit,
How fares the King and his ?

Ari. Confin'd together
In the same fashion as you gave in charge :
Just as you left them : all prisoners, sir,
In the lime-grove which weather-fends your cell ;
They cannot budge till you release. The King,
His brother, and yours, abide all three distracted,
And the remainder mourning over them,
Brimful of sorrow and disdain ; but chiefly
Him that you term'd, sir, the good old lord,
Gonzalo :

His tears run down his beard, like winter's drops
From eaves of reeds. Your charm so strongly
works them,

That if you now beheld them, your affections
Would become tender.

Pro. Dost thou think so, spirit ?

Ari. Mine would, sir, were I human.

Pro. And mine shall.

Hast thou, which art but air, a touch, a feeling
Of their afflictions, and shall not myself,
One of their kind, that relish all as sharply,
Passion as they, be kindlier mov'd than thou art ?
Though with their high wrongs I am struck to
th' quick,

Yet, with my nobler reason, 'gainst my fury
Do I take part. The rarer action is [tent,
In virtue, than in vengeance : they being peni-
The sole drift of my purpose doth extend
Not a frown farther. Go, release them, Ariel.
My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore,
And they shall be themselves.

Ari. I'll fetch them, sir. [*Exit.*]

Pro. Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes,
and groves ;

And ye, that on the sands with printless foot
Do chase the ebbing Neptune, and do fly him,
When he comes back ; you demi-puppets, that
By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make,
Whereof the ewe not bites ; and you, whose pas-
time

Is to make midnight mushrooms, that rejoice
To hear the solemn curfew ; by whose aid
(Weak masters though ye be) I have bedimm'd
The noontide sun, call'd forth the mutinous winds,
And 'twixt the green sea and the azur'd vault
Set roaring war : to the dread rattling thunder
Have I given fire, and rifted Jove's stout oak
With his own bolt : the strong-bas'd promontory
Have I made shake ; and by the spurs pluck'd up
The pine and cedar : graves, at my command,
Have wak'd their sleepers, op'd, and let 'em forth
By my so potent art.—But this rough magic
I here abjure ; and, when I have requir'd
Some heavenly music (which even now I do),

To work mine end upon their senses, that
This airy charm is for, I'll break my staff,
Bury it certain fadoms in the earth,
And, deeper than did ever plummet sound,
I'll drown my book. [*Solemn music.*]

*Here enter Ariel before ; then Alonso, with a
frantic gesture, attended by Gonzalo ; Sebast-
tian and Antonio in like manner, attended
by Adrian and Francisco : they all enter the
circle which Prospero had made, and there
stand charmed ; which Prospero observing,
speaks.*

A solemn air, and the best comforter
To an unsettled fancy, cure thy brains,
Now useless, boil'd within thy skull ! There
For you are spell-stopp'd.—[stand,
Holy Gonzalo, honourable man,
Mine eyes ev'n sociable to the shew of thine,
Fall fellow drops.—The charm dissolves apace ;
And as the morning steals upon the night,
Melting the darkness, so their rising senses
Begin to chase the ignorant fumes that mantle
Their clearer reason.—O good Gonzalo !
My true preserver, and a loyal sir
To him thou follow'st, I will pay thy graces
Home, both in word and deed.—Most cruelly
Didst thou, Alonso, use me and my daughter :
Thy brother was a furtherer in the act ;—
Thou'rt pinch'd for't now, Sebastian.—Flesh
and blood,

You brother mine, that entertain'd ambition,
Expell'd remorse and nature ; who, with Sebas-
tian [strong,)

(Whose inward pinches therefore are most
Would here have kill'd your king ; I do forgive
thee, [ling

Unnatural though thou art.—Their understand-
Begins to swell, and the approaching tide
Will shortly fill the reasonable shores,
That now lie foul and muddy. Not one of them,
That yet looks on me, or would know me.—Ariel,
Fetch me the hat and rapier in my cell ;

[*Exit Ariel.*]

I will dis-case me, and myself present,
As I was sometime Milan.—Quickly, spirit ;
Thou shalt ere long be free.

Ariel enters, singing, and helps to attire him.

ARI. Where the bee sucks, there suck I ;

In a cowslip's bell I lie ;

There I couch when owls do cry.

On the bat's back I do fly,

After summer, merrily.

Merrily, merrily, shall I live now,

Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

Pro. Why, that's my dainty Ariel ! I shall
miss thee ;

But yet thou shalt have freedom :—so, so, so,—
To the King's ship, invisible as thou art :

There shalt thou find the mariners asleep
Under the hatches ; the Master and the Boat-
Being awake, enforce them to this place ; [swain,
And presently, I pry thee.

Ari. I drink the air before me, and return
Or e'er your pulse twice beat. [*Exit Ariel.*]

Gon. All torment, trouble, wonder, and amaze-
ment

Inhabits here: some heavenly power guide us
Out of this fearful country!

Pro. Behold, Sir King,
The wrong Duke of Milan, Prospero.
For more assurance that a living prince
Does now speak to thee, I embrace thy body;
And to thee, and thy company, I bid
A hearty welcome.

Alon. Whie'r thou beest he, or no,
Or some enchanted trifle to abuse me,
As late I have been, I not know: thy pulse
Beats as of flesh and blood; and, since I saw thee,
Th' affliction of my mind amends, with which,
I fear, a madness held me. This must crave
(An if this be at all) a most strange story.
Thy dukedom I resign; and do entreat
Thou pardon me my wrongs.—But how should
Be living, and be here? [*Prospero*]

Pro. First, noble friend,
Let me embrace thine age, whose honour cannot
Be measur'd, or confin'd.

Gon. Whether this be,
Or be not, I'll not swear.

Pro. You do yet taste
Some subtleties o' th' isle, that will not let you
Believe things certain.—Welcome, my friends all.
But you, my brace of lords, were I so minded,

[*Aside to Seb. and Ant.*
I here could pluck his highness' frown upon you,
And justify you traitors: at this time
I'll tell no tales.

Seb. [*Aside.*] The devil speaks in him.

Pro. No.—
For you, most wicked sir, whom to call brother
Would even infect my mouth, I do forgive
Thy rankest fault—all of them; and require
My dukedom of thee, which, perforce, I know,
Thou must restore.

Alon. If thou beest Prospero,
Give us particulars of thy preservation: [since
How thou hast met us here, whom three hours
Were wrack'd upon this shore, where I have lost
(How sharp the point of this remembrance is!)]
My dear son Ferdinand.

Pro. I am woe for't, sir.

Alon. Irreparable is the loss; and Patience
Says it is past her cure.

Pro. I rather think, [grace,
You have not sought her help; of whose soft
For the like loss, I have her sovereign aid,
And rest myself content.

Alon. You the like loss?

Pro. As great to me, as late; and, supportable
To make the dear loss, have I means much weaker
Than you may call to comfort you; for I
Have lost my daughter.

Alon. A daughter?
O heavens! that they were living both in Naples,
The King and Queen there! that they were, I wish
Myself were mudded in that oozy bed [daughter?
Where my son lies. When did you lose your

P. In this last tempest. I perceive, these lords
At this encounter do so much admire,
That they devour their reason, and scarce think
Their eyes do offices of truth, their words
Are natural breath; but, howso'er you have
Been justled from your senses, know for certain,
That I am Prospero, and that very duke

Which was thrust forth of Milan; who, most
strangely [landed,
Upon this shore, where you were wrack'd, was
To be the lord on't. No more yet of this;
For 'tis a chronicle of day by day.
Not a relation for a breakfast, nor
Befitting this first meeting. Welcome, sir;
This cell's my court; here have I few attendants,
And subjects none abroad; pray you, look in.
My dukedom since you have given me again,
I will requite you with as good a thing;
At least, bring forth a wonder, to content ye
As much as me my dukedom.

*Here Prospero discovers Ferdinand and
Miranda playing at chess.*

Mira. Sweet lord, you play me false.

Fer. No, my dearest love,
I would not for the world.

Mira. Yes, for a score of kingdoms you should
And I would call it fair play. [wrangle,

Alon. If this prove
A vision of the island, one dear son
Shall I twice lose.

Seb. A most high miracle!
Fer. Though the seas threaten, they are mer-
I have curs'd them without cause. [ciful:

[*Fer. kneels to Alon.*
Alon. Now, all the blessings
Of a glad father compass thee about!
Arise, and say how thou cam'st here.

Mira. O, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O, brave new world,
That has such people in't!

Pro. 'Tis new to thee. [at play?
Alon. What is this maid, with whom thou wast
Your old'st acquaintance cannot be three hours:
Is she the goddess that hath sever'd us,
And brought us thus together?

Fer. Sir, she is mortal;
But, by immortal providence she's mine:
I chose her when I could not ask my father
For his advice, nor thought I had one. She
Is daughter to this famous Duke of Milan,
Of whom so often I have heard renown,
But never saw before: of whom I have
Receiv'd a second life; and second father
This lady makes him to me.

Alon. I am her's.
But O, how oddly will it sound, that I
Must ask my child forgiveness!

Pro. There, sir, stop:
Let us not burthen our remembrances
With a heaviness that's gone.

Gon. I have inly wept,
Or should have spoke ere this. Look down, you
And on this couple drop a blessed crown, [gods,
For it is you that have chalk'd forth the way,
Which brought us hither!

Alon. I say, Amen, Gonzalo. [issue
Gon. Was Milan thrust from Milan, that his
Should become Kings of Naples? O! rejoice
Beyond a common joy, and set it down
With gold on lasting pillars:—In one voyage
Did Claribel her husband find at Tunis;
And Ferdinand, her brother, found a wife, [edom,
Where he himself was lost; Prospero his duke—

In a poor isle ; and all of us, ourselves,
When no man was his own. [hands :

Alon. [To *Fer.* and *Mira.*] Give me your
Let grief and sorrow still embrace his heart,
That doth not wish you joy !

Gon. Be it so : Amen.

*Enter Ariel, with the Master and Boatswain
amazedly following.*

O look, sir ! look, sir ! here is more of us.
I prophesied if a gallows were on land,
This fellow could not drown.—Now, blasphemy,
That swear'st grace o'erboard, not an oath on
shore ?

Hast thou no mouth by land ? What is the news ?

Boats. The best news is, that we have safely
found

Our King, and company : the next, our ship,
Which but three glasses since we gave out split,
Is tight, and yare,¹ and bravely rigg'd, as when
We first put out to sea.

Ari. Sir, all this service }
Have I done since I went. } [Aside.

Pro. My tricky spirit !

Alon. These are not natural events ; they
strengthen [hither ?

From strange to stranger.—Say, how came you
Boats. If I did think, sir, I were well awake,
I'd strive to tell you. We were dead of sleep,
And (how we know not) all clapp'd under hatches,
Where, but even now, with strange and several
noises

Of roaring, shrieking, howling, jingling chains,
And more diversity of sounds, all horrible,
We were awak'd ; straightway, at liberty :
Where we, in all her trim, freshly beheld
Our royal, good, and gallant ship ; our Master
Cap'ring to eye her. On a trice, so please you,
Even in a dream, were we divided from them,
And were brought moping hither.

Ari. [Aside.] Was't well done ?

Pro. [Aside.] Bravely, my diligence ! Thou
shall be free. [trod ;

Alon. This is as strange a maze as e'er men
And there is in this business more than Nature
Was ever conduct² of. Some oracle
Must rectify our knowledge.

Pro. Sir, my liege,
Do not infect your mind with beating on [sure,
The strangeness of this business : at pick'd lei-
Which shall be shortly, single I'll resolve you
(Which to you shall seem probable) of every
These happen'd accidents : till when, be cheerful,
And think of each thing well.—[Aside.]—Come
hither, spirit :

Set Caliban and his companions free : [cioussir ?
Untie the spell. [Exit *Ariel.*] How fares my gra-
There are yet missing of your company
Some few odd lads, that you remember not.

*Enter Ariel, driving in Caliban, Stephano,
and Trinculo, in their stolen apparel.*

Ste. Every man shift for all the rest, and let
no man take care for himself, for all is but for-
tune.—*Coragio*, bully-monster, *coragio* !

Trin. If these be true spies that I wear in
my head, here's a goodly sight.

Cal. O Setebos ! these be brave spirits, indeed.

1 Ready. 2 Conductor.

How fine my master is ! I am afraid
He will chastise me.

Seb. Ha, ha !

What things are these, my lord Antonio ?
Will money buy them ?

Ant. Very like ; one of them
Is a plain fish, and, no doubt, marketable. [lords,

Pro. Mark but the badges of these men, my
Then say, if they be true.—This mis-shapen knave,
His mother was a witch ; and one so strong
That could control the moon, make flows and ebbs,
And deal in her command, without her power.
These three have robb'd me ; and this demi-devil
(For he's a bastard one) had plotted with them
To take my life. Two of these fellows you
Must know, and own ; this thing of darkness I
Acknowledge mine.

Cal. I shall be pinch'd to death.
Al. Is not this Stephano, my drunken butler ?

Seb. He is drunk now : where had he wine ?

Alon. And Trinculo is reeling ripe : where
should they

Find this grand liquor that hath gilded 'em ?—
How cam'st thou in this pickle ?

Trin. I have been in such a pickle since I
saw you last, that, I fear me, will never out of
my bones : I shall not fear fly-blowing.

Seb. Why, how now, Stephano ? [a cramp.

Ste. O ! touch me not : I am not Stephano, but

Pro. You'd be king o' the isle, sirrah ?

Ste. I should have been a sore one then.

Alon. [Pointing to Caliban.] This is as strange
a thing as e'er I looked on.

Pro. He is as disproportion'd in his manners
As in his shape.—Go, sirrah, to my cell ;

Take with you your companions : as you look
To have my pardon, trim it handsomely.

Cal. Ay, that I will ; and I'll be wise hereafter,
And seek for grace. What a thrice-double ass
Was I, to take this drunkard for a god,
And worship this dull fool !

Pro. Go to ; away !

Alon. Hence, and bestow your luggage where
Seb. Or stole it, rather. [you found it.

[Exit *Cal.*, *Ste.*, and *Trin.*

P. Sir, I invite your highness, and your train,
To my poor cell, where you shall take your rest
For this one night ; which, part of it, I'll waste
With such discourse, as, I not doubt, shall make
Go quick away :—the story of my life, [it
And the particular accidents gone by,
Since I came to this isle : and in the morn,
I'll bring you to your ship, and so to Naples,
Where I have hope to see the nuptial
Of these our dear-below'd solemnized ;
And thence retire me to my Milan, where
Every third thought shall be my grave.

Alon. I long
To hear the story of your life, which must
Take the ear strangely.

Pro. I'll deliver all ;
And promise you calm seas, auspicious gales,
And sail so expeditious, that shall catch
Your royal fleet far off.

My Ariel—chick, }
That is thy charge : then, to the ele- } [Aside.
Be free, and fare thou well ! [ments ; }

Please you, draw near. [Exit.

EPILOGUE.

SPOKEN BY PROSPERO.

[Now my charms are all o'erthrown,
And what strength I have's mine own.
Which is most faint : now, 'tis true,
I must be here confin'd by you,
Or sent to Naples. Let me not,
Since I have my dukedom got,
And pardon'd the deceiver, dwell
In this bare island, by your spell ;
But release me from my bands,

With the help of your good hands.
Gentle breath of yours my sails
Must fill, or else my project fails,
Which was to please. Now I want
Spirits to enforce, art to enchant ;
And my ending is despair,
Unless I be reliev'd by prayer ;
Which pierces so, that it assaults
Mercy itself, and frees all faults.
As you from crimes would pardon'd be,
Let your indulgence set me free.]

Two Gentlemen of Verona.

Persons Represented.

DUKE OF MILAN, *Father to Silvia.*VALENTINE, } *Gentlemen of Verona.*

PROTEUS, }

ANTONIO, *Father to Proteus.*THURIO, *a foolish rival to Valentine.*EGLAMOUR, *agent for Silvia in her escape.*SPEED, *a clownish Servant to Valentine.*LAUNCE, *the like to Proteus.*PANTHINO, *Servant to Antonio.*HOST, *where Julia lodges in Milan.*

OUTLAWS.

JULIA, *a lady of Verona, in love with Proteus.*SILVIA, *the Duke's Daughter, beloved of Valentine.*LUCETTA, *waiting-woman to Julia.**Servants, Musicians.*SCENE.—*Sometimes in Verona ; sometimes in Milan, and in a Forest near it.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—AN OPEN PLACE IN VERONA.

Enter Valentine and Proteus.

Val. Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus ;
Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits.
Were't not, affection chains thy tender days
To the sweet glances of thy honour'd love,
I rather would entreat thy company
To see the wonders of the world abroad,
Than, living dully sluggardiz'd at home,
Wear out thy youth with shapeless idleness.
But since thou lov'st, love still, and thrive there—
Even as I would, when I to love begin. [in,

P. Wilt thou begone? Sweet Valentine, adieu.
Think on thy Proteus, when thou, haply, seest
Some rare note-worthy object in thy travel :

Wish me partaker in thy happiness,
When thou dost meet good hap ; and in thy
(If ever danger do environ thee,) [danger,
Commend thy grievance to my holy prayers,
For I will be thy beads-man, Valentine.

V. And on a love-book pray for my success?

P. Upon some book I love, I'll pray for thee.

V. That's on some shallow story of deep love,
How young Leander cross'd the Hellespont.

P. That's a deep story of a deeper love ;
For he was more than over shoes in love.

Val. 'Tis true ; for you are over boots in love,
And yet you never swam the Hellespont.

P. Over the boots ! nay, give me not the boots.

Val. No, I will not, for it boots thee not.

P. What? [groans ;

Val. To be in love, where scorn is bought with

Coy looks, with heart-sore sighs ; one fading
moment's mirth,

With twenty watchful, weary, tedious nights :

If haply won, perhaps, a hapless gain ;

If lost, why then a grievous labour won :

However, but a folly bought with wit,

Or else a wit by folly vanquished.

Pro. So, by your circumstance you call me
fool. [prove.

Val. So, by your circumstance, I fear, you'll

Pro. 'Tis love you cavil at : I am not Love.

Val. Love is your master, for he masters you ;
And he that is so yoked by a fool,

Methinks, should not be chronicled for wise.

Pro. Yet writers say, as in the sweetest bud

The eating canker dwells, so eating love

Inhabits in the finest wits of all.

V. And writers say, as the most forward bud

Is eaten by the canker ere it blow,

Even so by love the young and tender wit

Is turn'd to folly ; blasting in the bud,

Losing his verdure even in the prime,

And all the fair effects of future hopes.

But wherefore waste I time to counsel thee,

That art a votary to fond desire?

Once more, adieu. My father at the road

Expects my coming, there to see me shipp'd.

Pro. And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

Val. Sweet Proteus, no ; now let us take our

To Milan let me hear from thee by letters, [leave.

Of thy success in love, and what news else

Betideth here in absence of thy friend ;

And I likewise will visit thee with mine.

Pro. All happiness bechance to thee in Milan.

Val. As much to you at home ; and so, farewell. [Exit.]

Pro. He after honour hunts, I after love ;
He leaves his friends to dignify them more ;
I leave myself, my friends, and all for love.
Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphos'd me ;
Made me neglect my studies, lose my time,
War with good council, set the world at naught,
Made wit with musing weak, heart sick with thought.

Enter Speed.

Speed. Sir Proteus, 'save you ! Saw you my master ?

Pro. But now he parted hence to embark for Milan.

Sp. Twenty to one, then, he is shipp'd already, and I have play'd the sheep in losing him.

Pro. Indeed a sheep doth very often stray
An if the shepherd be awhile away.

Sp. You conclude, that my master is a shepherd, then, and I a sheep ?

Pro. I do.

Speed. Why then my horns are his horns, whether I wake or sleep.

Pro. A silly answer, and fitting well a sheep.

Speed. This proves me still a sheep.

Pro. True, and thy master a shepherd.

Sp. Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

P. It shall go hard, but I'll prove it by another.

Speed. The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep the shepherd ; but I seek my master, and my master seeks not me ; therefore, I am no sheep.

Pro. The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd, the shepherd for food follows not the sheep ; thou for wages followest thy master, thy master for wages follows not thee ; therefore, thou art a sheep.

Speed. Such another proof will make me cry "baa."

Pro. But, dost thou hear ? gav'st thou my letter to Julia ?

Speed. Ay, sir ; I, a lost mutton, gave your letter to her ; and she gave me, a lost mutton, nothing for my labour.

Pro. Nay, in that you are astray : 'twere best pound you.

Speed. Nay, sir, less than a pound shall serve me for carrying your letter.

Pro. You mistake ; I mean the pound, a pinfold.

Speed. From a pound to a pin ? fold it over and over,

'Tis threefold too little for carrying a letter to

Pro. But what said she ? [your lover.]

Speed. [Nods.] Ay.

Pro. Nod, ay ? why, that's noddly.

Speed. You mistook, sir : I say she did nod, and you ask me if she did nod ; and I say ay.

Pro. And that set together, is—noddly.¹

Speed. Now you have taken the pains to set it together, take it for your pains.

Pro. No, no ; you shall have it for bearing the letter.

Speed. Well, I perceive I must be fain to bear with you.

Pro. Why, sir, how do you bear with me ?

1 Fool.

Speed. Marry, sir, the letter very orderly ; having nothing but the word noddly for my pains.

Pro. Beshrew me, but you have a quick wit.
S. And yet it cannot overtake your slow purse.
Pro. Come, come ; open the matter in brief : what said she ?

Speed. Open your purse, that the money, and the matter, may be both at once delivered.

Pro. Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she ?

Sp. Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.

Pro. Why ? couldst thou perceive so much from her ?

Speed. Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her ; no, not so much as a ducat for delivering your letter ; and being so hard to me that brought your mind, I fear she'll prove as hard to you in telling your mind.

Pro. What ! said she nothing ?

Sp. No, not so much as—"Take this for thy pains." To testify your bounty, I thank you, you have testern'd¹ me ; in requital whereof, henceforth carry your letters yourself. And so, sir, I'll commend you to my master.

Pro. Go, go, be gone, to save your ship from wreck,

Which cannot perish, having thee aboard,
Being destined to a dryer death on shore.—

[Exit Speed.]

I must go send some better messenger :
I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,
Receiving them from such a worthless post.

[Exit.]

SCENE II.

THE SAME. THE GARDEN OF JULIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Julia and Lucetta.

Jul. But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,
Would'st thou then counsel me to fall in love ?

Luc. Ay, madam ; so you stumble not unheeded.

J. Of all the fair resort of gentlemen, [fully,
That every day with parle encounter me,
In thy opinion, which is worthiest love ?

Luc. Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind

According to my shallow simple skill. [mour !]

Jul. What think'st thou of the fair Sir Eglamour ?

Luc. As of a knight well-spoken, neat and fine ;
But, were I you, he never should be mine.

Jul. What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio ?

Luc. Well, of his wealth ; but of himself, so so.

Jul. What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus ?

Luc. To see what folly reigns in us !

Jul. How now ? what means this passion at his name ?

L. Pardon, dear madam : 'tis a passing shame,
That I, unworthy body as I am,

Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

Jul. Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest ?

Luc. Then thus—of many good, I think him

Jul. Your reason ? [best.]

Luc. I have no other but a woman's reason :
I think him so, because I think him so.

Jul. And would'st thou have me cast my love on him ? [away.]

Luc. Ay, if you thought your love not cast

1 Sixpence.

J. Why, he, of all the rest, hath never mov'd me.
L. Yet he, of all the rest, I think, best loves ye.
J. His little speaking shows his love but small.
L. Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.
Jul. They do not love, that do not show their love.

Luc. O! they love least, that let men know
Jul. I would I knew his mind. [their love.]

Luc. Peruse this paper, madam.

Jul. "To Julia." Say, from whom?

Luc. That the contents will show.

Jul. Say, say, who gave it thee?

Luc. Sir Valentine's page; and sent, I think, from Proteus.

He would have given it you, but I, being in the Did in your name receive it: pardon the fault, I pray.

Jul. Now, by my modesty, a goodly broker! Dare you presume to harbour wanton lines? To whisper and conspire against my youth? Now, trust me, 'tis an office of great worth, And you an officer fit for the place. There, take the paper: see it be return'd, Or else return no more into my sight.

Luc. To plead for love deserves more fee than hate.

Jul. Will you be gone?

Luc. That you may ruminate. [Exit.]

Jul. And yet, I would I had o'erlook'd the letter.

It were a shame to call her back again, And pray her to a fault for which I chid her. What fool is she, that knows I am a maid, And would not force the letter to my view! Since maids, in modesty, say 'No,' to that Which they would have the profferer construe 'Ay.'

Fie, fie! how wayward is this foolish love, That like a testy babe will scratch the nurse, And presently, all humbled, kiss the rod. How churlishly I chid Lucetta hence, When willingly I would have had her here! How angrily I taught my brow to frown, When inward joy enforc'd my heart to smile! My penance is to call Lucetta back, And ask remission for my folly past.—What ho! Lucetta!

Enter Lucetta.

Luc. What would your ladyship?

Jul. Is it near dinner-time?

Luc. I would it were; That you might kill your stomach on your meat, And not upon your maid.

Jul. What is't that you took up so gingerly?

Luc. Nothing.

Jul. Why didst thou stoop, then?

Luc. To take a paper up That I let fall.

Jul. And is that paper nothing?

Luc. Nothing concerning me.

Jul. Then let it lie for those that it concerns.

Luc. Madam, it will not lie where it concerns, Unless it have a false interpreter.

Jul. Some love of yours hath writ to you in rhyme.

Luc. That I might sing it, madam, to a tune. Give me a note; your ladyship can set.

Jul.—As little by such toys as may be possible: Best sing it to the tune of 'Light o' love.'

Luc. It is too heavy for so light a tune.

Jul. Heavy? belike, it hath some burthen then.

Luc. Ay; and melodious were it, would you

Jul. And why not you? [sing it.]

Luc. I cannot reach so high.

Jul. Let's see your song.—How now, minion!

L. Keep tune therewith, so you will sing it out: And yet, methinks, I do not like this tune.

Jul. You do not?

Luc. No, madam; 'tis too sharp.

Jul. You, minion, are too saucy.

Luc. Nay, now you are too flat, And mar the concord with too harsh a descant:

There wanteth but a mean¹ to fill your song.

Jul. The mean is drown'd with your unruly

Luc. Indeed I bid the base for Proteus, [base.]

J. This babble shall not henceforth trouble me.

[Tears the letter.]

Here is a coil² with protestation!—

Go, get you gone, and let the papers lie:

You would be fing'ring them to anger me.

Luc. She makes it strange; but she would be best pleas'd

To be so anger'd with another letter. [Exit.]

Jul. Nay, would I were so anger'd with the same!

O hateful hands! to tear such loving words:

Injurious wasps! to feed on such sweet honey,

And kill the bees that yield it, with your stings.

I'll kiss each several paper for amends.

Look, here is writ—"Kind Julia;"—unkind

As in revenge of thy ingratitude, [Julia!]

I throw thy name against the bruising stones,

Trampling contemptuously on thy disdain.

And here is writ—"love-wounded Proteus;"—

Poor wounded name! my bosom, as a bed, [heal'd;]

Shall lodge thee, till thy wound be thoroughly

And thus I search it with a sovereign kiss.

But twice, or thrice, was "Proteus" written down:

Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away,

Till I have found each letter in the letter;

Except mine own name; that some whirlwind

Unto a ragged, fearful, hanging rock, [bear,

And throw it thence into the raging sea.

Lo! here in one line is his name twice writ,—

"Poor forlorn Proteus; passionate Proteus

To the sweet Julia:"—that I'll tear away;—

And yet I will not, sith so prettily

He couples it to his complaining names.

Thus will I fold them one upon another;

Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

Enter Lucetta.

Luc. Madam,

Dinner is ready, and your father stays.

Jul. Well, let us go. [takes here?]

Luc. What! shall these papers lie like tell-

Jul. If you respect them, best to take them up.

L. Nay, I was taken up for laying them down;

Yet here they shall not lie for catching cold.

Jul. I see, you have a month's mind to them.

Luc. Ay, Madam, you may say what sights you

I see things too, although you judge I wink. [see;

Jul. Come, come; will't please you go?

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

THE SAME. A ROOM IN ANTONIO'S HOUSE.

*Enter Antonio and Panthino.**Ant.* Tell me, Panthino, what sad talk was that, Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister?*Pant.* 'Twas of his nephew Proteus, your son.*Ant.* Why, what of him?*Pant.* He wonder'd that your lordship Would suffer him to spend his youth at home, While other men, of slender reputation, Put forth their sons to seek preferment out: Some to the wars, to try their fortune there; Some, to discover islands far away; Some, to the studious universities. For any, or for all these exercises, He said, that Proteus, your son, was meet; And did request me to importune you To let him spend his time no more at home, Which would be great impeachment to his age, In having known no travel in his youth.*Ant.* Nor need'st thou much importune me to that

Whereon this month I have been hammering. I have consider'd well his loss of time, And how he cannot be a perfect man, Not being tried and tutor'd in the world: Experience is by industry achiev'd, And perfected by the swift course of time.

Then, tell me, whither were I best to send him?

Pant. I think, your lordship is not ignorant How his companion, youthful Valentine, Attends the Emperor in his royal court.*Ant.* I know it well.*Pant.* 'Twere good, I think, your lordship send him thither.

There shall he practise tilts and tournaments, Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen, And be in eye of every exercise, Worthy his youth, and nobleness of birth.

Ant. I like thy counsel: well hast thou advis'd;

And, that thou may'st perceive how well I like it, The execution of it shall make known.

Even with the speediest expedition

I will dispatch him to the Emperor's court.

Pant. To-morrow, may it please you, Don Alphonso,

With other gentlemen of good esteem,

Are journeying to salute the Emperor,

And to commend their service to his will.

Ant. Good company: with them shall Proteus go:—

And, in good time,—now will we break with him.

*Enter Proteus.**Pro.* Sweet love! sweet lines! sweet life! Here is her hand, the agent of her heart; Here is her oath for love, her honour's pawn. O, that our fathers would applaud our loves, To seal our happiness with their consents! O heavenly Julia!*Ant.* How now! what letter are you reading there?*Pro.* May't please your lordship, 'tis a word or two

Of commendations sent from Valentine, Deliver'd by a friend that came from him.

Ant. Lend me the letter: let me see what news.*Pro.* There is no news, my lord, but that he writes

How happily he lives, how well belov'd,

And daily graced by the Emperor;

Wishing me with him, partner of his fortune.

Ant. And how stand you affected to his wish?*Pro.* As one relying on your lordship's will,

And not depending on his friendly wish.

A. My will is something sorted with his wish,

Muse not that I thus suddenly proceed,

For what I will, I will, and there an end.

I am resolv'd, that thou shalt spend some time

With Valentinus in the Emperor's court:

What maintenance he from his friends receives,

Like exhibition thou shalt have from me.

To-morrow be in readiness to go:

Excuse it not, for I am peremptory.

Pro. My lord, I cannot be so soon provided:

Please you, deliberate a day or two.

Ant. Look, what thou want'st shall be sent after thee:

No more of stay; to-morrow thou must go.—

Come on, Panthino: you shall be employ'd

To hasten on his expedition.

*[Exeunt Ant. and Pant.]**Pro.* Thus have I shunn'd the fire for fear of burning,

And drench'd me in thesea, where I am drown'd.

I fear'd to show my father Julia's letter,

Lest he should take exceptions to my love;

And, with the vantage of mine own excuse,

Hath he excepted most against my love.

O, how this spring of love resembleth

The uncertain glory of an April day!

Which now shows all the beauty of the sun,

And by and by a cloud takes all away.

*Enter Panthino.**Pant.* Sir Proteus, your father calls for you: He is in haste; therefore, I pray you, go.*P.* Why, this it is: my heart accords thereto. And yet a thousand times it answers, no.*[Exeunt.]*

Act Second.

SCENE I.

MILAN. A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

*Enter Valentine and Speed.**Speed.* Sir, your glove.*Val.* Not mine; my gloves are on.*Speed.* Why then this may be yours, for this is but one.*V.* Ha! let me see: ay, give it me, it's mine.—

Sweet ornament, that decks a thing divine!

Ah Silvia! Silvia!

Speed. Madam Silvia! Madam Silvia!*Val.* How now, sirrah?*Speed.* She is not within hearing, sir.*Val.* Why, sir, who bade you call her?*Speed.* Your worship, sir; or else I mistook.*Val.* Well, you'll still be too forward.*Speed.* And yet I was last childen for being too slow.

Val. Go to, sir. Tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?

Speed. She that your worship loves?

Val. Why, how know you that I am in love?

Speed. Marry, by these special marks. First, you have learn'd, like Sir Proteus, to wreathe your arms, like a male-content; to relish a love-song, like a robin-redbreast; to walk alone, like one that had the pestilence; to sigh, like a school-boy that had lost his A B C; to weep, like a girl that had buried her grandam; to fast, like one that takes diet; to watch, like one that fears robbing; to speak puling, like a beggar at Hallowmas. You were wont, when you laugh'd, to crow like a cock; when you walk'd, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you look'd sadly, it was for want of money; and now you are metamorphos'd with a mistress, that, when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.

Val. Are all these things perceiv'd in me?

Speed. They are all perceiv'd without ye.

Val. Without me? they cannot.

Speed. Without you? nay, that's certain; for, without you were so simple, none else would; but you are so without these follies, that these follies are within you.

Val. But, tell me, dost thou know my lady Silvia?

Speed. She, that you gaze on so, as she sits at supper?

Val. Hast thou observ'd that? even she I mean.

Speed. Why, sir, I know her not.

Val. Dost thou know her by my gazing on her, and yet know'st her not?

Speed. Is she not hard favour'd, sir?

Val. Not so fair, boy, as well favour'd.

Speed. Sir, I know that well enough.

Val. What dost thou know?

Speed. That she is not so fair, as (of you) well favour'd.

Val. I mean, that her beauty is exquisite, but her favour infinite.

Speed. That's because the one is painted, and the other out of all count.

Val. How painted? and how out of count?

Speed. Marry, sir, so painted to make her fair, that no man 'counts of her beauty.

Val. How esteem'st thou me? I account of her beauty.

S. You never saw her since she was deform'd.

Val. How long hath she been deform'd?

Speed. Ever since you lov'd her.

Val. I have lov'd her ever since I saw her, and still I see her beautiful.

Speed. If you love her, you cannot see her.

Val. Why?

Speed. Because Love is blind. O, that you had mine eyes, or your own eyes had the lights they were wont to have, when you chid at Sir Proteus for going ungarter'd!

Val. What should I see then?

Speed. Your own present folly, and her passing deformity; for he, being in love, could not see to garter his hose; and you being in love, cannot see to put on your hose.

Val. Belike, boy, then you are in love; for last morning you could not see to wipe my shoes.

Speed. True, sir; I was in love with my bed. I thank you, you swing'd¹ me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for yours.

Val. In conclusion, I stand affected to her.

Speed. I would you were set, so your affection would cease.

Val. Last night she enjoin'd me to write some lines to one she loves.

Speed. And have you?

Val. I have.

Speed. Are they not lamely writ?

Val. No, boy, but as well as I can do them. —Peace! here she comes.

Enter Silvia.

Sp. O excellent motion! O exceeding puppet! Now will he interpret to her. [*Speed stands aside.*]

Val. Madam and mistress, a thousand good morrows.

Speed. [*Aside.*] O! 'give ye good ev'n: here's a million of manners.

Sil. Sir Valentine and servant, to you two thousand.

Speed. He should give her interest, and she gives it him.

Val. As you enjoin'd me, I have writ your letter Unto the secret nameless friend of yours; Which I was much unwilling to proceed in, But for my duty to your ladyship.

Sil. I thank you, gentle servant. 'Tis very clerly done.

Val. Now trust me, madam, it came hardly off; For, being ignorant to whom it goes, I writ at random, very doubtfully.

Sil. Perchance you think too much of so much pains?

Val. No, madam: so it stead you, I will write, Please you command, a thousand times as much. And yet—

Sil. A pretty period. Well, I guess the sequel: And yet I will not name it;—and yet I care not;—And yet take this again;—and yet I thank you, Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

Speed. [*Aside.*] And yet you will; and yet another yet. [*Exit Speed.*] [like it?]

Val. What means your ladyship? do you not

Sil. Yes, yes; the lines are very quaintly writ, But since unwillingly, take them again.

Nay, take them.

Val. Madam, they are for you.

Sil. Ay, ay; you writ them, sir, at my request, But I will none of them; they are for you. I would have had them writ more movingly.

V. Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.

Sil. And, when it's writ, for my sake read it And, if it please you, so; if not, why, so. [over;

Val. If it please me, madam! what then?

S. Why, if it please you, take it for your labour: And so good-morrow, servant. [*Exit.*]

Speed. O jest unseen, inscrutable, invisible, As a nose on a man's face, or a weathercock on a steeple!

My master sues to her, and she hath taught her He being her pupil, to become her tutor.

O excellent device! was there ever heard a better, That my master, being scribe, to himself should write the letter?

1 Whipped.

Val. How now, sir! what, are you reasoning with yourself?

Speed. Nay, I was rhyming: 'tis you that have

Val. To do what? [the reason.]

Speed. To be a spokesman from Madam Silvia.

Val. To whom?

Speed. To yourself. Why, she woos you by a

Val. What figure? [figure.]

Speed. By a letter, I should say.

Val. Why, she hath not writ to me?

Speed. What need she, when she hath made you write to yourself? Why, do you not perceive the jest?

Val. No, believe me.

Speed. No believing you, indeed, sir: but did you perceive her earnest?

Val. She gave me none, except an angry word.

Speed. Why, she hath given you a letter.

Val. That's the letter I writ to her friend.

Speed. And that letter hath she delivered, and there an end.

Val. I would it were no worse!

Speed. I'll warrant you, 'tis as well:

"For often have you writ to her, and she, in modesty,

Or else for want of idle time, could not again reply;

Or fearing else some messenger, that might her mind discover,

Herself hath taught her love himself to write unto her lover."

All this I speak in print, for in print I found Why muse you, sir? 'tis dinner time. [it.—

Val. I have din'd.

Speed. Ay, but hearken, sir: though theameleon Love can feed on the air, I am one that am nourish'd by my victuals, and would fain have meat. O, be not like your mistress! be moved, be moved. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

VERONA. A ROOM IN JULIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Proteus and Julia.

Pro. Have patience, gentle Julia.

Jul. I must, where is no remedy.

Pro. When possibly I can, I will return.

Jul. If you turn not, you will return the sooner.

Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.

[Giving a Ring.]

Pro. Why then, we'll make exchange: here, take you this.

Jul. And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

Pro. Here is my hand for my true constancy;

And when that hour o'erslips me in the day,

Wherein I sigh not, Julia, for thy sake,

The next ensuing hour some foul mischance

Torment me for my love's forgetfulness.

My father stays my coming; answer not;

The tide is now;—nay, not thy tide of tears;

That tide will stay me longer than I should.

[Exit Julia.]

Julia, farewell.—What! gone without a word?

Ay, so true love should do: it cannot speak;

For truth hath better deeds, than words, to grace it.

Enter Panthino.

Pant. Sir Proteus, you are stay'd for.

Pro. Go. I come, I come.—
Alas! this parting strikes poor lovers dumb.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—THE SAME. A STREET.

Enter Launce, leading his dog Crab.

Launce. Nay, 'twill be this hour ere I have done weeping; all the kind of the Launces have this very fault. I have receiv'd my proportion, like the prodigious son, and am going with Sir Proteus to the Imperial's court. I think Crab, my dog, be the sourest-natured dog that lives: my mother weeping, my father wailing, my sister crying, our maid howling, our cat wringing her hands, and all our house in a great perplexity, yet did not this cruel-hearted cur shed one tear. He is a stone, a very pibble-stone, and has no more pity in him than a dog; a Jew would have wept to have seen our parting: why, my grandam, having no eyes, look you, wept herself blind at my parting. Nay, I'll show you the manner of it. This shoe is my father;—no, this left shoe is my father:—no, no, this left shoe is my mother;—nay, that cannot be so, neither:—yes, it is so, it is so; it hath the worser sole. This shoe is my mother, and this my father. A veng'ance on't! there 'tis: now, sir, this staff is my sister; for, look you, she is as white as a lily, and as small as a wand; this hat is Nan, our maid: I am the dog;—no, the dog is himself, and I am the dog,—O! the dog is me, and I am myself; ay; so, so. Now come I to my father:—"Father, your blessing." Now should not the shoe speak a word for weeping: now should I kiss my father: well, he weeps on. Now come I to my mother:—O! that shoe could speak now, like an wood' woman. Well, I kiss her: why there 'tis; here's my mother's breath up and down. Now come I to my sister; mark the moan she makes: now, the dog all this while sheds not a tear, nor speaks a word: but see how I lay the dust with my tears.

Enter Panthino.

Pant. Launce, away, away, aboard: thy master is shipp'd, and thou art to post after with oars. What's the matter? why weep'st thou, man? Away, ass; you'll lose the tide if you tarry any longer.

L. It is no matter if the ti'd were lost; for it is the unkindest ti'd that ever any man ti'd.

Pant. What's the unkindest tide?

L. Why he that's ti'd here; Crab, my dog.

Pant. Tut, man, I mean thou'lt lose the flood; and, in losing the flood, lose thy voyage; and, in losing thy voyage, lose thy master; and, in losing thy master, lose thy service; and, in losing thy service,—why dost thou stop my mouth?

L. For fear thou shouldst lose thy tongue.

Pant. Where should I lose my tongue?

Launce. In thy tale.

Pant. In thy tail?

L. Lose the tide, and the voyage, and the master, and the service, and the tide. Why,

1 Mad.

man, if the river were dry, I am able to fill it with my tears; if the wind were down, I could drive the boat with my sighs.

Pant. Come, come away, man; I was sent to call thee.

Launce. Sir, call me what thou dar'st.

Pant. Wilt thou go?

Launce. Well, I will go. [Exit *unt.*

SCENE IV.

MILAN. A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Valentine, Silvia, Thurio, and Speed.

Sil. Servant.—

Val. Mistress.

Speed. Master, Sir Thurio frowns on you.

Val. Ay, boy, it's for love.

Speed. Not of you.

Val. Of my mistress, then.

Speed. 'Twere good you knock'd him.

Sil. Servant, you are sad.

Val. Indeed, madam, I seem so.

Thu. Seem you that you are not?

Val. Haply, I do.

Thu. So do counterfeits.

Val. So do you.

Thu. What seem I that I am not?

Val. Wise.

Thu. What instance of the contrary?

Val. Your folly.

Thu. And how quote you my folly?

Val. I quote it in your jerkin.

Thu. My jerkin is a doublet.

Val. Well, then, I'll double your folly.

Thu. How?

Sil. What, angry, Sir Thurio? do you change colour?

Val. Give him leave, madam: he is a kind ofameleon.

Thu. That hath more mind to feed on your blood, than live in your air.

Val. You have said, sir.

Thu. Ay, sir, and done too, for this time.

Val. I know it well, sir: you always end ere you begin.

Sil. A fine volley of words, gentlemen, and quickly shot off.

Val. 'Tis indeed, madam; we thank the giver.

Sil. Who is that, servant?

Val. Yourself, sweet lady; for you gave the fire. Sir Thurio borrows his wit from your ladyship's looks, and spends what he borrows kindly in your company.

Thu. Sir, if you spend word for word with me, I shall make your wit bankrupt.

Val. I know it well, sir: you have an exchequer of words, and, I think, no other treasure to give your followers; for it appears by their bare liveries, that they live by your bare words.

Sil. No more, gentlemen, no more. Here comes my father.

Enter the Duke.

D. Now, daughter Silvia, you are hard beset. Sir Valentine, your father's in good health: What say you to a letter from your friends, Of such good news?

Val. My lord, I will be thankful To any happy messenger from thence.

D. Know you Don Antonio, your countryman?

Val. Ay, my good lord; I know the gentleman To be of worth, and worthy estimation, And not without desert so well reputed.

Duke. Hath he not a son?

V. Ay, my good lord; a son, that well deserves The honour and regard of such a father.

Duke. You know him well? [fancy

Val. I know him, as myself; for from our in-We have convers'd, and spent our hours together: And though myself have been an idle truant, Omitting the sweet benefit of time

To clothe mine age with angel-like perfection,

Yet hath Sir Proteus, for that's his name,

Made use and fair advantage of his days;

His years but young, but his experience old;

His head unmellow'd, but his judgment ripe;

And, in a word (for far behind his worth

Come all the praises that I now bestow),

He is complete in feature, and in mind,

With all good grace to grace a gentleman.

Duke. Beshrew me, sir, but, if he make this He is as worthy for an' empress' love, [good, As meet to be an emperor's counsellor.

Well, sir, this gentleman is come to me With commendation from great potentates; And here he means to spend his time a while.

I think, 'tis no unwelcome news to you.

V. Should I have wished a thing, it had been he.

D. Welcome him, then, according to his worth.

Silvia. I speak to you; and you, Sir Thurio:—For Valentine, I need not 'cite him to it.

I'll send him hither to you presently. [Exit *Duke.*

V. This is the gentleman, I told your ladyship, Had come along with me, but that his mistress Did hold his eyes lock'd in her crystal looks.

Sil. Belike, that now she hath enfranchis'd Upon some other pawn for fealty. [them,

Val. Nay, sure, I think, she holds them prisoners still. [blind,

Sil. Nay, then he should be blind; and, being How could he see his way to seek out you?

Val. Why, lady, Love hath twenty pair of eyes.

Thu. They say, that Love hath not an eye at all.

Val. To see such lovers, Thurio, as yourself; Upon a homely object, Love can wink.

Enter Proteus.

Sil. Have done, have done: here comes the gentleman.

Val. Welcome, dear Proteus!—Mistress, I beseech you,

Confirm his welcome with some special favour.

S. His worth is warrant for his welcome hither, If this be he you oft have wish'd to hear from.

Val. Mistress, it is, Sweet lady, entertain him To be my fellow-servant to your ladyship.

Sil. Too low a mistress for so high a servant.

Pro. Not so, sweet lady; but too mean a servant To have a look of such a worthy mistress.

Val. Leave off discourse of disability,—

Sweet lady, entertain him for your servant.

Pro. My duty will I boast of, nothing else.

Sil. And duty never yet did want his meed. Servant, you are welcome to a worthless mistress.

Pro. I'll die on him that says so, but yourself.

Sil. That you are welcome?

Pro. No; that you are worthless.

Enter Servant.

Ser. Madam, my lord, your father, would speak with you. [Sir Thurio, Sil.]

Sil. I wait upon his pleasure: [*Exit Ser.*] come, Go with me.—Once more, new servant, welcome: I'll leave you to confer of home affairs; When you have done, we look to hear from you.

Pro. We'll both attend upon your ladyship.

[*Exeunt Silvia, Thurio, and Speed.*]

Val. Now, tell me, how do all from whence you came?

P. Your friends are well, and have them much Val. And how do yours? [commended.]

Pro. I left them all in health. [love?] Val. How does your lady, and how thrives your

Pro. My tales of love were wont to weary you:

I know, you joy not in a love discourse.

Val. Ay, Proteus, but that life is altered now: I have done penance for contemning love;

Whose high imperious thoughts have punish'd With bitter fasts, with penitential groans, [me

With nightly tears, and daily heart-sore sighs; For, in revenge of my contempt of love,

Love hath chas'd sleep from my enthralled eyes, And made them watchers of mine own heart's

O, gentle Proteus! Love's a mighty lord, [sorrow. And hath so humbled me, as, I confess,

There is no woe to his correction, Nor, to his service, no such joy on earth!

Now, no discourse, except it be of love; Now can I break my fast, dine, sup, and sleep,

Upon the very naked name of love.

Pro. Enough; I read your fortune in your eye. Was this the idol that you worship so?

Val. Even she; and is she not a heavenly saint?

Pro. No, but she is an earthly paragon.

Val. Call her divine.

Pro. I will not flatter her.

Val. O! flatter me, for love delights in praises.

Pro. When I was sick you gave me bitter pills; And I must minister the like to you.

Val. Then speak the truth by her: if not divine, Yet let her be a principality,

Sovereign to all the creatures on the earth.

Pro. Except my mistress.

Val. Sweet, except not any; Except thou wilt except against my love.

Pro. Have I not reason to prefer mine own?

Val. And I will help thee to prefer her, too; She shall be dignified with this high honour,—

To bear my lady's train, lest the base earth Should from her vesture chance to steal a kiss,

And, of so great a favour growing proud, Disdain to root the summer-swelling flower,

And make rough winter everlastingly.

P. Why, Valentine, what braggardism is this!

Val. Pardon me, Proteus; all I can, is nothing To her, whose worth makes other worth as no-

She is alone. [thing.]

Pro. Then, let her alone.

V. Not for the world. Why, man, she is mine own;

And I as rich in having such a jewel, As twenty seas, if all their sand were pearl,

The water nectar, and the rocks pure gold. Forgive me, that I do not dream on thee, Because thou seest me dote upon my love.

My foolish rival, that her father likes

Only for his possessions are so huge, Is gone with her along, and I must after; For love, thou know'st, is full of jealousy.

Pro. But she loves you?

V. Ay, and we are betroth'd; nay, more, our marriage hour,

With all the cunning manner of our flight Determin'd of: how I must climb her window,

The ladder made of cords, and all the means Plotted and 'greed on for my happiness.

Good Proteus, go with me to my chamber, In these affairs to aid me with thy counsel.

Pro. Go on before; I shall enquire you forth.

I must unto the road, to disembark Some necessities that I needs must use,

And then I'll presently attend you.

Val. Will you make haste?

Pro. I will.— [*Exit Valentine.*]

Even as one heat another heat expels, Or as one nail by strength drives out another,

So the remembrance of my former love Is by a newer object quite forgotten.

Is it her mien, or Valentinus' praise, Her true perfection, or my false transgression,

That makes me, reasonless, to reason thus? She's fair, and so is Julia that I love;—

That I did love; for now my love is thaw'd, Which, like a waxen image 'gainst a fire,

Bears no impression of the thing it was. Methinks, my zeal to Valentine is cold,

And that I love him not as I was wont: O! but I love his lady too, too much;

And that's the reason I love him so little. How shall I dote on her with more advice,¹

That thus without advice begin to love her? 'Tis but her picture I have yet beheld,

And that hath dazzled my reason's light; But when I look on her perfections,

There is no reason but I shall be blind. If I can check my erring love, I will;

If not, to compass her I'll use my skill. [*Exit.*]

SCENE V.—THE SAME. A STREET.

Enter Speed and Launce.

Speed. Launce! by mine honesty, welcome to Milan.

Launce. Forswear not thyself, sweet youth, for I am not welcome. I reckon this always—

that a man is never undone, till he be hang'd; nor never welcome to a place, till some certain

shot be paid, and the hostess say, welcome.

Speed. Come on, you mad-cap; I'll to the ale-house with you presently; where for one shot of

five pence thou shalt have five thousand welcomes. But, sirrah, how did thy master part with Madam Julia?

Launce. Marry, after they clos'd in earnest, they parted very fairly in jest.

Speed. But shall she marry him?

Launce. No.

Speed. How then? Shall he marry her?

Launce. No, neither.

Speed. What, are they broken?

Launce. No, they are both as whole as a fish.

Speed. What an ass art thou! I understand thee not.

Acquaintance.

Launce. What a block art thou, that thou canst not. My staff understands me.

Speed. What thou say'st?

Launce. Ay, and what I do too: look thee; I'll but lean, and my staff understands me.

Speed. It stands under thee, indeed.

Launce. Why, stand-under and under-stand is all one.

Speed. But tell me true, will't be a match?

Launce. Ask my dog: if he say, ay, it will; if he say, no, it will; if he shake his tail, and say nothing, it will.

Speed. The conclusion is, then, that it will.

Launce. Thou shalt never get such a secret from me, but by a parable.

Speed. 'Tis well that I get it so. But, *Launce*, how say'st thou, that my master is become a notable lover?

Launce. I never knew him otherwise.

Speed. Than how?

Launce. A notable lubber, as thou reportest him to be.

Speed. Why, thou ass, thou mistak'st me.

Launce. Why, fool, I meant not thee; I meant thy master.

Speed. I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

Launce. Why, I tell thee, I care not though he burn himself in love. If thou wilt, go with me to the alehouse, so; wilt thou go?

Speed. At thy service. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.

THE SAME. AN APARTMENT IN THE PALACE.

Enter Proteus.

Pro. To leave my Julia, shall I be forsworn; To love fair Silvia, shall I be forsworn; To wrong my friend, I shall be much forsworn; And ev'n that power, which gave me first my oath,

Provokes me to this threefold perjury:
Love bade me swear, and Love bids me forswear.
O sweet-suggesting Love! if thou hast sinn'd,
Teach me, thy tempted subject, to excuse it.
At first I did adore a twinkling star,
But now I worship a celestial sun.
Unheeded vows may heedfully be broken;
And he wants wit, that wants resolved will
To learn his wit t' exchange the bad for better.
Fie, fie, unreverend tongue! to call her bad,
Whose sovereignty so oft thou hast preferr'd
With twenty thousand soul-confirming oaths.
I cannot leave to love, and yet I do;
But there I leave to love, where I should love.
Julia I lose, and Valentine I lose:
If I keep them, I needs must lose myself;
If I lose them, thus find I, by their loss,
For Valentine, myself, for Julia, Silvia.
I to myself am dearer than a friend,
For love is still most precious in itself;
And Silvia, witness heaven that made her fair!
Shows Julia but a swarthy Ethiopie.
I will forget that Julia is alive,
Remembering that my love to her is dead;
And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,
Aiming at Silvia, as a sweeter friend.
I cannot now prove constant to myself

Without some treachery us'd to Valentine.
This night, he meaneth with a corded ladder
To climb celestial Silvia's chamber window;
Myself in counsel, his competitor.¹
Now, presently I'll give her father notice
Of their disguising, and pretended flight,
Who, all enrag'd, will banish Valentine,
For Thurio, he intends, shall wed his daughter:
But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross
By some sly trick blunt Thurio's dull proceeding.
Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift,
As thou hast lent me wit to plot this drift! [Exit.]

SCENE VII.

VERONA. A ROOM IN JULIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Julia and Lucetta.

Jul. Counsel, Lucetta; gentle girl, assist me:
And, ev'n in kind love, I do conjure thee,
Who art the table wherein all my thoughts
Are visibly character'd and engrav'd,
To lessen me; and tell me some good mean,
How, with my honour, I may undertake
A journey to my loving Proteus.

Luc. Alas! the way is wearisome and long.

Jul. A true-devoted pilgrim is not weary
To measure kingdoms with his feeble steps;
Much less shall she, that hath Love's wings to fly;
And when the flight is made to one so dear,
Of such divine perfection, as Sir Proteus.

Luc. Better forbear, till Proteus make return.

J. O! know'st thou not, his looks are my soul's
Pity the dearth that I have pined in, [food?
By longing for that food so long a time.
Didst thou but know the inly touch of love,
Thou would'st as soon go kindle fire with snow,
As seek to quench the fire of love with words.

Luc. I do not seek to quench your love's hot
But qualify the fire's extreme rage, [fire,
Lest it should burn above the bounds of reason.

Jul. The more thou damm'st it up, the more it burns.

The current, that with gentle murmur glides,
Thou know'st, being stopp'd, impatiently doth
But, when his fair course is not hindered, [rage;
He makes sweet music with th' enamel'd stones,
Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge
He overtaketh in his pilgrimage;
And so by many winding nooks he strays,
With willing sport, to the wild ocean.
Then let me go, and hinder not my course.
I'll be as patient as a gentle stream,
And make a pastime of each weary step,
Till the last step have brought me to my love;
And there I'll rest, as, after much turmoil,
A blessed soul doth in Elysium.

Luc. But in what habit will you go along?

Jul. Not like a woman, for I would prevent
The loose encounters of lascivious men.
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds
As may besem some well-reputed page.

Luc. Why, then your ladyship must cut your hair.

Jul. No, girl; I'll knit it up in silken strings,
With twenty odd-conceited true-love knots:
To be fantastic, may become a youth
Of greater time than I shall show to be.

But tell me, wench, how will the world repute
For undertaking so unsta'd a journey? [me
I fear me, it will make me scandaliz'd.

Luc. If you think so, then stay at home, and

Jul. Nay, that I will not. [go not.

Luc. Then never dream on infamy, but go.

If Proteus like your journey, when you come,
No matter who's displeas'd, when you are gone.
I fear me, he will scarce be pleas'd withal.

Jul. That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear.

A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears,

And instances as infinite of love,

Warrant me welcome to my Proteus.

Luc. All these are servants to deceitful men.

Jul. Base men, that use them to so base effect;

But truer stars did govern Proteus' birth:

His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles;

His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate;

His tears, pure messengers sent from his heart;

His heart as far from fraud, as heav'n from
earth. [come to him!

Luc. Pray heav'n he prove so, when you

Jul. Now, as thou lov'st me, do him not that

To bear a hard opinion of his truth: [wrong,

Only deserve my love by loving him;

And presently go with me to my chamber,

To take a note of what I stand in need of,

To furnish me upon my longing journey.

All that is mine I leave at thy dispose,

My goods, my lands, my reputation;

Only in lieu thereof, dispatch me hence.

Come; answer not, but to it presently:

I am impatient of my tarriance. [Exit.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—MILAN. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke, Thurio, and Proteus.

D. Sir Thurio, give us leave, I pray, a while:
We have some secrets to confer about.—

[Exit Thurio.

Now tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me?

Pro. My gracious lord, that which I would dis-
The law of friendship bids me to conceal; [cover,
But, when I call to mind your gracious favours
Done to me, undeserving as I am,
My duty pricks me on to utter that,
Which else no worldly good should draw from me.
Know, worthy prince, Sir Valentine, my friend,
This night intends to steal away your daughter:
Myself am one made privy to the plot.

I know, you have determin'd to bestow her
On Thurio, whom your gentle daughter hates:
And should she thus be stol'n away from you,
It would be much vexation to your age.

Thus, for my duty's sake, I rather chose
To cross my friend in his intended drift,
Than, by concealing it, heap on your head
A pack of sorrows, which would press you down,
Being unprevented, to your timeless grave.

D. Proteus, I thank thee for thine honest care,
Which to requite, command me while I live.
This love of theirs myself have often seen,
Haply, when they have judg'd me fast asleep,
And oftentimes have purpos'd to forbid

Sir Valentine her company, and my court;
But, fearing lest my jealous aim might err,
And so unworthily disgrace the man
(A rashness that I ever yet have shunn'd),
I gave him gentle looks; thereby to find
That which thyself hast now disclos'd to me.
And, that thou may'st perceive my fear of this,
Knowing that tender youth is soon suggested,
I nightly lodge her in an upper tower,
The key whereof myself have ever kept;
And thence she cannot be convey'd away.

P. Know, noble lord, they have devis'd a mean
How he her chamber-window will ascend,
And with a corded ladder fetch her down;
For which the youthful lover now is gone,
And this way comes he with it presently:
Where, if it please you, you may intercept him.
But, good my lord, do it so cunningly,
That my discovery be not aimed at;
For love of you, not hate unto my friend,
Hath made me publisher of this pretence.

Duke. Upon mine honour, he shall never know
That I had any light from thee of this.

Pro. Adieu, my lord: Sir Valentine is coming.
[Exit.

Enter Valentine.

Duke. Sir Valentine, whither away so fast?

Val. Please it your Grace, there is a messenger
That stays to bear my letters to my friends,
And I am going to deliver them.

Duke. Be they of much import?

Val. The tenor of them doth but signify
My health, and happy being at your court.

D. Nay, then no matter: stay with me a while.
I am to break with thee of some affairs
That touch me near, wherein thou must be secret.
'Tis not unknown to thee, that I have sought
To match my friend, Sir Thurio, to my daughter.

V. I know it well, my lord; and, sure, the match
Were rich and honourable: besides, the gentle-
man

Is full of virtue, bounty, worth, and qualities
Beseeeming such a wife as your fair daughter.
Cannot your Grace win her to fancy him?

D. No, trust me: she is peevish, sullen, froward,
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty,
Neither regarding that she is my child,
Nor fearing me as if I were her father:
And, may I say to thee, this pride of hers,
Upon advice, hath drawn my love from her;
And, where I thought the remnant of mine age
Should have been cherish'd by her childlike duty,
I now am full resolv'd to take a wife,
And turn her out to who will take her in:
Then, let her beauty be her wedding-dower;
For me and my possessions she esteems not.

Val. What would your Grace have me to do in

Duke. There is a lady of Verona, here, [this?
Whom I affect; but she is nice, and coy,
And nought esteems my aged eloquence:
Now, therefore, would I have thee to my tutor,
(For long ago I have forgot to court;
Besides, the fashion of the time is chang'd,)
How, and which way, I may bestow myself,
To be regarded in her sun-bright eye.

V. Win her with gifts, if she respect not words.
Dumb jewels often, in their silent kind,
More than quick words do move a woman's mind.

D. But she did scorn a present that I sent her.

V. A woman sometimes scorns what best con-
Send her another; never give her o'er, [tents her.
For scorn at first makes after-love the more.
If she do frown, 'tis not in hate of you,
But rather to beget more love in you :
If she do chide, 'tis not to have you gone,
For why!—the fools are mad, if left alone.
Take no repulse, whatever she doth say ;
For 'get you gone,' she doth not mean 'away.'
Flatter, and praise, commend, extol their graces ;
Though ne'er so black, say they have angels' faces.
That man that hath a tongue, I say, is no man,
If with his tongue he cannot win a woman.

Duke. But she I mean is promis'd by her friends
Unto a youthful gentleman of worth,
And kept severely from resort of men,
That no man hath access by day to her.

Val. Why, then I would resort to her by night.

D. Ay, but the doors be lock'd, and keys kept
That no man hath recourse to her by night. [safe,

V. What lets, but one may enter at her window?

D. Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground,
And built so shelving that one cannot climb it
Without apparent hazard of his life.

V. Why, then, a ladder quaintly made of cords,
To cast up, with a pair of anchoring hooks,
Would serve to scale another Hero's tower,
So bold Leander would adventure it.

Duke. Now, as thou art a gentleman of blood,
Advise me where I may have such a ladder.

Val. When would you use it? pray, sir, tell
me that.

Duke. This very night; for love is like a child,
That longs for everything that he can come by.

Val. By seven o'clock I'll get you such a ladder.

Duke. But hark thee; I will go to her alone.
How shall I best convey the ladder thither?

V. It will be light, my lord, that you may bear
Under a cloak that is of any length. [it

Duke. A cloak as long as thine will serve the

Val. Ay, my good lord. [turn?

Duke. Then, let me see thy cloak :
I'll get me one of such another length. [lord.

Val. Why, any cloak will serve the turn, my

D. How shall I fashion me to wear a cloak?—
I pray thee, let me feel thy cloak upon me.—

What letter is this same? What's here?—"To
Silvia!"

And here an engine fit for my proceeding !
I'll be so bold to break the seal for once. [Reads.

"My thoughts do harbour with my Silvia
nightly; [singing:

And slaves they are to me, that send them
O! could their master come and go as lightly,
Himself would lodge where senseless they
are lying. [them;

My herald thoughts in thy pure bosom rest
While I, their king, that thither them
importune, [blest'd them,

Do curse the lack that with such grace hath
Because myself do want my servant's for-
I curse myself, for they are sent by me, [tune.
That they should harbour where their lord
should be."

What's here?

"Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee."

'Tis so; and here's the ladder for the purpose.—
Why, Phaëton (for thou art Merops' son),
Wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car,
And with thy daring folly burn the world?
Wilt thou reach stars, because they shine on thee?
Go, base intruder! over-weening slave!
Bestow thy fawning smiles on equal mates,
And think my patience, more than thy desert,
Is privilege for thy departure hence.

Thank me for this, more than for all the favours
Which, all too much, I have bestow'd on thee.
But if thou linger in my territories
Longer than swiftest expedition
Will give thee time to leave our royal court,
By heaven, my wrath shall far exceed the love
I ever bore my daughter, or thyself.

Begone: I will not hear thy vain excuse ;
But, as thou lov'st thy life, make speed from
hence. [Exit Duke.

Val. And why not death, rather than living
To die is to be banish'd from myself, [torment?
And Silvia is banish'd: banish'd from her,
Is self from self; a deadly banishment.

What light is light, if Silvia be not seen?

What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?

Unless it be, to think that she is by,

And feed upon the shadow of perfection.

Except I be by Silvia in the night,

There is no music in the nightingale;

Unless I look on Silvia in the day,

There is no day for me to look upon.

She is my essence; and I leave to be,

If I be not by her fair influence

Foster'd, illumin'd, cherish'd, kept alive.

I fly not death, to fly this deadly doom:

Tarry I here, I but attend on death;

But, fly I hence, I fly away from life.

Enter Proteus and Launce.

Pro. Run, boy; run, run, and seek him out.

Launce. So-ho! so-ho!

Pro. What seest thou?

Launce. Him we go to find: there's not a
hair on's head, but 'tis a Valentine.

Pro. Valentine?

Val. No.

Pro. Who then? his spirit?

Val. Neither.

Pro. What then?

Val. Nothing.

L. Can nothing speak? master, shall I strike?

Pro. Who wouldst thou strike?

Launce. Nothing.

Pro. Villain, forbear.

L. Why, sir, I'll strike nothing: I pray you,—
Pro. Sirrah, I say, forbear.—Friend Valen-
tine, a word. [news,

V. My ears are stopp'd, and cannot hear good
So much of bad already hath possess'd them.

Pro. Then in dumb silence will I bury mine,
For they are harsh, untuneable, and bad.

Val. Is Silvia dead?

Pro. No, Valentine.

V. No Valentine, indeed, for sacred Silvia!—
Hath she forsworn me?

Pro. No, Valentine.

Val. No Valentine, if Silvia have forsworn
What is your news?

Launce. Sir, there is a proclamation that you are vanished.

Pro. That thou art banish'd: O! that is the news: [friend.

From hence, from Silvia, and from me, thy Val. O! I have fed upon this woe already, And now excess of it will make me surfeit. Doth Silvia know that I am banish'd?

Pro. Ay, ay; and she hath offered to the doom (Which, unrevers'd, stands in effectual force), A sea of melting pearl, which some call tears: Those at her father's churlish feet she tender'd, With them, upon her knees, her humble self; Wringing her hands, whose whiteness so became them,

As if but now they waxed pale for woe: But neither bended knees, pure hands held up, Sad sighs, deep groans, nor silver-shedding tears, Could penetrate her uncompassionate sire; But Valentine, if he be ta'en, must die. Besides, her intercession chaf'd him so, When she for thy repeal was suppliant, That to close prison he commanded her, With many bitter threats of biding there.

Val. No more; unless the next word that thou speak'st

Have some malignant power upon my life: If so, I pray thee, breathe it in mine ear, As ending anthem of my endless dolour. [help,

Pro. Cease to lament for that thou canst not And study help for that which thou lament'st. Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.

Here if thou stay, thou canst not see thy love; Besides, thy staying will abridge thy life. Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that, And manage it against despairing thoughts. Thy letters may be here, though thou art hence; Which, being writ to me, shall be deliver'd Even in the milk-white bosom of thy love. The time now serves not to expostulate: Come, I'll convey thee through the city gate, And, ere I part with thee, confer at large Of all that may concern thy love affairs. As thou lov'st Silvia, though not for thyself, Regard thy danger, and along with me.

Val. I pray thee, Launce, an if thou seest my boy,

Bid him make haste, and meet me at the North-gate.

P. Go, sirrah, find him out. Come, Valentine.

Val. O, my dear Silvia! hapless Valentine. [Exeunt Valentine and Proteus.

Launce. I am but a fool, look you, and yet I have the wit to think, my master is a kind of a knave; but that's all one, if he be but one knave. He lives not now, that knows me to be in love; yet I am in love; but a team of horse shall not pluck that from me, nor who 'tis I love; and yet 'tis a woman: but what woman, I will not tell myself.

Enter Speed.

Speed. How now, Signor Launce! what news with your mastership?

L. With my master's ship? why, it is at sea.

Speed. Well, your old vice still; mistake the word. What news, then, in your paper?

L. The black'st news that ever thou heard'st. *Speed.* Why, man, how black?

Launce. Why, as black as ink.

Speed. Let me read them.

L. Fie on thee, jolt-head! thou canst not read.

Speed. Thou liest; I can.

Launce. I will try thee.

Speed. Come, fool, come; try me in thy paper.

Launce. There, and St Nicholas be thy speed?

Speed. "Imprints: She can milk."

Launce. Ay, that she can.

Speed. "Item: She brews good ale."

Launce. And thereof comes the proverb,—*Blessing of your heart, you brew good ale.*

Speed. "Item: she can sew."

Launce. That's as much as to say,—Can she so?

Speed. Here follow her vices.

Launce. Close at the heels of her virtues.

Speed. "Item: She doth talk in her sleep."

Launce. It's no matter for that, so she sleep not in her talk.

Speed. "Item: She is slow in words."

Launce. O villain! that set this down among her vices. To be slow in words is a woman's only virtue: I pray thee, out with't, and place it for her chief virtue.

Speed. "Item: She is proud."

Launce. Out with that too: it was Eve's legacy, and cannot be ta'en from her.

Speed. "Item: She hath no teeth."

Launce. I care not for that neither, because I love crusts.

Speed. "Item: She is curst."²

L. Well; the best is, she hath no teeth to bite.

S. "Item: She will often praise her liquor."

Launce. If her liquor be good, she shall: if she will not, I will; for good things should be praised.

Speed. "Item: She is too liberal."

Launce. Of her tongue she cannot; for that's writ down she is slow of: of her purse she shall not; for that I'll keep shut. What's next?

S. "Item: She hath more faults than hairs,"—

L. That's monstrous: O, that that were out!

Speed.—"and more wealth than faults."

Launce. Why that word makes the faults gracious. Well, I'll have her; and if it be a match, as nothing is impossible,—

Speed. What then?

Launce. Why, then will I tell thee,—that thy master stays for thee at the North-gate.

Speed. For me?

Launce. For thee? ay; who art thou? he hath stay'd for a better man than thee.

Speed. And must I go to him?

Launce. Thou must run to him; for thou hast stayed so long, that going will scarce serve the turn.

Speed. Why didst not tell me sooner? plague of your love-letters! [Exit.

Launce. Now will he be swing'd for reading my letter. An unmannerly slave, that will thrust himself into secrets.—I'll after, to rejoice in the boy's correction. [Exit.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

AN APARTMENT IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke and Thurio; Proteus behind.

Duke. Sir Thurio, fear not but that she will love you.

Now Valentine is banish'd from her sight.

Thu. Since his exile she hath despis'd me most; Forsworn my company, and rail'd at me, That I am desperate of obtaining her.

Duke. This weak impress of love is as a figure Trench'd in ice, which with an hour's heat Dissolves to water, and doth lose his form. A little time will melt her frozen thoughts, And worthless Valentine shall be forgot.—How now, Sir Proteus? Is your countryman, According to our proclamation, gone?

Pro. Gone, my good lord.

Duke. My daughter takes his going grievously.

Pro. A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

Duke. So I believe; but Thurio thinks not so. Proteus, the good conceit I hold of thee (For thou hast shown some sign of good desert) Makes me the better to confer with thee.

Pro. Longer than I prove loyal to your Grace, Let me not live to look upon your Grace.

Duke. Thou know'st how willingly I would effect

The match between Sir Thurio and my daughter?

Pro. I do, my lord.

Duke. And also, I think, thou art not ignorant How she opposes her against my will?

Pro. She did, my lord, when Valentine was here.

Duke. Ay, and perversely she perseveres so. What might we do to make the girl forget The love of Valentine, and love Sir Thurio?

Pro. The best way is, to slander Valentine With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent; Three things that women highly hold in hate.

Duke. Ay, but she'll think that it is spoke in hate.

Pro. Ay, if his enemy deliver it:

Therefore, it must, with circumstance, bespoken By one whom she esteemeth as his friend.

D. Then you must undertake to slander him.

Pro. And that, my lord, I shall be loath to do; 'Tis an ill office for a gentleman; Especially, against his very friend.

Duke. Where your good word can not advantage Your slander never can endamage him: [him, Therefore, the office is indifferent, Being entreated to it by your friend.

P. You have prevail'd, my lord. If I can do it, By aught that I can speak in his dispraise, She shall not long continue love to him. But say this weed her love from Valentine, It follows not that she will love Sir Thurio.

Thu. Therefore, as you unwind her love from Lest it should ravel and be good to none, [him, You must provide to bottom it on me, Which must be done, by praising me as much As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine.

Duke. And, Proteus, we dare trust you in this Because we know, on Valentine's report, [kind, You are already Love's firm votary, And cannot soon revolt, and change your mind. Upon this warrant shall you have access

Where you with Silvia may confer at large; For she is lumpish, heavy, melancholy, And for your friend's sake will be glad of you, Where you may temper her, by your persuasion, To hate young Valentine, and love my friend.

Pro. As much as I can do I will effect.

But you, Sir Thurio, are not sharp enough; You must lay lime to tangle her desires By wailful sonnets, whose composed rhymes Should be full fraught with serviceable vows.

D. Ay; much is the force of heaven-bred poesy.

Pro. Say, that upon the altar of her beauty You sacrifice your tears, your sighs, your heart. Write till your ink be dry, and with your tears Moist it again; and frame some feeling line That may discover such integrity:

For Orpheus' lute was strung with poets' sinews, Whose golden touch could soften steel and stones, Make tigers tame, and huge Leviathans Forsake unsounded deeps to dance on sands.

After your dire-lamenting elegies, Visit by night your lady's chamber window With some sweet consort: to their instruments Tune a deploring dump,¹ the night's dead silence Will well become such sweet complaining grievance, or else nothing, will inherit her. [ance.

Duke. This discipline shows thou hast been in love.

Thu. And thy advice this night I'll put in practice.

Therefore, sweet Proteus, my direction-giver, Let us into the city presently, To sort² some gentlemen well skill'd in music. I have a sonnet that will serve the turn To give the onset to thy good advice.

Duke. About it, gentlemen.

Pro. We'll wait upon your grace till after supper, And afterward determine our proceedings.

Duke. Even now about it: I will pardon you. [Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A FOREST NEAR MILAN.

Enter certain Outlaws.

1 *Out.* Fellows, stand fast: I see a passenger.

2 *Out.* If there be ten, shrink not, but down with 'em.

Enter Valentine and Speed.

3 *Out.* Stand, sir, and throw us that you have about you;

If not, we'll make you sit, and rifle you.

Sp. Sir, we are undone. These are the villains That all the travellers do fear so much.

Val. My friends,—

1 *Out.* That's not so, sir: we are your enemies.

2 *Out.* Peace! we'll hear him. [proper man.

3 *Out.* Ay, by my beard, will we: for he is a

Val. Then know, that I have little wealth to A man I am, cross'd with adversity; [lose.

My riches are these poor habiliments, Of which if you should here disfigure me, You take the sum and substance that I have.

2 *Out.* Whither travel you?

1 *Air.*

2 *Choose.*

Val. To Verona.

1 Out. Whence came you?

Val. From Milan.

3 Out. Have you long sojourn'd there?

Val. Some sixteen months; and longer might have stay'd,

If crooked fortune had not thwarted me.

2 Out. What! were you banish'd thence?

Val. I was.

2 Out. For what offence?

Val. For that which now torments me to rehearse.

I kill'd a man, whose death I much repent;

But yet I slew him manfully, in fight,

Without false vantage, or base treachery.

1 Out. Why, ne'er repent it, if it were done so.

But were you banish'd for so small a fault?

Val. I was, and held me glad of such a doom.

1 Out. Have you the tongues?

Val. My youthful travel therein made me happy.

Or else I often had been miserable.

3 Out. By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's fat friar,

This fellow was a king for our wild faction.

1 Out. We'll have him. Sir, a word.

Speed. Master, be one of them: it's an honourable kind of thievery.

Val. Peace, villain!

2 Out. Tell us this! have you anything to take

Val. Nothing, but my fortune. [to?]

3 Out. Know then, that some of us are gentlemen,

Such as the fury of ungovern'd youth

Thrust from the company of awful men:

Myself was from Verona banish'd,

For practising to steal away a lad,

An heir, and near allied unto the duke.

2 Out. And I from Mantua, for a gentleman

Whom, in my mood, I stab'd unto the heart.

1 O. And I, for such like petty crimes as these.

But to the purpose,—for we cite our faults,

That they may hold excused our lawless lives,—

And, partly, seeing you are beautif'd

With goodly shape; and by your own report

A linguist, and a man of such perfection,

As we do in our quality much want—

2 Out. Indeed, because you are a banish'd man,

Therefore, above the rest, we parley to you.

Are you content to be our General?

To make a virtue of necessity,

And live, as we do, in this wilderness?

3 Out. What say'st thou? wilt thou be of our

Say ay, and be the captain of us all. [consort?

We'll do thee homage, and be rul'd by thee,

Love thee as our Commander and our King.

1 Out. But if thou scorn our courtesy, thou diest. [offer'd,

2 Out. Thou shalt not live to brag what we have

Val. I take your offer, and will live with you;

Provided that you do no outrages

On silly women, or poor passengers.

3 Out. No; we detest such vile, base practices.

Come, go with us; we'll bring thee to our crews,

And show thee all the treasure we have got,

Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II.—MILAN. THE COURT OF THE PALACE.

Enter Proteus.

Pro. Already have I been false to Valentine, And now I must be as unjust to Thurio. Under the colour of commending him, I have access my own love to prefer; But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy, To be corrupted with my worthless gifts. When I protest true loyalty to her, She twits me with my falsehood to my friend; When to her beauty I commend my vows, She bids me think how I have been forsworn In breaking faith with Julia whom I lov'd: And, notwithstanding all her sudden quips, The least whereof would quell a lover's hope, Yet, spaniel-like, the more she spurns my love The more it grows, and fawneth on her still. But here comes Thurio. Now must we to her win— And give some evening music to her ear. [dow,

Enter Thurio and Musicians.

Thu. How now, Sir Proteus! are you crept before us?

Pro. Ay, gentle Thurio; for you know that love Will creep in service where it cannot go.

Thu. Ay; but I hope, sir, that you love not here.

Pro. Sir, but I do; or else I would be hence.

Thu. Who? Silvia?

Pro. Ay, Silvia,—for your sake.

Thu. I thank you for your own. Now, gentlemen, Let's tune, and to it lustily a while. [men,

Enter, at a distance, Host, with Julia in boy's clothes.

Host. Now, my young guest; methinks you're allycholly: I pray you, why is it? [merry.

Jul. Marry, mine host, because I cannot be

Host. Come, we'll have you merry. I'll bring

you where you shall hear music, and see the gentleman that you ask'd for.

Jul. But shall I hear him speak?

Host. Ay, that you shall.

Jul. That will be music. [Music plays.

Host. Hark! hark!

Jul. Is he among these?

Host. Ay; but peace! let's hear 'em.

SONG.

Who is Silvia? what is she,

That all our swains commend her?

Holy, fair, and wise is she;

The heaven such grace did lend her,

That she might admir'd be.

Is she kind, as she is fair,

For beauty lives with kindness?

Love doth to her eyes repair,

To help him of his blindness;

And, being help'd, inhabits there.

Then to Silvia let us sing,

That Silvia is excelling;

She excels each mortal thing,

Upon the dull earth dwelling:

To her let us garlands bring.

Host. How now! are you sadder than you were before? How do you, man? the music likes me not.

Jul. You mistake; the musician likes me not.

Host. Why, my pretty youth?

Jul. He plays false, father.

Host. How? out of tune on the strings?

Jul. Not so; but yet so false, that he grieves my very heart-strings.

Host. You have a quick ear.

Jul. Ay; I would I were deaf! it makes me have a slow heart.

Host. I perceive you delight not in music.

Jul. Not a whit, when it jars so.

Host. Hark! what fine change is in the music.

Jul. Ay, that change is the spite.

Host. You would have them always play but one thing?

J. I would always have one play but one thing. But, *Host.*, doth this *Sir Proteus*, that we talk on, often resort unto this gentlewoman?

Host. I tell you what *Launce*, his man, told me—he lov'd her out of all nick.¹

Jul. Where is *Launce*?

Host. Gone to seek his dog; which, to-morrow, by his master's command, he must carry for a present to his lady.

Jul. Peace! stand aside: the company parts.

Pro. *Sir Thurio*, fear not you: I will so plead, That you shall say my cunning drift excels.

Thu. Where meet we?

Pro. At *Saint Gregory's* well.

Thu. Farewell. [Exit *Thu.* and *Musicians*.]

Silvia appears at her window.

Pro. Madam, good even to your ladyship.

Sil. I thank you for your music, gentlemen. Who is that, that spake? [truth,

Pro. One, lady, if you knew his pure heart's You would quickly learn to know him by his

Sil. *Sir Proteus*, as I take it. [voice.

Pro. *Sir Proteus*, gentle lady, and your

Sil. What's your will? [servant.

Pro. That I may compass yours.

Sil. You have your wish: my will is even this, That presently you hie you home to bed.

Thou subtle, perjur'd, false, disloyal man!

Think'st thou I am so shallow, so conceitless,

To be seduced by thy flattery,

That hast deceiv'd so many with thy vows?

Return, return, and make thy love amends.

For me, by this pale queen of night I swear,

I am so far from granting thy request,

That I despise thee for thy wrongful suit,

Any by and by intend to chide myself,

Even for this time I spend in talking to thee.

Pro. I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady; But she is dead.

Jul. 'Twere false, if I should speak it; For, I am sure, she is not buried.

S. Say, that she be; yet *Valentine*, thy friend, Survives, to whom thyself art witness

I am betroth'd; and art thou not ashamed

To wrong him with thy importunity?

Pro. I likewise hear that *Valentine* is dead.

Sil. And so, suppose, am I; for in his grave Assure thyself, my love is buried.

Pro. Sweet lady, let me rake it from the earth.

S. Go to thy lady's grave, and call her's thence; Or, at the least, in her's sepulchre thine.

Jul. He heard not that.

1 Reckoning.

Pro. Madam, if your heart be so obdurate, Vouchsafe me yet your picture for my love, The picture that is hanging in your chamber: To that I'll speak, to that I'll sigh and weep; For, since the substance of your perfect self Is else devoted, I am but a shadow,

And to your shadow will I make true love.

J. If 'twere a substance, you would, sure, de- And make it but a shadow, as I am. [ceive it,

Sil. I am very loath to be your idol, sir;

But, since your falsehood shall become you well To worship shadows, and adore false shapes, Send to me in the morning, and I'll send it.

And so, good rest. [*Silvia* retires.

Pro. As wretches have o'er night. That wait for execution in the morn. [Exit *Pro.*

Jul. Host, will you go?

Host. By my halidom, I was fast asleep.

Jul. Pray you, where lies *Sir Proteus*?

Host. Marry, at my house. Trust me, I think 'tis almost day.

J. Not so; but it hath been the longest night That e'er I watched, and the most heaviest. [Exit.

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter *Eglamour*.

Egl. This is the hour that *Madam Silvia* Entreated me to call, and know her mind. There's some great matter she'd employ me in,— Madam, madam!

Silvia appears at her window.

Sil. Who calls?

Egl. Your servant, and your friend; One that attends your ladyship's command.

Sil. *Sir Eglamour*, a thousand times good morrow.

Egl. As many, worthy lady, to yourself. According to your ladyship's impose, I am thus early come, to know what service It is your pleasure to command me in.

Sil. O *Eglamour*, thou art a gentleman, (Think not I flatter, for I swear I do not,) Valiant, wise, remorseful,¹ well accomplish'd. Thou art not ignorant what dear good-will I bear unto the banish'd *Valentine*,

Nor how my father would enforce me marry

Vain *Thurio*, whom my very soul abhorr'd.

Thyself hast lov'd; and I have heard thee say,

No grief did ever come so near thy heart,

As when thy lady and thy true love died,

Upon whose grave thou vow'dst pure chastity.

Sir Eglamour, I would to *Valentine*,

To *Mantua*, where, I hear, he makes abode;

And, for the ways are dangerous to pass.

I do desire thy worthy company,

Upon whose faith and honour I repose.

Urge not my father's anger, *Eglamour*,

But think upon my grief, a lady's grief;

And on the justice of my flying hence,

To keep me from a most unholy match

Which Heaven and Fortune still reward with

I do desire thee, even from a heart [plagues.

As full of sorrows as the sea of sands,

To bear me company, and go with me:

If not, to hide what I have said to thee,

That I may venture to depart alone.

1 Tender.

Egl. Madam, I pity much your grievances ;
Which since I know they virtuously are plac'd,
I give consent to go along with you ;
Recking as little what betideth me,
As much I wish all good beforneth you.
When will you go ?

Sil. This evening coming.

Egl. Where shall I meet you ?

Sil. At Friar Patrick's cell,
Where I intend holy confession.

Egl. I will not fail your ladyship.
Good morrow, gentle lady.

S. Good morrow, kind Sir Eglamour. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—THE SAME.

Enter Launce and Crab.

Launce. When a man's servant shall play the cur with him, look you, it goes hard: one that I brought up of a puppy; one that I saved from drowning, when three or four of his blind brothers and sisters went to it. I have taught him, even as one would say precisely,—thus I would teach a dog. I was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress Silvia from my master, and I came no sooner into the dining-chamber, but he steps me to her trencher, and steals her capon's leg. O! 'tis a foul thing, when a cur cannot keep himself in all companies. I would have, as one should say one that takes upon him to be a dog indeed, to be, as it were, a dog at all things. If I had not had more wit than he, to take a fault upon me that he did, I think verily, he had been hang'd for't: sure as I live, he had suffer'd for't. I have sat in the stocks for puddings he hath stolen; otherwise he had been executed: I have stood on the pillory for geese he hath kill'd; otherwise he had suffer'd for't: thou think'st not of this now!

Enter Proteus and Julia.

Pro. Sebastian is thy name? I like thee well,
And will employ thee in some service presently.

Jul. In what you please:—I'll do what I can.

Pro. I hope thou wilt.—How, now, you idle peasant!

Where have you been these two days loitering?

Launce. Marry, sir, I carried Mistress Silvia the dog you bade me.

Pro. And what says she to my little jewel?

Launce. Marry, she says, your dog was a cur; and tells you, curish thanks is good enough for such a present.

Pro. But she receiv'd my dog?

Launce. No, indeed, did she not. Here have I brought him back again.

Pro. What! didst thou offer her this from me?

Launce. Ay, sir: the other squirrel was stolen from me by the hangman boys in the market-place; and then I offer'd her mine own, who is a dog as big as ten of yours, and therefore the gift the greater.

Pro. Go; get thee hence, and find my dog again, Or ne'er return again into my sight.

Away, I say! Stayest thou to vex me here?—A slave that still an end turns me to shame.—

[*Exit Launce.*]

Sebastian, I have entertained thee,

Partly, that I have need of such a youth,
That can with some discretion do my business
(For 'tis no trusting to yond foolish lowt),
But, chiefly, for thy face, and thy behaviour,
Which (if my augury deceive me not)
Witness good bringing up, fortune, and truth:
Therefore know thou, for this I entertain thee.
Go presently, and take this ring with thee:
Deliver it to Madam Silvia.
She lov'd me well deliver'd it to me.

Jul. It seems, you lov'd it not her, to leave her
She's dead belike? [token.]

Pro. Not so; I think she lives.

Jul. Alas!

Pro. Why dost thou cry, alas!

Jul. I cannot choose but pity her.

Pro. Wherefore should'st thou pity her?

Jul. Because, methinks, that she lov'd you as
As you do love your lady Silvia. [well
She dreams on him that has forgot her love;
You dote on her that cares not for your love.
'Tis pity, love should be so contrary;
And thinking on it makes me cry, alas!

Pro. Well, give her that ring; and therewithal
This letter:—that's her chamber.—Tell my lady
I claim the promise for her heavenly picture.
Your message done, hie home unto my chamber,
Where thou shalt find me sad and solitary. [*Exit.*]

Jul. How many women would do such a message?

Alas, poor Proteus! thou hast entertain'd
A fox to be the shepherd of thy lambs.

Alas, poor fool! why do I pity him,
That with his very heart despiseth me?

Because he loves her, he despiseth me;
Because I love him, I must pity him.

This ring I gave him when he parted from me,
To bind him to remember my good-will;

And now am I (unhappy messenger!)

To plead for that which I would not obtain;

To carry that which I would have refus'd;

To praise his faith which I would have disprais'd
I am my master's true confirmed love,

But cannot be true servant to my master,
Unless I prove false traitor to myself.

Yet will I woo for him; but yet so coldly,

As, Heaven it knows, I would not have him speed.

Enter Silvia, attended.

Gentlewoman, good day. I pray you, be my mean
To bring me where to speak with Madam Silvia.

Sil. What would you wish her, if that I beshe?

Jul. If you be she, I do entreat your patience
To hear me speak the message I am sent on.

Sil. From whom?

Jul. From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.

Sil. O! he sends you for a picture?

Jul. Ay, madam.

Sil. Ursula, bring my picture there.

[*A picture brought.*]

Go, give your master this: tell him from me,
One Julia, that his changing thoughts forget,
Would better fit his chamber, than this shadow.

Jul. Madam, please you peruse this letter.—
Pardon me, madam, I have unadvis'd

Deliver'd you a paper that I should not:

This is the letter to your ladyship.

Sil. I pray thee, let me look on that again.

Jul. It may not be : good madam, pardon me.

Sil. There, hold.

I will not look upon your master's lines :

I know they are stuff'd with protestations,
And full of new-found oaths, which he will break,
As easily as I do tear his paper.

Jul. Madam, he sends your ladyship this ring.

S. The more shame for him that he sends it me ;
For, I have heard him say, a thousand times,
His Julia gave it him at his departure.
Though his false finger have profan'd the ring,
Mine shall not do his Julia so much wrong.

Jul. She thanks you.

Sil. What say'st thou ?

Jul. I thank you, madam, that you tender her.
Poor gentlewoman ! my master wrongs her much.

Sil. Dost thou know her ?

Jul. Almost as well as I do know myself :
To think upon her woes, I do protest,
That I have wept a hundred several times.

Sil. Belike, she thinks, that Proteus hath for-
sook her.

Jul. I think she doth, and that's her cause of
sorrow.

Sil. Is she not passing fair ?

Jul. She hath been fairer, madam, than she is.
When she did think my master lov'd her well,
She, in my judgment, was as fair as you ;
But since she did neglect her looking-glass,
And threw her sun-expelling mask away,
The air hath starv'd the roses in her cheeks,
And pinch'd the lily-tincture of her face,
That now she is become as black as I.

Sil. How tall was she ?

Jul. About my stature ; for, at Pentecost,
When all our pageants of delight were play'd,
Our youth got me to play the woman's part ;
And I was trimm'd in Madam Julia's gown,
Which served me as fit, by all men's judgments,
As if the garment had been made for me :
Therefore, I know she is about my height,
And at that time I made her weep a-good,
For I did play a lamentable part.
Madam, 'twas Ariadne, passioning
For Theseus' perjury and unjust flight ;
Which I so lively acted with my tears,
That my poor mistress, moved therewithal,
Wept bitterly ; and, would I might be dead,
If I in thought felt not her very sorrow.

Sil. She is beholden to thee, gentle youth. —
Alas, poor lady ! desolate and left ! —
I weep myself, to think upon thy words.
Here, youth ; there is my purse : I give thee this
For thy sweet mistress' sake, because thou lov'st
her.

Farewell. [Exit *Silvia*.]

Jul. And she shall thank you for't, if e'er
you know her. —

A virtuous gentlewoman, mild, and beautiful.
I hope my master's suit will be but cold,
Since she respects my mistress' love so much.
Alas, how love can trifle with itself !
Here is her picture. Let me see : I think,
If I had such a tire, this face of mine
Were full as lovely as is this of hers ;
And yet the painter flatter'd her a little,
Unless I flatter with myself too much.
Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect yellow :

If that be all the difference in his love,
I'll get me such a coloured periwig.

Her eyes are grey as glass, and so are mine :
Ay, but her forehead's low, and mine's as high.
What should it be, that he respects in her,
But I can make respective in myself,
If this fond Love were not a blinded god ?
Come, shadow, come, and take this shadow up,
For 'tis thy rival. O thou senseless form !
Thou shalt be worshipp'd, kiss'd, lov'd, and
And, were there sense in his idolatry, fador'd,
My substance should be statue in thy stead.
I'll use thee kindly for thy mistress' sake,
That us'd me so ; or else, by Jove, I vow,
I should have scratch'd out your unseeing eyes,
To make my master out of love with thee. [Exit.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME. AN ABBEY.

Enter Eglamour.

Egl. The sun begins to gild the western sky,
And now it is about the very hour,
That *Silvia* at Friar Patrick's cell should meet me.
She will not fail ; for lovers break not hours,
Unless it be to come before their time,
So much they spur their expedition.

Enter Silvia.

See, where she comes ! — Lady, a happy evening.

Sil. Amen, amen ! go on, good Eglamour.
Out at the postern by the abbey-wall.
I fear I am attended by some spies, [off ;]
Egl. Fear not : the forest is not three leagues
If we recover that, we are sure enough. [Exit.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Thurio, Proteus, and Julia.

Thu. Sir Proteus, what says *Silvia* to my suit ?
Pro. O, sir ! I find her milder than she was ;
And yet she takes exceptions at your person.
Thu. What, that my leg is too long ?
Pro. No, that it is too little.
Thu. I'll wear a boot to make it somewhat
rounder.

Jul. But love will not be spurr'd to what it
Thu. What says she to my face ? [loathes.
Pro. She says it is a fair one. [black.
Thu. Nay, then the wanton lies : my face is
Pro. But pearls are fair ; and the old saying is,
Black men are pearls in beauteous ladies' eyes.
J. 'Tis true, such pearls as put out ladies' eyes ;
For I had rather wink than look on them.

Thu. How likes she my discourse ?
Pro. Ill, when you talk of war. [peace?
Thu. But well, when I discourse of love and
Jul. But better, indeed, when you hold your
Thu. What says she to my valour ? [peace.
Pro. O, sir, she makes no doubt of that.
Jul. She needs not, when she knows it cow-
Thu. What says she to my birth ? [ardica.
Pro. That you are well deriv'd.
Jul. True ; from a gentleman to a fool.
Thu. Considers she my possessions ?

Pro. O! ay; and pities them.

Thu. Wherefore?

Jul. That such an ass should owe them.

Pro. That they are out by lease.

Jul. Here comes the Duke.

Enter Duke.

Duke. How now, Sir Proteus! how now, Thurio? Which of you saw Sir Eglamour of late?

Thu. Not I.

Pro. Not I.

Duke. Saw you my daughter?

Pro. Neither.

D. Why, then she's fled unto that peasant Val- And Eglamour is in her company. [entine, 'Tis true; for Friar Laurence met them both, As he in penance wander'd through the forest. Him he well knew, and guess'd that it was she; But, being mask'd, he was not sure of it: Besides, she did intend confession

At Patrick's cell this even, and there she was not. These likelihoods confirm her flight from hence: Therefore, I pray you, stand not to discourse, But mount you presently, and meet with me Upon the rising of the mountain foot, That leads towards Mantua, whither they are fled.

Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me. [*Exit.*

Thu. Why, this it is to be a peevish girl, That flies her fortune when it follows her. I'll after, more to be reveng'd on Eglamour, Than for the love of reckless Silvia. [*Exit.*

Pro. And I will follow, more for Silvia's love, Than hate of Eglamour, that goes with her. [*Exit.*

Jul. And I will follow, more to cross that love, Than hate for Silvia, that is gone for love. [*Exit.*

SCENE III.—THE FOREST.

Enter Silvia and Outlaws.

1 Out. Come, come; be patient, we must bring you to our Captain.

Sil. A thousand more mischances than this one Have learn'd me how to brook this patiently.

2 Out. Come, bring her away.

1 O. Where is the gentleman that was with her?

3 Out. Being nimble-footed, he hath outrun us; But Moyses and Valerius follow him.

Go thou with her to the west end of the wood; There is our Captain. We'll follow him that's fled: The thicket is beset; he cannot 'scape.

1 Out. Come, I must bring you to our Cap- tain's cave.

Fear not; he bears an honourable mind, And will not use a woman lawlessly.

Sil. O Valentine! this I endure for thee.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

Enter Valentine.

Val. How use doth breed a habit in a man! These shadowy desert unfrequented woods, I better brook than flourishing peopled towns. Here can I sit alone, unseen of any, And to the nightingale's complaining notes Tune my distresses, and record my woes. O thou that dost inhabit in my breast,

Leave not the mansion so long tenantless, Lest, growing ruinous, the building fall, And leave no memory of what it was! Repair me with thy presence, Silvia! Thou gentle nymph, cherish thy forlorn swain!— What halloing and what stir is this to-day? These are my mates, that make their wills their I have some unhappy passenger in chase. [law, They love me well; yet I have much to do, To keep them from uncivil outrages. [here? Withdraw thee, Valentine: who's this comes [*Steps aside.*

Enter Proteus, Silvia, and Julia.

Pro. Madam, this service I have done for you, (Though you respect not aught your servant doth) To hazard life, and rescue you from him, [love. That would have forc'd your honour and your Vouchsafe me, for my meed, but one fair look; A smaller boon than this I cannot beg.

And less than this, I am sure, you cannot give.

Val. [*Aside.*] How like a dream is this, I see, and Love, lend me patience to forbear a while. [hear!

Sil. O miserable, unhappy that I am!

Pro. Unhappy were you, madam, ere I came; But by my coming I have made you happy.

Sil. By thy approach thou mak'st me most unhappy. [your presence.

Jul. [*Aside.*] And me, when he approacheth to *Sil.* Had I been seized by a hungry lion, I would have been a breakfast to the beast,

Rather than have false Proteus rescue me. O, Heaven! be judge, how I love Valentine,

Whose life 's as tender to me as my soul; And full as much (for more there cannot be)

I do detest false, perjur'd Proteus: Therefore, be gone! solicit me no more.

Pro. What dangerous action, stood it next to Would I not undergo for one calm look! [death, O! 'tis the curse in love, and still approv'd, When women cannot love, where they're belov'd.

Sil. When Proteus cannot love, where he's be- Read over Julia's heart, thy first best love, [lov'd. For whose dear sake thou didst then rend thy Into a thousand oaths; and all those oaths [faith Descended into perjury to love me.

Thou hast no faith left now, unless thou 'dst two; And that's far worse than none; better have none Than plural faith, which is too much by one: Thou counterfeit to thy true friend!

Pro. In love Who respects friend?

Sil. All men but Proteus.

Pro. Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving words Can no way change you to a milder form, I'll woo you like a soldier, at arms' end, And love you 'gainst the nature of love—forced

Sil. O Heaven! [you.

Pro. I'll force thee yield to my desire.

Enter Valentine.

Val. Ruffian, let go that rude uncivil touch: Thou friend of an ill fashion!

Pro. Valentine!

Val. Thou common friend, that's without faith or love;

(For such is a friend now) treacherous man! [eye Thou hast beguil'd my hopes: naught but mine

Could have persuaded me. Now I dare not say,
I have one friend alive: thou would'st disprove
me.

Who should be trusted, when one's right hand
Is perjur'd to the bosom? Proteus,
I am sorry I must never trust thee more,
But count the world a stranger for thy sake.
The private wound is deepest. O time most
accurs'd!

'Mongst all foes, that a friend should be the
worst!

Pro. My shame and guilt confounds me.—
Forgive me, Valentine. If hearty sorrow
Be a sufficient ransom for offence,
I tender 't here: I do as truly suffer,
As e'er I did commit.

Val. Then, I am paid;
And once again I do receive thee honest.
Who by repentance is not satisfied,
Is nor of heaven, nor earth; for these are pleas'd.
By penitence th' Eternal's wrath 's appeas'd:
And, that my love may appear plain and free,
All that was mine in Silvia I give thee.

Jul. O me unhappy!

Pro. Look to the boy.

Val. Why, boy! why, wag! how now! what's
the matter? Look up; speak.

Jul. O good sir! my master charg'd me to
deliver a ring to Madam Silvia, which, out of
my neglect, was never done.

Pro. Where is that ring, boy?

Jul. Here 'tis: this is it.

Pro. How! let me see.—Why, this is
The ring I gave to Julia.

Jul. O! cry your mercy, sir; I have mistook:
This is the ring you sent to Silvia.

[Shows another ring.]

Pro. But how cam'st thou by this ring?
At my depart I gave this unto Julia.

Jul. And Julia herself did give it to me;
And Julia herself hath brought it hither.

Pro. How? Julia!

Jul. Behold her that gave aim to all thy oaths,
And entertain'd 'em deeply in her heart:
How oft hast thou with perjury cleft the root!
O Proteus! let this habit make thee blush:
Be thou asham'd, that I have took upon me
Such an immodest raiment; if shame live
In a disguise of love.
It is the lesser blot, modesty finds,
Women to change their shapes, than men their
minds.

Pro. Than men their minds: 'tis true. O
Heaven! were man
But constant, he were perfect: that one error
Fills him with faults, makes him run through all
th' sins:

Inconstancy falls off, ere it begins.
What is in Silvia's face, but I may spy
More fresh in Julia's, with a constant eye?

Val. Come, come, a hand from either.
Let me be blest to make this happy close:
'Twere pity two such friends should be long
foes.

Pro. Bear witness, Heaven, I have my wish
for ever.

Jul. And I mine.

Enter Outlaws, with Duke and Thurio.

Out. A prize! a prize! a prize!
V. Forbear, I say; it is my lord the Duke,—
Your Grace is welcome to a man disgrac'd,
Banished Valentine.

Duke. Sir Valentine!
Thu. Yonder is Silvia; and Silvia's mine.
V. Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy death.
Come not within the measure of my wrath:
Do not name Silvia thine; if once again,
Milan shall not behold thee. Here she stands:
Take but possession of her with a touch;
I dare thee but to breathe upon my love.

Thu. Sir Valentine, I care not for her, I
I hold him but a fool that will endanger
His body for a girl that loves him not:
I claim her not, and therefore she is thine.

Duke. The more degenerate and base art thou,
To make such means for her as thou hast done,
And leave her on such slight conditions.
Now, by the honour of my ancestry,
I do applaud thy spirit, Valentine,
And think thee worthy of an empress' love.
Know, then, I here forget all former griefs,
Cancel all grudge, repeat thee home again,
Plead a new state in thy unrivall'd merit,
To which I thus subscribe.—Sir Valentine,
Thou art a gentleman, and well deriv'd:
Take thou thy Silvia, for thou hast deserv'd her

Val. I thank your grace, the gift hath made
me happy.

I now beseech you, for your daughter's sake,
To grant one boon that I shall ask of you.

Duke. I grant it for thine own, whate'er it be.
V. These banish'd men, that I have kept
Are men endu'd with worthy qualities: [withal,
Forgive them what they have committed here,
And let them be recall'd from their exile.
They are reformed, civil, full of good,
And fit for great employment, worthy lord.]

Duke. Thou hast prevail'd: I pardon them
and thee:

Dispose of them as thou know'st their deserts.
Come; let us go: we will include all jars
With triumphs, mirth, and rare solemnity.

Val. And as we walk along, I dare be bold
With our discourse to make your Grace to smile.
What think you of this page, my lord?

Duke. I think the boy hath grace in him: he
blushes.

Val. I warrant you, my lord,—more grace
than boy.

Duke. What mean you by that saying?
Val. Please you, I'll tell you as we pass along,
That you will wonder what hath fortun'd.—
Come, Proteus; 'tis your penance, but to hear
The story of your loves discovered:
That done, our day of marriage shall be yours;
One feast, one house, one mutual happiness.

[Exeunt.]

Merry Wives of Windsor.

Persons Represented.

Sir JOHN FALSTAFF.

FENTON.

SHALLOW, a country Justice.

SLENDER, cousin to Shallow.

Mr FORD, } two Gentlemen dwelling at

Mr PAGE, } Windsor.

WILLIAM PAGE, a Boy, son to Mr Page.

Sir HUGH EVANS, a Welsh Parson.

Dr CAIUS, a French Physician.

Host of the Garter Inn.

BARDOLPH, }
PISTOL, } Followers of Falstaff.
NYM, }

ROBIN, Page to Falstaff.

SIMPLE, Servant to Slender.

RUGBY, Servant to Dr Caius.

Mrs FORD.

Mrs PAGE.

Mrs ANNE PAGE, her Daughter, in love with Fenton.

Mrs QUICKLY, Servant to Dr Caius.

Servants to Page, Ford, &c.

SCENE.—Windsor; and the parts adjacent.

Act First.

SCENE I.—WINDSOR. BEFORE PAGE'S HOUSE.

Enter Justice Shallow, Slender, and Sir¹ Hugh Evans.

Shallow. Sir Hugh, persuade me not; I will make a Star-chamber matter of it; if he were twenty Sir John Falstaffs, he shall not abuse Robert Shallow, Esquire.

Slender. In the county of Gloster, justice of peace, and coram.

Shal. Ay, Cousin Slender, and Cust-alorum.²

Slender. Ay, and ratolorum too; and a gentleman born, master parson; who writes himself armigero;³ in any bill, warrant, quittance, or obligation, armigero.

Shal. Ay, that we do: and have done any time these three hundred years.

Slender. All his successors, gone before him, have done't; and all his ancestors, that come after him, may: they may give the dozen white laces in their coat.

Shal. It is an old coat.

Eva. The dozen white louses do become an old coat well; it agrees well, passant: it is a familiar beast to man, and signifies—love.

Shal. The luce is the fresh fish; the salt fish is an old coat.

Slender. I may quarter, coz?

Shal. You may, by marrying.

Eva. It is marrying indeed, if he quarter it.

Shal. Not a whit.

Eva. Yes, py'r lady; if he has a quarter of your coat, there is but three skirts for yourself, in my simple conjectures: but this is all one: If Sir John Falstaff have committed disparagements unto you, I am of the church, and will be glad to do my benevolence, to make atonements and compromises between you.

¹ A title formerly applied to the clergy.

² *Custos Rotulorum*, officer of the county.

³ Esquire.

Shal. The Council shall hear it; it is a riot.

Eva. It is not meet the Council hear a riot; there is no fear of Got in a riot; the Council, look you, shall desire to hear the fear of Got, and not to hear a riot; take your vizaments in that.

Shal. Ha! o' my life, if I were young again, the sword should end it.

Eva. It is petter that friends is the sword, and end it: and there is also another device in my prain, which, peradventure, prings goot discretions with it: There is Anne Page, which is daughter to master George Page, which is pretty virginity.

Slender. Mistress Anne Page? She has brown hair, and speaks small like a woman.

Eva. It is that fery person for all the 'orld, as just as you will desire: and seven hundred pounds of monies, and gold, and silver, is her grandsire upon his death's bed, give, when she is able to overtake seventeen years old: it were a good motion, if we leave our pribbles and prabbles, and desire a marriage between master Abraham and Mrs Anne Page.

Shal. Did her grandsire leave her seven hundred pound?

Eva. Ay, and her father is make her a petter penny.

Shal. I know the young gentlewoman; she has good gifts.

Eva. Seven hundred pounds, and possibilities, is good gifts.

Shal. Well, let us see honest master Page: Is Falstaff there?

Eva. Shall I tell you a lie? I do despise a liar, as I do despise one that is false; or as I despise one that is not true. The knight Sir John, is there; and, I beseech you, be ruled by your well-willers. I will peat the door [knocks] for master Page. What, ho! pless your house here!

Enter Page.

Page. Who's there?

Eva. Here's your friend, and justice Shallow; and here young master Slender; that peradven-

tures shall tell you another tale, if matters grow to your likings.

Page. I am glad to see your worships well: I thank you for my venison, master Shallow.

Shal. Master Page, I am glad to see you; Much good do it your good heart! I wished your venison better; it was ill-killed:—How doth good mistress Page?—and I love you always with my heart, la; with my heart.

Page. Sir, I thank you.

Shal. Sir, I thank you; by yea and no, I do.

P. I am glad to see you, good master Slender.

Slen. How does your fallow greyhound, sir? I heard say he was outrun on Cotsale.

Page. It could not be judg'd, sir.

Slen. You'll not confess, you'll not confess.

Shal. That he will not;—'tis your fault, 'tis your fault:—'Tis a good dog.

Page. A cur, Sir.

Shal. Sir, he's a good dog, and a fair dog; can there be more said? he is good, and fair.—Is Sir John Falstaff here?

Page. Sir, he is within; and I would I could do a good office between you.

Eva. It is spoke as a Christian ought to speak.

Shal. He hath wrong'd me, master Page.

Page. Sir, he doth in some sort confess it.

Shal. If it be confess'd, it is not redress'd; is not that so, master Page? He hath wrong'd me; indeed, he hath;—at a word, he hath;—believe me;—Robert Shallow, Esquire, saith he is wrong'd.

Page. Here comes Sir John.

Enter Sir John Falstaff, Bardolph, Nym, and Pistol.

Fal. Now, master Shallow; you'll complain of me to the king?

Shal. Knight, you have beaten my men, killed my deer, and broke open my lodge: this shall be answer'd.

Fal. I will answer it straight;—I have done all this:—That is now answer'd.

Shal. The Council shall know this.

Fal. 'Twere better for you, if it were known in counsel: you'll be laugh'd at.

Eva. *Pauca verba*, Sir John, good words.

Fal. Good words! good cabbage.—Slender, I broke your head; what matter have you against me?

Slen. Marry, Sir, I have matter in my head against you; and against Bardolph, Nym, and Pistol. They carried me to the tavern, and made me drunk, and afterwards picked my pocket.

Bar. You Banbury cheese!

Slen. Ay, it is no matter.

Pist. How now, Mephostophilus?

Slen. Ay, it is no matter.

Nym. Slice, I say! *pauca, pauca*; slice! that's my humour.

Slen. Where's Simple, my man?—can you tell, cousin?

Eva. Peace: I pray you! Now let us understand: There is three umpires in this matter as I understand: that is—master Page, *fidelicet*, master Page; and there is myself, *fidelicet*,

1 The ancient name of all the cabbage kind.

myself; and the three party is, lastly and finally, mine host of the Garter. [them.]

P. We three, to hear it, and end it between *Eva.* Ferry goot: I will make a prief of it in my note-book; and we will afterwards 'ork upon the cause, with as great discreetly as we can.

Fal. Pistol,—

Pist. He hears with ears.

Eva. What phrase is this, *He hears with ear*? Why, it is affectations.

F. Pistol, did you pick master Slender's purse?

Slen. Ay, by these gloves, did he (or I would I might never come in mine own great chamber again else), of seven groats in a ill-sixpences, and two Edward shovel-boards,¹ that cost me two shillings and twopence a-piece of Yead Miller, by these gloves.

Fal. Is this true, Pistol?

Eva. No; it is false, if it is a pick-purse.

Pist. Ha, thou mountain-foreigner!—Sir John, and master mine,

I combat challenge of this latten bilbo:²

Word of denial in thy labras³ here;

Word of denial; froth and scum, thou liest.

Slen. By these gloves, then 'twas he.

Nym. Be advised, sir, and pass good humours: I will say, *marry trap*, with you if you run the nut-hook's⁴ humour on me; that is the very note of it.

Slen. By this hat, then he in the red face had it: for though I cannot remember what I did when you made me drunk, yet I am not altogether an ass.

Fal. What say you, Scarlet and John?

Bard. Why, sir, for my part, I say, the gentleman had drunk himself out of his five sentences.

Eva. It is his five senses: fie, what the ignorance is!

Bard. And being fap,⁵ sir, was, as they say, cashier'd; and so conclusions pass'd the careires.⁶

S. Ay, you spake in Latin then too: but 'tis no matter: I'll ne'er be drunk whilst I live again, but in honest, civil, godly company, for this trick: if I be drunk, I'll be drunk with those that have the fear of God, and not with drunken knaves.

Eva. That is a virtuous mind.

Fal. You hear all these matters denied, gentlemen; you hear it.

Enter Mistress Anne Page with wine; Mistress Ford and Mistress Page following.

Page. Nay, daughter, carry the wine in; we'll drink within. [Exit Anne Page.]

Slen. O heaven! this is mistress Anne Page.

Page. How now, mistress Ford?

F. Mistress Ford, by my troth, you are very well met: by your leave, good mistress. [Kissing her.]

Page. Wife, bid these gentlemen welcome:—Come, we have a hot venison pasty to dinner; come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink down all unkindness.

[Exeunt all but Shal., Slender, and Evans.]

Slen. I had rather than forty shillings, I had my book of Songs and Sonnets here:—

Enter Simple.

How now, Simple! where have you been! I

1 Shillings.

2 Blade, thin as a lath.

3 Lips.

4 Call me thief.

5 Drunk.

6 Bounds of good behaviour.

must wait on myself, must I? You have not *The Book of Riddles* about you, have you?

Sim. *Book of Riddles!* why, did you not lend it to Alice Shortcake upon Allhallowmas last, a fortnight afore Michaelmas?¹

Shal. Come, coz; come, coz; we stay for you. A word with you, coz; marry, this, coz; There is, as 'twere a tender, a kind of tender, made afar off by Sir Hugh here;—Do you understand me?

Slen. Ay, sir, you shall find me reasonable; if it be so, I shall do that that is reason.

Shal. Nay, but understand me.

Slen. So I do, sir.

Eva. Give ear to his motions, master Slender: I will description the matter to you, if you be capacity of it.

Slen. Nay, I will do as my cousin Shallow says: I pray you, pardon me; he's a justice of peace in his country, simple though I stand here.

Eva. But this is not the question; the question is concerning your marriage.

Shal. Ay, there's the point, sir.

Eva. Marry, is it; the very point of it; to mistress Anne Page.

Slen. Why, if it be so, I will marry her, upon any reasonable demands.

Eva. But can you affection the 'oman? Let us command to know that of your mouth, or of your lips; for divers philosophers hold, that the lips is parcel of the mouth;—Therefore, precisely, can you carry your good will to the maid?

Sh. Cousin Abraham Slender, can you love her?

Slen. I hope, sir,—I will do, as it shall become one that would do reason.

Eva. Nay, you must speak possitable, if you can carry her your desires towards her.

Shal. That you must: Will you, upon good dowry, marry her?

Slen. I will do a greater thing than that, upon your request, cousin, in any reason.

Shal. Nay, conceive me, conceive me, sweet coz; what I do, is to pleasure you, coz: Can you love the maid?

Slen. I will marry her, sir, at your request; but if there be no great love in the beginning, yet heaven may decrease it upon better acquaintance, when we are married, and have more occasion to know one another: I hope, upon familiarity will grow more contempt; but if you say, marry her, I will marry her, that I am freely dissolved, and dissolutely.

Eva. It is a fery discretion answer; save, the faul' is in the 'ort dissolutely: the 'ort is, according to our meaning, resolutely;—his meaning is good.

Shal. Ay, I think my cousin meant well.

Sl. Ay, or else I would I might be hanged, la.

Re-enter Anne Page.

Shal. Here comes fair mistress Anne:—Would I were young, for your sake, mistress Anne!

Anne. The dinner is on the table; my father desires your worships' company.

Shal. I will wait on him, fair mistress Anne.

Eva. I will not be absence at the grace.

[*Exeunt Shallow and Sir H. Evans.*]

A. Will't please your worship to come in, sir?

1 (An intentional blunder.)

Slen. No, I thank you, forsooth, heartily; I am very well.

Anne. The dinner attends you, sir.

Slen. I am not a-hungry, I thank you, forsooth: Go, sirrah, for all you are my man, go, wait upon my cousin Shallow: [*Exit Simple.*] A justice of peace sometime may be beholden to his friend for a man:—I keep but three men and a boy yet, till my mother be dead: But what though? yet I live like a poor gentleman born.

Anne. I may not go in without your worship: they will not sit, till you come.

Slen. I'faith, I'll eat nothing; I thank you as much as though I did.

Anne. I pray you, sir, walk in.

Slen. I had rather walk here, I thank you: I bruised my shin the other day with playing at sword and dagger with a master of fence, three veneys¹ for a dish of stewed prunes; and, by my troth, I cannot abide the smell of hot meat since. Why do your dogs bark so? be there bears i' the town?

Anne. I think there are, sir; I heard them talked of.

Slen. I love the sport well; but I shall as soon quarrel at it, as any man in England:—You are afraid, if you see the bear loose, are you not?

Anne. Ay, indeed, sir.

Slen. That's meat and drink to me now: I have seen Sackerson² loose, twenty times: and have taken him by the chain; but, I warrant you, the women have so cried and shriek'd at it, that it pass'd³:—but women, indeed, cannot abide 'em; they are very ill-favoured rough things.

Re-enter Page.

Page. Come, gentle master Slender, come; we stay for you.

Slen. I'll eat nothing; I thank you, sir.

Page. By cock and pye, you shall not choose, sir; come, come.

Slen. Nay, pray you, lead the way.

Page. Come on, sir.

Slen. Mistress Anne, yourself shall go first.

Anne. Not I, sir, pray you, keep on.

Slen. Truly, I will not go first; truly, la; I will not do you that wrong.

Anne. I pray you, sir.

Slen. I'll rather be unmannerly than troublesome; you do yourself wrong, indeed, la.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Sir Hugh Evans and Simple.

Eva. Go your ways, and ask of Doctor Caius house, which is the way: and there dwells one mistress Quickly, which is in the manner of his nurse, or his dry nurse, or his cook, or his laundry, his washer, and his wringer.

Sim. Well, sir.

Eva. Nay, it is petter yet:—give her this letter: for it is a 'oman that altogether's acquaintance with mistress Anne Page: and the letter is, to desire and to require her to solicit your master's desires to mistress Anne Page: I pray you be gone; I will make an end of my dinner; there's pippins and cheese to come. [*Exeunt.*]

1 Three bouts. 2 Name of a bear exhibited at South-3 Passed expression. [mark.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Falstaff, Host, Bardolph, Nym, Pistol, and Robin.

Fal. Mine host of the Garter,—

Host. What says my bully-rook? Speak scholarly, and wisely.

Fal. Truly, mine host, I must turn away some of my followers.

Host. Discard, bully Hercules; cashier: let them wag: trot, trot.

Fal. I sit at ten pounds a week.

Host. Thou art an emperor, Caesar, Keisar, and Pheezar. I will entertain Bardolph; he shall draw, he shall tap: said I well, bully Hector?

Fal. Do so, good mine host.

Host. I have spoke; let him follow: Let me see thee froth, and lime: I am at a word; follow.

[*Exit Host.*]

Fal. Bardolph, follow him; a tapster is a good trade; an old cloak makes a new jerkin; a withered servingman, a fresh tapster; Go, adieu.

Bard. It is a life that I have desired; I will thrive. [*Exit Bard.*]

Pist. O base Gongarian¹ wight! wilt thou the spigot wield?

Nym. His mind is not heroic, and there's the humour of it.

Fal. I am glad I am so acquit of this tinder-box: his thefts were too open: his filching was like an unskilful singer, he kept not time.

Nym. The good humour is, to steal at a minute's rest.

Pist. Convey, the wise it call: Steal! foh, a fico² for the phrase!

Fal. Well, sirs, I am almost out at heels.

Pist. Why, then, let kibes³ ensue.

Fal. There is so remedy; I must shift.

Pist. Young ravens must have food.

Fal. Which of you know Ford of this town?

Pist. I ken the wight; he is of substance good.

Fal. My honest lads, I will tell you what I am about.

Pist. Two yards and more.

Fal. No quips now, Pistol; indeed I am in the waist two yards about; but I am now about no waste; I am about thrift. Briefly, I do mean to make love to Ford's wife; I spy entertainment in her; she discourses, she carves, she gives the leer of invitation; I can construe the action of her familiar style; and the hardest voice of her behaviour, to be English'd rightly, is, *I am Sir John Falstaff's*.

Pist. He hath studied her well, and translated her well; out of honesty into English.

N. The anchor is deep: will that humour pass?

Fal. Now; the report goes, she has all the rule of her husband's purse.

Pist. To her, boy, say I.

Nym. The humour rises; it is good.

Fal. I have writ me here a letter to her: and here another to Page's wife; who even now gave me good eyes too; she bears the purse too; she is a region in Guiana, all gold and bounty. I will be cheater⁴ to them both, and they shall be exchequers to me; they shall be my East and

West Indies, and I will trade to them both. Go, bear thou this letter to mistress Page; and thou this to mistress Ford: we will thrive, lads, we will thrive.

Pist. Shall I Sir Pandarus of Troy become, And by my side wear steel? then, Lucifer take all!

Nym. I will run no base humour; here, take the humour letter; I will keep the 'haviour of reputation.

Fal. Hold, sirrah, [*To Rob.*] bear you these letters tightly¹;

Sail like my pinnace to these golden shores.— Rogues, hence avaunt! vanish like hailstones, go; Trudge, plod away, o' the hoof; seek shelter, pack! Falstaff will learn the humour of this age, French thrift, you rogues; myself, and skirtd page. [*Exeunt Falstaff and Robin.*]

Pist. Let vultures gripe thee, for gourd and fullam² hold,

And high and low beguile the rich and poor: Tester³ I'll have in pouch, when thou shalt lack, Base Phrygian Turk!

Nym. I have operations in my head, which be humours of revenge.

Pist. Wilt thou revenge?

Nym. By welkin, and her star!

Pist. With wit, or steel!

Nym. With both the humours, I:

I will discuss the humour of this love to Page.

Pist. And I to Ford shall eke unfold,

How Falstaff, varlet vile,

His dove will prove, his gold will hold, And his soft couch defile.

Nym. My humour shall not cool: I will incense⁴ Page to deal with poison; I will possess him with yellowness⁵, for the revolt of mien is dangerous: that is my true humour.

Pist. Thou art the Mars of malcontents; I second thee; troop on. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN DR CAIUS'S HOUSE

Enter Mrs Quickly, Simple, and Rugby.

Quick. What; John Rugby!—I pray thee, go to the casement, and see if you can see my master, master doctor Caius, coming: if he do, i'faith, and find any body in the house, here will be an old abusing of the king's English.

Rug. I'll go watch.

[*Exit Rugby.*]

Quick. Go; and we'll have a posset for't soon at night, at the latter end of a sea-coal fire. An honest, willing, kind fellow, as ever servant shall come in house withal; and, I warrant you, no tell-tale, no no breed-bate⁶; his worst fault is, that he is given to prayer: he is something peevish that way: but nobody but has his fault;—but let that pass. Peter Simple, you say your name is?

Sim. Ay, for fault of a better.

Quick. And master Slender's your master?

Sim. Ay, forsooth.

Quick. Does he not wear a great round beard, like a Glover's paring knife?

S. No, forsooth: he hath but a little wee face, with a little yellow beard; a Cain-coloured beard.

Quick. A softly-sprighted man, is he not?

Sim. Ay, forsooth: but he is as tall⁷ a man of

¹ Hungarian. ³ Chapped feet.

² A fig.

⁴ Escheator; an officer in Exchequer.

¹ Cleverly. ³ Instigate.

² False dice.

⁵ Jealousy.

³ Spence.

⁶ Breeder of quarrels.

⁷ Brave.

his hands, as any is between this and his head ; he hath fought with a warrener.

Quick. How say you?—O, I should remember him ; does he not hold up his head, as it were? and strut in his gait?

Sim. Yes, indeed, does he.

Quick. Well, heaven send Anne Page no worse fortune. Tell master parson Evans, I will do what I can for your master; Anne is a good girl, and I wish—

Re-enter Rugby.

Rug. Out, alas! here comes my master.

Q. We shall all be shent¹: Run in here, good young man; go into this closet. [*Shuts Simple in the closet.*] He will not stay long.—What, John Rugby! John, what, John, I say!—Go, John, go enquire for my master; I doubt he be not well, that he comes not home:—and down, down, adown-a, &c. [*Sings.*

Enter Dr Caius.

Caius. Vat is you sing? I do not like dese toys; Pray you, go and vet h me in my closet *un boitier verd*; a box, a green-a box; Do intend vat I speak? a green-a box.

Q. Ay forsooth, I'll fetch it you. I am glad he went not in himself; if he had found the young man, he would have been horn-mad. [*Aside.*

Caius. *Fe, fe, fe, fe! ma foi, il fait fort chaud. Je m'en vais à la cour,—la grande affaire.*

Quick. Is it this, sir?

C. *Ouy; mette le au mon pocket; Dépêche, quickly.*—Vere is dat knave Rugby?

Quick. What, John Rugby! John!

Rug. Here, sir.

Caius. You are John Rugby, and you are Jack Rugby: Come, take-a your rapier, and come after my heel to de court.

Rug. 'Tis ready, sir, here in the porch.

C. By my trot, I tarry too long:—Od's me! *Qu'ay j'oublié?* dere is some simples in my closet, dat I will not for the varld I shall leave behind.

Quick. Ah me! he'll find the young man there, and be mad.

Caius. Vat is in my closet?—Villany? *larron!* [*Pulling Simple out.*] Rugby, my rapier.

Quick. Good master, be content.

Caius. Verefore shall I be content-a?

Quick. The young man is an honest man.

C. Vat shall de honest man do in my closet? dere is no honest man dat shall come in my closet.

Quick. I beseech you, be not flegmatick; hear the truth of it. He came of an errand to me from parson Hugh.

Caius. Vell.

Sim. Ay, forsooth, to desire her to——

Quick. Peace, I pray you.

C. Peace-a your tongue:—Speak-a your tale.

Sim. To desire this honest gentlewoman, your maid, to speak a good word to mistress Anne Page for my master, in the way of marriage.

Quick. This is all, indeed, la: but I'll ne'er put my finger in the fire, and heed not.

Caius. Sir Hugh send-a you?—Rugby, *baillez* me some paper:—Tarry you a little-a while.

[*Writes.*

Quick. I am glad he is so quiet; if he had been

¹ Scolded.

thoroughly moved, you should have heard him so loud, and so melancholy:—But notwithstanding, man, I'll do your master what good I can: and the very yea and the no is, the French doctor, my master,—I may call him my master, look you, for I keep his house; and I wash, wring, brew, bake, scour, dress meat and drink, make the beds, and do all myself:—

Sim. 'Tis a great charge, to come under one body's hand.

Quick. Are you avis'd o' that? you shall find it a great charge; and to be up early and down late:—but notwithstanding (to tell you in your ear; I would have no words of it;) my master himself is in love with mistress Anne Page; but notwithstanding that,—I know Anne's mind—that's neither here nor there.

Caius. You jack'nape: give-a dis letter to Sir Hugh; by gar, it is a shallenge; I vill cut his troat in de park; and I will teach a scurvy jack-a-nape priest to meddle or make:—you may be gone; it is not good you tarry here. [*Exit Simple.*

Quick. Alas, he speaks but for his friend.

C. It is no matter-a for dat;—do not you tell-a me dat I shall have Anne Page for myself?—by gar, I will kill de jack priest; and I have appointed mine host of *de Jarterre* to measure our weapon:—by gar, I vill myself have Anne Page.

Quick. Sir, the maid loves you, and all shall be well: we must give folks leave to prate.

Caius. Rugby, come to the court vit me;—By gar, if I have not Anne Page, I shall turn your head out of my door:—Follow my heels, Rugby.

[*Exeunt Caius and Rugby.*

Quick. You shall have An fools-head of your own. No, I know Anne's mind for that; never a woman in Windsor knows more of Anne's mind than I do; nor can do more than I do with her.

Fent. [*Within.*] Who's within there, ho?

Quick. Who's there, I trow? Come near the house, I pray you.

Enter Fenton.

Fent. How now, good woman; how dost thou?

Quick. The better, that it pleases your good worship to ask.

F. What news? how does pretty mistress Anne?

Q. In truth, sir, and she is pretty, and honest, and gentle: and one that is your friend, I can tell you that by the way; I praise heaven for it.

Fent. Shall I do any good, thinkest thou? Shall I not loose my suit?

Q. Troth, sir, all is in his hands above; but notwithstanding, master Fenton, I'll be sworn on a book she loves you:—Have not your worship a wart above your eye?

Fent. Yes, marry, have I: what of that?

Quick. Well, thereby hangs a tale;—good faith, it is such another Nan;—but, I detest, I an honest maid as ever broke bread:—We had an hour's talk of that wart;—I shall never laugh but in that maid's company!—But, indeed, she has given too much to allicholly and musing: But for you—Well, go to.

F. Well, I shall see her to-day: Hold, there's money for thee; let me have thy voice in my behalf:—if thou seest her before me, commend me—

¹ (I protest.)

Quick. Will I? i'faith, that we will: and I will tell your worship more of the wart the next time we have confidence; and of other woovers.

Fent. Well, farewell; I am in great haste now. [Exit.

Quick. Farewell to your worship.—Truly, an honest gentleman; but Anne loves him not: for I know Anne's mind as well as another does:—Out upon't! what have I forgot? [Exit.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—BEFORE PAGE'S HOUSE.

Enter Mistress Page with a letter.

Mrs Page. What! have I 'scaped love-letters in the holy-day time of my beauty, and am I now a subject for them? Let me see: [Reads.

Ask me no reason why I love you; for though love use reason for his precision,¹ he admits him not for his counsellor: You are not young, no more am I: go to then, there's sympathy: you are merry, so am I: Ha! ha! then there's more sympathy: you love sack, and so do I; Would you desire better sympathy? Let it suffice thee, mistress Page (at the least, if the love of a soldier can suffice), that I love thee. I will not say, pity me, 'tis not a soldierlike phrase; but I say, love me. By me,

*Thine own true knight,
By day or night,
With all his might,
For thee to fight,*

JOHN FALSTAFF.

O wicked, wicked world!—one that is well nigh worn to pieces with age, to show himself a young gallant! What unweighed behaviour hath this Flemish drunkard picked out of my conversation, that he dares in this manner assay me? Why, he hath not been thrice in my company!—What should I say to him?—I was then frugal of my mirth.—Why, I'll exhibit a bill in the parliament for the putting down of men. How shall I be revenged on him? for revenged I will be.

Enter Mistress Ford.

Mrs Ford. Mrs Page! trust me, I was going to your house.

Mrs Page. And trust me, I was coming to you. You look very ill.

Mrs Ford. Nay, I'll ne'er believe that; I have to show to the contrary.

Mrs Page. Faith, but you do, in my mind.

Mrs Ford. Well, I do then; yet, I say, I could show you to the contrary: O, mistress Page, give me some counsel!

Mrs Page. What's the matter, woman?

Mrs Ford. O woman, if it were not for one trifling respect, I could come to such honour!

Mrs Page. Hang the trifle, woman:—take the honour: What is it?—dispense with trifles;—what is it?

Mrs Ford. If I would but go to hell for an eternal moment, I could be knighted.

Mrs Page. What?—Sir Alice Ford!

Mrs Ford. We burn daylight:—here, read,

1 One rigidly exact.

read;—perceive how I might be knighted,—I shall think the worse of fat men, as long as I have an eye to make difference of men's liking: And yet he would not swear; praised women's modesty; and gave such orderly and well-behaved reproof to all uncomeliness, that I would have sworn his disposition would have gone to the truth of his words: but they do no more adhere and keep place together, than the hundredth psalm to the tune of *Green sleeves*. What tempest, I trow, threw this whale, with so many tuns of oil in him, ashore at Windsor? How shall I be revenged on him? I think, the best way were to entertain him with hope, till the wicked fire have melted him.—Did you ever hear the like?

Mrs Page. Letter for letter; but that the name of Page and Ford differs!—To thy great comfort in this mystery of ill-opinions, here's the twin-brother of thy letter: but let thine inherit first; for, I protest, mine never shall. I warrant he hath a thousand of these letters writ with blank space for different names (sure more), and these are of the second edition: He will print them out of doubt.

Mrs Ford. Why this is the very same; the very hand, the very words: What doth he think of us?

Mrs Page. Nay, I know not: it makes me almost ready to wrangle with mine own honesty. I'll entertain myself like one that I am not acquainted withal; for, sure, unless he know some strain in me, that I know not myself, he would never have boarded me in this fury. Let's be revenged on him; let's appoint him a meeting; give him a show of comfort in his suit: and lead him on with a fine-baited delay, till he hath pawn'd his horses to mine host of the Garter.

Mrs Ford. Nay, I will consent to act any villainy against him, that may not sully the chariness of our honesty. O, that my husband saw this letter! it would give eternal food to his jealousy.

Mrs Page. Why, look where he comes; and my good man too: he's as far from jealousy, as I am from giving him cause; and that, I hope, is an unmeasurable distance.

Mrs Ford. You are the happier woman.

Mrs Page. Let's consult together against this greasy knight: Come hither. [They retire.

Enter Ford, Pistol, Page, and Nym.

Ford. Well, I hope it be not so.

Pist. Hope is a curtail² dog in some affairs: Sir John affects thy wife.

Ford. Why, sir, my wife is not young. [poor, *Pist.* He woos both high and low, both rich and Both young and old, one with another, Ford; He loves thy gally-mawfry;³ Ford, perpend.⁴

Ford. Love my wife? [thou

Pist. With liver burning hot: Prevent, or go Like Sir Actæon he, with Ring-wood at thy heels: O, odious is the name!

Ford. What name, sir?

Pist. The horn, I say: Farewell. [night: Take heed; have open eye; for thieves do foot by Take heed, ere summer comes, or cuckoo-birds do Away, sir corporal Nym.— [sing.— Believe it, Page; he speaks sense. [Exit Pistol.

Ford. I will be patient; I will find out this.

1 Scrupulousness.

3 Menley.

2 That misses his game.

4 Consider.

Nym. And this is true. [*To Page.*] I like not the humour of lying. He hath wronged me in some humours; I should have borne the humoured letter to her: but I have a sword, and it shall bite upon my necessity. He loves your wife; there's the short and the long. My name is corporal Nym; I speak, and I avouch. 'Tis true:—my name is Nym, and Falstaff loves your wife,—Adieu! I love not the humour of bread and cheese; and there's the humour of it. Adieu. [*Exit Nym.*]

Page. The humour of it, quoth 'a! here's a fellow frights humour out of his wits.

Ford. I will seek out Falstaff.

Page. I never heard such a drawing, affecting rogue.

Ford. If I do find it, well.

Page. I will not believe such a Cataian, tho' the priest o' the town commended him for a true man.

Ford. 'Twas a good sensible fellow: Well.

Page. How now, Meg?

Mrs Page. Whither go you, George?—Hark you.

Mrs Ford. How now, sweet Frank? why art thou melancholy?

Ford. I melancholy! I am not melancholy.—Get you home, go.

Mrs Ford. Thou hast some crotchets in thy head now.—Will you go, mistress Page?

Mrs Page. Have with you.—You'll come to dinner, George?—Look, who comes yonder: she shall be our messenger to this paltry knight.

[*Aside to Mrs Ford.*]

Enter Mistress Quickly.

Mrs F. Trust me, I thought on her: she'll fit it.

Mrs P. You are come to see my daughter Anne?

Quick. Ay, forsooth; and, I pray, how does good mistress Anne?

Mrs Page. Go in with us, and see; we have an hour's talk with you.

[*Exeunt Mrs Page, Mrs Ford, and Mrs Quickly.*]

Page. How now, master Ford?

Ford. You heard what this knave told me; did you not?

P. Yes; and you heard what the other told me?

Ford. Do you think there is truth in them?

Page. Hang 'em, slaves! I do not think the knight would offer it: but these that accuse him in his intent towards our wives, are a yoke of his discarded men; very rogues, now they be out of service.

Ford. Were they his men?

Page. Marry, were they.

Ford. I like it never the better for that.—Does he lie at the Garter?

Page. Ay, marry, does he. If he should intend this voyage towards my wife, I would turn her loose to him; and what he gets more of her than sharp words, let it lie on my head.

Ford. I do not misdoubt my wife; but I would be loth to turn them together: A man may be too confident: I would have nothing lie on my head: I cannot be thus satisfied.

Page. Look, where my ranting host of the Garter comes: there is either liquor in his pate, or money in his purse, when he looks so merrily.—How now, mine host?

1 A lying sharper.

Enter Host and Shallow.

Host. How now, bully-rogue? thou'rt a gentleman: cavalero-justice, I say.

Shal. I follow, mine host, I follow.—Good even and twenty, good master Page! master Page, will you go with us? we have sport in hand.

Host. Tell him, cavalero-justice; tell him, bully-rogue.

Shal. Sir, there is a fray to be fought, between Sir Hugh the Welsh priest, and Caius the French doctor.

Ford. Good mine host of the Garter, a word with you.

Host. What say'st thou, bully-rogue?

[*They go aside.*]

Shal. Will you [*to Page*] go with us to behold it? my merry host hath had the measuring of their weapons; and, I think, he hath appointed them contrary places: for, believe me, I hear, the parson is no jester. Hark, I will tell you what our sport shall be.

Host. Hast thou no suit against my knight, my guest-cavalier?

Ford. None, I protest: but I'll give you a pottle of burnt sack to give me recourse to him, and tell him my name is Brook; only for a jest.

Host. My hand, bully: thou shalt have egress and regress; said I well? and thy name shall be Brook: It is a merry night.—Will you go on, hearts?

Shal. Have with you, mine host.

Page. I have heard the Frenchman hath good skill in his rapier.

Shal. Tut, sir, I could have told you more! In these times you stand on distance, your passes, stoccadoes, and I know not what: 'tis the heart, master Page; 'tis here, 'tis here. I have seen the time, with my long sword, I would have made you four tall fellows skip like rats.

Host. Here, boys, here, here! shall we wag?

Page. Have with you:—I had rather hear them scold than fight.

[*Exeunt Host, Shallow, and Page.*]

Ford. Though Page be a secure fool, and stands so firmly on his wife's frailty, yet I cannot put off my opinion so easily: she was in his company at Page's house; and, what they made there, I know not. Well, I will look further into't: and I have a disguise to sound Falstaff: If I find her honest, I lose not my labour; if she be otherwise, 'tis labour well bestowed. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Falstaff and Pistol.

Fal. I will not lend thee a penny.

Pist. Why then the world's mine oyster, Which I with sword will open.—
I will retort the sum in equipage.¹

Fal. Not a penny. I have been content, sir, you should lay my countenance to pawn; I have grated upon my good friends for three reprieves for you and your coach-fellow Nym; or else you had looked through the grate like a gemmy² of baboons. I am disgraced for swearing to gentlemen my friends, you were good soldiers, and tall fellows: and when Mistress Bridget lost the

1 Stolen goods.

2 Couple.

handle of her fan, I took't upon mine honour, thou hadst it not.

Pist. Didst thou not share? hadst thou not fifteen pence?

Fal. Reason, you rogue, reason: Think'st thou, I'll endanger my soul *gratis*? At a word, hang no more about me, I am no gibbet for you:—go.—A short knife and a throng:—to your manor of Picket-hatch,¹ go.—You'll not bear a letter for me, you rogue!—you stand upon your honour!—Why, thou unconfinable baseness, it is as much as I can do, to keep the terms of my honour precise. I, I, I myself sometimes, leaving the fear of heaven on the left hand, and hiding mine honour in my necessity, am fain to shuffle, to hedge, and to lurch; and yet you, rogue, will ensconce your rags, your cat-a-mountain looks, your red-lattice² phrases, and your bold-beating oaths, under the shelter of your honour! You will not do it, you?

Pist. I do relent: what would'st thou more of man?

Enter Robin.

Rob. Sir, here's a woman would speak with you.

Fal. Let her approach.

Enter Mrs Quickly.

Quick. Give your worship good-morrow.

Fal. Good-morrow, goodwife, What with me?

Quick. Shall I vouchsafe your worship a word or two?

Fal. Two thousand, fair woman; and I'll vouchsafe thee the hearing.

Quick. There is one mistress Ford, sir;—I pray, come a little nearer this ways;—I myself dwell with master doctor Caius.

Fal. Well, on: Mistress Ford you say.

Quick. Your worship says very true: I pray your worship, come a little nearer this ways.

Fal. I warrant thee, nobody hears;—mine own people, mine own people.

Quick. Are they so? Heaven bless them, and make them his servants!

Fal. Well: Mistress Ford:—what of her?

Quick. Why, sir, she's a good creature; but your worship's a wanton: Well, heaven forgive you, and all of us, I pray!

Fal. Mistress Ford:—come, mistress Ford,—

Quick. Marry, this is the short and the long of it; you have brought her into such a canaries³ as 'tis wonderful. The best courtier of them all, when the court lay at Windsor, could never have brought her to such a canary. Yet there has been knights, and lords, and gentlemen, with their coaches; I warrant you coach after coach, letter after letter, gift after gift; smelling so sweetly (all musk), and so rushing, I warrant you, in silk and gold; and in such alligant terms; and in such wine and sugar of the best and the fairest, that would have won any woman's heart; and, I warrant you, they could never get an eyewink of her—I had myself twenty angels given me this morning: but I defy all angels (in any such sort, as they say), but in the way of honesty:—and, I warrant you, they could never get her so much as sip on a cup with the proudest of

them all; and yet there has been earls, nay, which is more, pensioners; but, I warrant you, all is one with her.

Fal. But what says she to me? be brief, my good she-Mercury.

Quick. Marry, she hath received your letter; for the which she thanks you a thousand times; and she gives you to notify, that her husband will be absence from his house between ten and

Fal. Ten and eleven? [eleven?

Quick. Ay, forsooth; and then you may come and see the picture, she says that you wot of;—master Ford, her husband will be from home. Alas! the sweet woman leads an ill life with him; he's a very jealousy man; she leads a very frampold¹ life with him, good heart.

Fal. Ten and eleven: Woman, commend me to her; I will not fail her.

Quick. Why, you say well: But I have another messenger to your worship: Mistress Page hath her hearty commendations to you too;—and let me tell you in your ear, she's as virtuous a civil modest wife, and one (I tell you) that will not miss your morning nor evening prayer, as any is in Windsor, whoe'er be the other: and she bade me tell your worship, that her husband is seldom from home; but she hopes there will come a time. I never knew a woman so dote upon a man; surely, I think you have charms, la; yes, in truth.

Fal. Not I, I assure thee; setting the attraction of my good parts aside, I have no other charms.

Quick. Blessing on your heart for't!

Fal. But, I pray thee, tell me this: has Ford's wife, and Page's wife, acquainted each other how they love me?

Quick. That were a jest, indeed!—they have not so little grace, I hope:—that were a trick, indeed! But mistress Page would desire you to send her your little page, of all loves²; her husband has a marvellous infection to the little page; and, truly, master Page is an honest man. Never a wife in Windsor leads a better life than she does; do what she will, say what she will, take all, pay all, all is as she will; and, truly, she deserves it: for if there be a kind woman in Windsor, she is one. You must send her your page; no remedy.

Fal. Why, I will.

Quick. Nay, but do so then: and look you, he may come and go between you both; and, in any case, have a nay-word³ that you may know one another's mind, and the boy never need to understand any thing; for 'tis not good that children should know any wickedness: old folks, you know, have discretion, as they say, and know the world.

Fal. Fare thee well: commend me to them both: there's my purse; I am yet thy debtor.—Boy, go along with this woman.—This news distracts me. [Exit Quickly and Robin.

Pist. This is one of Cupid's carriers:—

Clap on more sails; pursue, up with your fights; Give fire; she is my prize, or ocean overwhelm them all! [Exit Pistol.

Fal. Say'st thou so, old Jack? Go thy ways;

1 In Clerkenwell. 2 Ale-house. 3 Quandary.

1 Fretted. 2 By all means. 3 A watch-word.

I'll make more of thy old body than I have done. Will they yet look after thee? Wilt thou, after the expence of so much money, be now a gainer?

Enter Bardolph.

Bard. Sir John, there's one master Brook below would fain speak with you, and be acquainted with you; and hath sent your worship a morning's draught of sack.

Fal. Brook, is his name?

Bard. Ay, sir.

Fal. Call him in. [*Exit Bardolph.*] Such Brooks are welcome to me, that o'erflow such liquor. Ah! ha! mistress Ford and mistress Page, have I compassed you? go to; *via!*

Re-enter Bardolph, with Ford disguised.

Fal. Bless you, sir.

Fal. And you, sir: Would you speak with me?

Ford. I make bold, to press with so little preparation upon you.

Fal. You're welcome: What's your will? Give us leave, drawer. [*Exit Bardolph.*]

Ford. Sir, I am a gentleman that have spent much; my name is Brook.

Fal. Good master Brook, I desire more acquaintance of you.

Ford. Good Sir John, I sue for yours; not to charge you; for I must let you understand, I think myself in better plight for a lender than you are: the which hath something embolden'd me to this unseason'd intrusion: for they say, if money go before, all ways do lie open.

Fal. Money is a good soldier, sir, and will on.

Ford. Troth, and I have a bag of money here troubles me; if you will help me to bear it, Sir John, take all, or half, for easing me of the carriage.

Fal. Sir, I know not how I may deserve to be your porter.

Ford. I will tell you, sir, if you will give me the hearing.

Fal. Speak, good master Brook; I shall be glad to be your servant.

Ford. Sir, I hear you are a scholar,—I will be brief with you;—and you have been a man long known to me, though I had never so good means, as desire, to make myself acquainted with you. I shall discover a thing to you, wherein I must very much lay open mine own imperfection: but, good Sir John, as you have one eye upon my follies, as you hear them unfolded, turn another into the register of your own; that I may pass with a reproof the easier, sith you yourself know how easy it is to be such an offender.

Fal. Very well, sir: proceed.

Ford. There is a gentlewoman in this town, her husband's name is Ford.

Fal. Well, sir.

Ford. I have long loved her, and, I protest to you, bestowed much on her; followed her with a doting observance; engrossed opportunities to meet her; feed'd every slight occasion, that could but niggardly give me sight of her; not only bought many presents to give her, but have given largely to many, to know what she would have given; briefly, I have pursued her, as love hath pursued me; which hath been, on the wing of

all occasions. But whatsoever I have merited, either in my mind, or in my means, meed, I am sure, I have received none; unless experience be a jewel: that I have purchas'd at an infinite rate; and that hath taught me to say this:

Love like a shadow flies, when substance love pursues; [*sues.*]

Pursuing that that flies, and flying what pur-

Fal. Have you received no promise of satisfaction at her hands?

Ford. Never.

Fal. Have you importun'd her to such a purpose?

Ford. Never.

Fal. Of what quality was your love then?

Ford. Like a fair house, built upon another man's ground; so that I have lost my edifice, by mistaking the place where I erected it.

Fal. To what purpose have you unfolded this to me?

Ford. When I have told you that, I have told you all. Some say, that, though she appear honest to me, yet, in other places, she enlargeth her mirth so far, that there is shrewd construction made of her. Now, Sir John, here is the heart of my purpose: You are a gentleman of excellent breeding, admirable discourse, of great admittance, authentic in your place and person, generally allowed for your many warlike, court-like, and learned preparations.

Fal. O, sir!

Ford. Believe it, for you know it.—There is money; spend it, spend it; spend more; spend all I have; only give me so much of your time in exchange of it, as to lay an amiable siege to the honesty of this Ford's wife: use your art of wooing, win her to consent to you; if any man may, you may as soon as any.

Fal. Would it apply well to the vehemency of your affection, that I should win what you would enjoy? Methinks you prescribe to yourself very preposterously.

Ford. O, understand my drift! she dwells so securely on the excellency of her honour, that the folly of my soul dares not present itself; she is too bright to be looked against. Now, could I come to her with any detection in my hand, my desires had instance and argument to commend themselves; I could drive her then from the ward of her purity, her reputation, her marriage vow, and a thousand other her defences, which now are too strongly embattled against me:—What say you to't, Sir John?

Fal. Master Brook, I will first make bold with your money; next, give me your hand; and last, as I am a gentleman, you shall, if you will, have Ford's wife.

Ford. O good sir!

Fal. Master Brook, I say you shall.

Ford. Want no money, Sir John, you shall want none.

Fal. Want no mistress Ford, master Brook, you shall want none. I shall be with her (I may tell you) by her own appointment; even as you came in to me, her assistant, or go-between, parted from me: I say, I shall be with her between ten and eleven: for at that time the jealous rascally

knave, her husband, will be forth. Come you to me at night; you shall know how I speed.

Ford. I am blest in your acquaintance. Do you know Ford, sir?

Fal. Hang him, poor knave! I know him not;—yet I wrong him to call him poor; they say, the jealous knave hath masses of money; for the which his wife seems to me well-favoured. I will use her as the key of the rogue's coffer; and there's my harvest-home.

Ford. I would you knew Ford, sir; that you might avoid him, if you saw him.

Fal. Hang him, mechanical salt-butter rogue! I will stare him out of his wits; I will awe him with my cudgel: it shall hang like a meteor o'er his horns: Master Brook, thou shalt know, I will predominate o'er the peasant, and thou shalt have his wife.—Come to me soon at night:—Ford's a knave, and I will aggravate his stile; come to me soon at night. *[Exit.]*

Fo. What an Epicurean rascal is this!—My heart is ready to crack with impatience.—Who says this is improvident jealousy? My wife hath sent to him, the hour is fixed, the match is made. Would any man have thought this?—See the curse of having a false woman! my bed shall be abused, my coffers ransacked, my reputation gnawn at; and I shall not only receive this villainous wrong, but stand under the adoption of abominable terms, and by him that does me this wrong. Page is an ass, a secure ass; he will trust his wife, he will not be jealous: I will rather trust a Fleming with my butter, parson Hugh the Welshman with my cheese, an Irishman with my aqua-vitæ bottle, or a thief to walk my ambling gelding, than my wife with herself: then she plots, then she ruminates, then she devises; and what they think in their hearts they may effect, they will break their hearts but they will effect. Heaven be praised for my jealousy!—Eleven o'clock the hour;—I will prevent this, detect my wife, be revenged on Falstaff, and laugh at Page. I will about it; better three hours too soon than a minute too late. Fie, fie, fie! *[Exit.]*

SCENE III.—WINDSOR PARK.

Enter Caius and Rugby.

Caius. Jack Rugby!

Rug. Sir.

Caius. Vat is de clock, Jack?

Rug. 'Tis past the hour, sir, that Sir Hugh promised to meet.

Caius. By gar, he has save his soul, dat he is no come; he has pray his Pible vell, dat he is no come: by gar, Jack Rugby, he is dead already, if he be come.

Rug. He is wise, sir: he knew your worship would kill him, if he came.

Caius. By gar, de herring is no dead, so as I vill kill him. Take your rapier, Jack: I vill tell you how I vill kill him.

Rug. Alas, sir, I cannot fence.

Caius. Villainy, take your rapier.

Rug. Forbear, here's company.

Enter Host, Shallow, Slender, and Page.

Host. 'Bless thee, bully doctor.

Shal. 'Save you, master doctor Caius.

Page. Now, good master doctor!

Slen. Give you good morrow, sir.

C. Vat be all you, one, two, tree, four, come for?

Host. To see thee fight, to see thee foin,¹ to see thee traverse, to see thee here, to see thee there; to see thee pass thy punto, thy stock, thy reverse, thy distance, thy montant.² Is he dead, my Ethiopian? is he dead, my Francisco? ha, bully! What says my Æsculapius? my Galen? my heart of elder? ha! is he dead, bully Stale? is he dead?

Caius. By gar, he is de coward Jack priest of the world; he is not show his face.

Host. Thou art a Castilian king! a Hector of Greece, my boy!

Caius. I pray you, bear witness that me have stay six or seven, two, tree hours for him, and he is no come.

Shal. He is the wiser man, master doctor: he is a curer of souls, and you a curer of bodies; if you should fight, you go against the hair of your professions: is it not true, master Page?

Page. Master Shallow, you have yourself been a great fighter, though now a man of peace.

Shal. Bodykins, master Page, though I now be old, and of the peace, if I see a sword out, my finger itches to make one: though we are justices, and doctors, and churchmen, master Page, we have some salt of our youth in us; we are the sons of women, master Page.

Page. 'Tis true, master Shallow.

Shal. It will be found so, master Page. Master doctor Caius, I am come to fetch you home. I am sworn of the peace; you have showed yourself a wise physician, and Sir Hugh hath shown himself a wise and patient churchman: you must go with me, master doctor.

H. Pardon, guest justice:—A word, monsieur.

Caius. Scurvy Jack-dog priest! by gar me vill cut his ears.

Host. He will clapper-claw thee tightly, bully.

Caius. Clapper-de-claw! vat is dat?

Host. That is, he will make thee amends.

Caius. By gar, me do look, he shall clapper-de-claw me: for by gar, me vill have it.

H. And I will provoke him to 't, or let him wag.

Caius. Me tank you for dat.

Host. And moreover, bully,—But first, master guest, and master Page, and eke cavalero Slender, go you through the town to Frogmore.

[Aside to them.]

Page. Sir Hugh is there, is he?

Host. He is there: see what humour he is in: and I will bring the doctor about by the fields: will it do well?

Shal. We will do it.

P., Shal., & Slen. Adieu, good master doctor.

[Exeunt Page, Shallow, and Slender.]

Caius. By gar, me vill kill de priest; for he speak for a jack-anape to Anne Page.

Host. Let him die: but, first, sheath thy impatience; throw cold water on thy choler: go about the fieldswith me through Frogmore: I will bring thee where Mrs Anne Page is, at a farm-house, a feasting; and thou shalt woo her: said I well?

Caius. By gar, me tank you for dat; by gar, I love you; and I shall procure-a you de good

¹ Fence. ² All terms in fencing.

guest, de earl, de knight, de lords, de gentlemen, my patients.

Host. For the which, I will be thy adversary towards Anne Page: said I well?

Caius. By gar, 'tis good; vell said.

Host. Let us wag then.

C. Come at my heels, Jack Rugby. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A FIELD NEAR FROGMORE.

Enter Sir Hugh Evans and Simple.

Eva. I pray you now, good master Slender's serving man, and friend Simple by your name, which way have you looked for master Caius, that calls himself *Doctor of Physick*?

Sim. Marry, sir, the city-ward, the park-ward, every way: old Windsor way, and every way but the town way.

Eva. I most feheimently desire you, you will also look that way.

Sim. I will, sir.

E. 'Pless my soul! how full of cholers I am, and trembling of mind!—I shall be glad, if he have deceived me:—how melancholies I am!—I will knog his knave's costard,¹ when I have good opportunities for the 'ork:—'pless my soul! *[Sings.]*

*To shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals:
There will we make our peds of roses,
And a thousand fragrant posies.*

To shallow—

Mercy on me! I have a great dispositions to cry.

*Melodious birds sing madrigals;—
When as I sat in Pabylon,—
And a thousand vagram posies.*

To shallow—

S. Yonder he is coming, this way, Sir Hugh.

Eva. He's welcome:—

To shallow rivers, to whose falls—

Heaven prosper the right!—What weapons is he?

S. No weapons, sir: there comes my master, master Shallow, and another gentleman from Frogmore, over the stile, this way.

Eva. Pray you, give me my gown: or else keep it in your arms.

Enter Page, Shallow, and Slender.

Shal. How now, master parson? Good morrow, good Sir Hugh. Keep a gamester from the dice, and a good student from his book, and it is wonderful.

Slen. Ah, sweet Anne Page!

Page. Save you, good Sir Hugh!

E. 'Pless you from his mercy sake, all of you!
Shal. What! the sword and the word! do you study them both, master parson?

Page. And youthful still, in your doublet and hose, this raw rheumatic day?

Eva. There is reasons and causes for it.

Page. We are come to you, to do a good office, master parson.

Eva. Fery well: What is it?

1 Head.

Page. Yonder is a most reverend gentleman, who belike, having received wrong by some person, is at most odds with his own gravity and patience, that ever you saw.

Shal. I have lived fourscore years and upwards; I never heard a man of his place, gravity, and learning, so wide of his own respect.

Eva. What is he?

Page. I think you know him; master doctor Caius, the renowned French physician.

Eva. I had as lief you would tell me of a mess of porridge.

Page. Why?

Eva. He has no more knowledge in Hibo-crates and Galen,—and he is a knave besides; a cowardly knave, as you would desires to be acquainted withal. *[fight with him.]*

Page. I warrant you he's the man should

Slen. O, sweet Anne Page!

Shal. It appears so, by his weapons:—Keep them asunder;—here comes doctor Caius.

Enter Host, Caius, and Rugby.

Page. Nay, good master parson, keep in your weapon.

Shal. So do you, good master doctor.

Host. Disarm them, and let them question: let them keep their limbs whole, and hack our English.

Caius. I pray you, let-a me speak a word vit your ear: Vefore vill you not meet-a me?

E. Pray you, use your patience: In good time.

Caius. By gar, you are de coward, de Jack dog, John ape.

Eva. Pray you, let us not be laughing-stogs to other men's humours; I desire you in friendship, and I will one way or other make you amends: and I will knog your knave's cogscomb, for missing your meetings and appointments.

Caius. Jack Rugby,—mine *Host de Jarterre*, have I not stay for him, to kill him? have I not, at de place I did appoint?

Eva. As I am a christians soul, now, look you, this is the place appointed; I'll be judgment by mine host of the Garter.

Host. Peace, I say, Gualia and Gaul, French and Welsh; soul-curer and body-curer.

Caius. Ay, dat is very good! excellent!

H. Peace, I say; hear mine host of the Garter. Am I politick? am I subtle? am I a Machiavel? Shall I lose my doctor? no; he gives me the pottions. Shall I lose my parson? my priest? my Sir Hugh? no; he gives me the proverbs and the noverbs.—Give me thy hand, terrestrial! so:—Give me thy hand, celestial! so.—Boys of art, I have deceived you both; I have directed you to wrong places: your hearts are mighty, your skins are whole, and let burnt sack be the issue.—Come, lay their swords to pawn:—Follow me, lad of peace: follow, follow, follow.

Shal. Trust me, a mad host:—Follow, gentlemen, follow.

Slen. O, sweet Anne Page!

[Exeunt Shal., Slen., Page, and Host.]

Caius. Ha! do I perceive dat? have you make-a de sot of us? ha, ha!

E. This is well; he has made us his vouting-stog.—I desire you, that we may be friends.

and let us knog our prains together, to be revenge on this same scall, scurvy, cogging companion, the host of the Garter.

Caius. By gar, vit all my heart: he promise to bring me vere is Anne Page: by gar, he deceive me too.

Eva. Well, I will smite his noddles:—Pray you, follow. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE STREET IN WINDSOR.

Enter Mrs Page and Robin.

Mrs Page. Nay, keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a follower, but now you are a leader: Whether had you rather lead mine eyes, or eye your master's heels?

Rob. I had rather, forsooth, go before you like a man, than follow him like a dwarf.

Mrs Page. O you are a flattering boy; now, I see, you'll be a courtier.

Enter Ford.

F. Well met, mistress Page: Whither go you?

Mrs Page. Truly, sir, to see your wife: Is she at home?

Ford. Ay; and as idle as she may hang together, for want of company: I think if your husbands were dead, you two would marry.

Mrs P. Besure of that,—two other husbands.

For. Where had you this pretty weather-cock?

Mrs Page. I cannot tell what his name is my husband had him of: What do you call your knight's name, sirrah?

Rob. Sir John Falstaff.

Ford. Sir John Falstaff?

Mrs Page. He, he; I can never hit on's name. There is such a league between my good man and he!—Is your wife at home, indeed?

Ford. Indeed, she is.

Mrs Page. By your leave, sir;—I am sick, till I see her. [*Exeunt Mrs Page and Robin.*]

Ford. Has Page any brains? hath he any eyes; hath he any thinking? Sure they sleep; he hath no use of them. Why, this boy will carry a letter twenty miles, as easy as a cannon will shoot point-blank twelve score. He pieces-out his wife's inclination; he gives her folly motion, and advantage; and now she's going to my wife, and Falstaff's boy with her. A man may hear this shower sing in the wind!—and Falstaff's boy with her!—Good plots!—they are laid; and our revolted wives share damnation together. Well; I will take him, then torture my wife, pluck the borrowed veil of modesty from the so seeming mistress Page, divulge Page himself for a secure and wilful Actæon; and to these violent proceedings all my neighbours shall cry aim! [*Clock strikes.*] The clock gives me my cue, and my assurance bids me search; there I shall find Falstaff: I shall be rather praised for this than mocked; for it is as positive as the earth is firm, that Falstaff is there: I will go.

Enter Page, Shallow, Slender, Host, Sir Hugh Evans, Caius, and Rugby.

Shal., Page, &c. Well met, master Ford.

Ford. Trust me, a good knot: I have good cheer at home; and I pray you, all go with me.

1 Encouragement.

Shal. I must excuse myself, master Ford.

Slen. And so must I, sir; we have appointed to dine with Mistress Anne, and I would not break with her for more money than I'll speak of.

Shal. We have lingered about a match between Anne Page and my cousin Slender, and this day we shall have our answer.

Slen. I hope I have your good-will, father Page.

Page. You have, master Slender; I stand wholly for you:—but my wife, master doctor, is for you altogether.

Caius. Ay, by gar; and de maid is love-a me; my nursh-a Quickly tell me so much.

Host. What say you to young master Fenton? he capers, he dances, he has eyes of youth, he writes verses, he speaks holyday; he smells April and May: he will carry't, he will carry't.

Page. Not by my consent, I promise you. The gentleman is of no having; he kept company with the wild Prince and Poins; he is of too high a region, he knows too much. No, he shall not knit a knot in his fortunes with the finger of my substance: if he take her, let him take her simply; the wealth I have, waits on my consent, and my consent goes not that way.

Ford. I beseech you, heartily, some of you go home with me to dinner: besides your cheer, you shall have sport; I will show you a monster. —Master doctor, you shall go;—so shall you, master Page;—and you, Sir Hugh.

Shal. Well, fare you well:—we shall have the freer wooing at master Page's.

[*Exeunt Shallow and Slender.*]

Caius. Go home, John Rugby; I come anon.

[*Exit Rugby.*]

Host. Farewell, my hearts: I will to my honest knight Falstaff, and drink canary with him.

[*Exit Host.*]

Ford. [*Aside.*] I think, I shall drink in pipe-wine first with him; I'll make him dance. Will you go, gentles?

All. Havewith you, to see this monster. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN FORD'S HOUSE.

Enter Mrs Ford and Mrs Page.

Mrs Ford. What, John! what, Robert!

Mrs P. Quickly, quickly: Is the buck-basket—

Mrs Ford. I warrant:—What, Robin, I say.

Enter Servants with a basket.

Mrs Page. Come, come, come.

Mrs Ford. Here, set it down.

Mrs Page. Give your men the charge; we must be brief.

Mrs Ford. Marry, as I told you before, John and Robert, be ready here hard by in the brew-house; and when I suddenly call you, come forth, and (without any pause, or staggering,) take this basket on your shoulders: that done, trudge with it in all haste, and carry it among the whitsters¹ in Datchet-mead, and there empty it in the muddy ditch, close by the Thames's side.

Mrs Page. You will do it?

Mrs Ford. I have told them over and over; they lack no direction: Begone, and come when you are called. [*Exeunt Servants.*]

Mrs Page. Here comes little Robin.

1 Bleachers.

Enter Robin.

Mrs Ford. How now, my eyas-musket?¹ what news with you?

Rob. My master Sir John is come in at your back-door, mistress Ford; and requests your company.

Mrs Page. You little Jack-a-lent,² have you been true to us?

Rob. Ay, I'll be sworn: My master knows not of your being here: and hath threatened to put me into everlasting liberty, if I tell you of it: for, he swears, he'll turn me away.

Mrs Page. Thou 'rt a good boy; this secrecy of thine shall be a tailor to thee, and shall make thee a new doublet and hose.—I'll go hide me.

Mrs Ford. Do so:—Go tell thy master, I am alone. Mistress Page, remember you your cue.

[Exit Robin.]

Mrs Page. I warrant thee; if I do not act it, hiss me. *[Exit Mrs Page.]*

Mrs Ford. Go to, then; we'll use this gross watery pumpion; we'll teach him to know turtles from jays.

Enter Falstaff.

Fal. Have I caught thee, my heavenly jewel! Why, now let me die, for I have lived long enough: this is the period of my ambition: O this blessed hour!

Mrs Ford. O sweet Sir John!

Fal. Mistress Ford, I cannot cog,³ I cannot prate, mistress Ford. Now shall I sin in my wish: I would thy husband were dead: I'll speak it before the best lord, I would make thee my lady.

Mrs Ford. I your lady, Sir John! alas, I should be a pitiful lady.

Fal. Let the court of France show me such another: I see how thine eye would emulate the diamond: Thou hast the right arched bent of the brow, that becomes the ship-tire, the tire-valliant, or any tire of Venetian admittance.

Mrs F. A plain kerchief, Sir John: my brows become nothing else; nor that well neither.

Fal. Thou art a traitor to say so: thou would'st make an absolute courtier: and the firm fixture of thy foot would give an excellent motion to thy gait, in a semi-circled farthingale. I see what thou wert, if fortune thy foe were not; nature is thy friend. Come, thou canst not hide it.

Mrs F. Believe me, there's no such thing in me.

Fal. What made me love thee? let that persuade thee, there's something extraordinary in thee. Come, I cannot cog, and say, thou art this and that, like a many of these lispish hawthorn buds, that come like women in men's apparel, and smell like Bucklers-bury in simple time,⁴ I cannot: but I love thee; none but thee; and thou deservest it.

Mrs Ford. Do not betray me, sir; I fear you love mistress Page.

Fal. Thou might'st as well say, I love to walk by the Counter-gate; which is as hateful to me as the reek of a lime-kiln.

Mrs Ford. Well, heaven knows how I love you; and you shall one day find it.

¹ Young hawk.

² Puppet.

³ Wheedle.

⁴ Formerly inhabited by druggists.

Fal. Keep in that mind; I'll deserve it.

Mrs Ford. Nay, I must tell you, so you do; or else I could not be in that mind.

Rob. *[within.]* Mistress Ford, mistress Ford! here's mistress Page at the door, sweating, and blowing, and looking wildly, and would needs speak with you presently.

Fal. She shall not see me; I will esconce me behind the arras.

Mrs Ford. Pray you, do so; she's a very tattling woman.— *[Falstaff hides himself.]*

Enter Mrs Page and Robin.

What's the matter? how now?

Mrs Page. O mistress Ford, what have you done? You're shamed, you are overthrown, you are undone for ever.

Mrs F. What's the matter, good mistress Page?

Mrs P. O well-a-day, mistress Ford! having an honest man to your husband, to give him such cause of suspicion!

Mrs Ford. What cause of suspicion?

Mrs Page. What cause of suspicion!—Out upon you! how am I mistook in you?

Mrs Ford. Why, alas! what's the matter?

Mrs Page. Your husband's coming hither, woman, with all the officers in Windsor, to search for a gentleman, that, he says, is here, now in the house, by your consent, to take an ill advantage of his absence: you are undone.

Mrs Ford. Speak louder *[Aside.]*—'Tis not so, I hope.

Mrs Page. Pray heaven it be not so, that you have such a man here; but 'tis most certain your husband's coming with half Windsor at his heels, to search for such a one. I come before to tell you: If you know yourself clear, why I am glad of it: but if you have a friend here, convey, convey him out. Be not amazed; call all your senses to you: defend your reputation, or bid farewell to your good life for ever.

Mrs F. What shall I do?—There is a gentleman, my dear friend; and I fear not mine own shame, so much as his peril: I had rather than a thousand pounds he were out of the house.

Mrs Page. For shame, never stand you *had rather*, and you *had rather*; your husband's here at hand, bethink you of some conveyance: in the house you cannot hide him.—O, how have you deceived me!—Look, here is a basket: if he be of any reasonable stature, he may creep in here; and throw foul linen upon him, as if it were going to bucking:¹ Or, it is whiting-time,² send him by your two men to Datchet-mead.

Mrs Ford. He's too big to go in there: What shall I do?

Re-enter Falstaff.

Fal. Let me see 't! let me see 't! O let me see 't! I'll in, I'll in;—follow your friend's counsel;—I'll in.

Mrs Page. What! Sir John Falstaff! Are these your letters, knight?

Fal. I love thee, and none but thee; help me away: let me creep in here; I'll never—

[He goes into the basket; they cover him with foul linen.]

Mrs Page. Help to cover your master, boy:

¹ Washing.

² Bleaching time.

Call your men, mistress Ford:—You dissembling knight.

Mrs Ford. What, John, Robert, John! [*Exit Robin; Re-enter Servants.*] Go, take up these clothes here, quickly; Where's the cowl-staff?¹ look, how you drumble;² carry them to the laundress in Datchet-mead; quickly, come.

Enter Ford, Page, Caius, and Sir Hugh Evans.

Ford. Pray you, come near: if I suspect without cause, why then make sport at me, then let me be your jest; I deserve it.—How now? whither bear you this?

Serv. To the laundress, forsooth.

Mrs Ford. Why, what have you to do whither they bear it? You were best meddle with buck-washing.

Ford. Buck? I would I could wash myself of the buck! Buck, buck, buck? Ay, buck; I warrant you, buck; and of the season too, it shall appear. [*Exeunt Servants with the basket.*] Gentlemen, I have dreamed to-night: I'll tell you my dream. Here, here, here be my keys: ascend my chambers, search, seek, find out: I'll warrant we'll unkennele the fox:—Let me stop this way first:—So now uncape.³

Page. Good master Ford, be contented: you wrong yourself too much.

F. True, master Page.—Up, gentlemen; you shall see sport anon: follow me, gentlemen. [*Exit.*]

Eva. This is fery fantastical humours, and jealousies.

Caius. By gar, 'tis no de fashion of France: it is not jealous in France.

P. Nay, follow him, gentlemen; see the issue of his search. [*Exeunt Evans, Page, and Caius.*]

Mrs Page. Is there not a double excellency in this?

Mrs Ford. I know not which pleases me better, that my husband is deceived, or Sir John.

Mrs Page. What a taking was he in, when your husband asked who was in the basket!

Mrs Ford. Throwing him into the water will do him a benefit.

Mrs P. Hang him, dishonest rascal! I would all of the same strain were in the same distress.

Mrs Ford. I think my husband hath some special suspicion of Falstaff's being here; for I never saw him so gross in his jealousy till now.

Mrs P. I will lay a plot to try that: And we will yet have more tricks with Falstaff: his dissolute disease will scarce obey this medicine.

Mrs Ford. Shall we send that foolish carrion, mistress Quickly, to him, and excuse his throwing into the water; and give him another hope, to betray him to another punishment?

Mrs Page. We'll do it; let him be sent for to-morrow eight o'clock, to have amends.

Re-enter Ford, Page, Caius, and Sir Hugh Evans.

Ford. I cannot find him: may be the knave bragged of that he could not compass.

Mrs Page. Heard you that?

Mrs Ford. Ay, ay, peace:—You use me well, master Ford, do you?

Ford. Ay, I do so.

Mrs Ford. Heaven make you better than your thoughts!

Ford. Amen.

Mrs Page. You do yourself mighty wrong, master Ford.

Ford. Ay, ay; I must bear it.

Eva. If there be any pody in the house, and in the chambers, and in the coffers, and in the presses, heaven forgive my sins!

Caius. By gar, nor I too; dere is no bodies.

Page. Fie, fie, master Ford! are you not ashamed? What spirit, what devil suggests this imagination? I would not have your distemper in this kind, for the wealth of Windsor Castle.

F. 'Tis my fault, master Page: I suffer for it.

Eva. You suffer for a pad conscience; your wife is as honest a 'omans, as I will desires among five thousand, and five hundred too.

Caius. By gar, I see 'tis an honest woman.

Ford. Well;—I promised you a dinner:—Come, come, walk in the park: I pray you, pardon me; I will hereafter make known to you why I have done this.—Come, wife;—come mistress Page: I pray you, pardon me; pray heartily, pardon me.

Page. Let's go in, gentlemen; but, trust me, we'll mock him. I do invite you to-morrow morning to my house to breakfast; after, we'll a-birding together; I have a fine hawk for the bush: Shall it be so?

Ford. Any thing.

Eva. If there is one, I shall make two in the company.

Ford. Pray you go, master Page.

Eva. I pray you now, remembrance to-morrow on the knave, mine host.

Caius. Dat is good; by gar, vit all my heart.

Eva. A knave; to have his gibes and his mockeries. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN PAGE'S HOUSE.

Enter Fenton and Mistress Anne Page.

Fent. I see, I cannot get thy father's love; Therefore, no more turn me to him, sweet Nan.

Anne. Alas! how then?

Fent. Why, thou must be thyself. He doth object, I am too great of birth; And that, my state being gall'd with my exile, I seek to heal it only by his wealth:—[pence, Besides these, other bars he lays before me,—My riots past, my wild societies; And tells me, 'tis a thing impossible I should love thee, but as a property.

Anne. May be, he tells you true.

Fent. No, heaven so speed me in my time to Albeit, I will confess thy father's wealth [come] Was the first motive that I woo'd thee, Anne: Yet, wooing thee, I found thee of more value Than stamps in gold, or sums in sealed bags; And 'tis the very riches of thyself That now I aim at.

Anne. Gentle master Fenton, Yet seek my father's love: still seek it, sir; If opportunity and humblest suit, Cannot attain it, why then.—Hark you hither.

[*They converse apart,*

1 For carrying a basket between two men.

2 Loiter.

3 Unbag the fox.

Enter Shallow, Slender, and Mrs Quickly.

Shal. Break their talk, Mrs Quickly; my kinsman shall speak for himself.

Slen. I'll make a shaft¹ or a bolt² on't: slid, 'tis but venturing.

Shal. Be not dismay'd.

Slen. No, she shall not dismay me: I care not for that,—but that I am afraid.

Quick. Hark ye; master Slender would speak a word with you.

A. I come to him.—This is my father's choice. O, what a world of vile ill-favour'd faults Looks handsome in three hundred pounds a year!

Quick. And how does good master Fenton? Pray you, a word with you.

Shal. She's coming; to her, coz. O boy, thou hadst a father.

Slen. I had a father, mistress Anne; my uncle can tell you good jests of him:—Pray you, uncle, tell mistress Anne the jest, how my father stole two geese out of a pen, good uncle.

Shal. Mistress Anne, my cousin loves you.

Slen. Ay, that I do; as well as I love any woman in Gloucestershire.

S. He will maintain you like a gentlewoman.

Slen. Ay, that I will, come cut and long-tail, under the degree of a squire.

Shal. He will make you a hundred and fifty pounds jointure.

Anne. Good master Shallow, let him woo for himself.

Shal. Marry, I thank you for it; I thank you for that good comfort. She calls you, coz: I'll leave you.

Anne. Now, master Slender.

Slen. Now, good mistress Anne.

Anne. What is your will?

Slen. My will? od's heartlings, that's a pretty jest indeed! I ne'er made my will yet, I thank heaven; I am not such a sickly creature, I give heaven praise.

Anne. I mean, master Slender, what would you with me?

Slen. Truly, for mine own part, I would little or nothing with you: Your father, and my uncle, have made motions; if it be my luck, so: if not, happy man be his dole!³ They can tell you how things go, better than I can: You may ask your father; here he comes.

Enter Page and Mistress Page.

Page. Now, master Slender:—Love him, daughter Anne.—

Why, how now! what does master Fenton here? You wrong me, sir, thus still to haunt my house: I told you, sir, my daughter is dispos'd of.

Fent. Nay, master Page, be not impatient.

Mrs P. Good master Fenton, come not to my Page. She is no match for you. [child.]

Fent. Sir, will you hear me?

Page. No, good master Fenton.

Come, master Shallow: come, son Slender; in:—Knowing my mind, you wrong me, master Fenton.

[*Exeunt Page, Shallow, and Slender.*]

Quick. Speak to mistress Page.

Fent. Good mistress Page, for that I love you in such a righteous fashion as I do, [daughter Perforce, against all checks, rebukes, and man—I must advance the colours of my love, [ners, And not retire: Let me have your good will.

A. Good mother, do not marry me to yond' fool.

Mrs P. I mean it not; I seek you a better hus-

Q. That's my master, master doctor. [band.

Anne. Alas, I had rather be set quick i' the And bow'd to death with turnips. [earth,

Mrs Page. Come, trouble not yourself: Good master Fenton.

I will not be your friend, nor enemy:

My daughter will I question how she loves you; And as I find her, so am I affected;

'Till then, farewell sir:—She must needs go in; Her father will be angry.

[*Exeunt Mrs Page and Anne.*]

F. Farewell, gentle mistress; farewell, Nan.

Quick. This is my doing, now;—Nay, said I, will you cast away your child on a fool, and a physician? Look on master Fenton:—this is my doing. [night]

Fent. I thank thee; and I pray thee, once to Give my sweet Nan this ring: There's for thy pains. [Exit.

Quick. Now heaven send thee good fortune! A kind heart he hath: a woman would run through fire and water for such a kind heart. But yet, I would my master had mistress Anne; or I would master Slender had her; or, in sooth, I would master Fenton had her: I will do what I can for them all three; for so I have promised, and I'll be as good as my word; but speciously¹ for master Fenton. Well, I must of another errand to Sir John Falstaff from my two mistresses: What a beast am I to slack² it. [Exit.

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Falstaff and Bardolph.

Fal. Bardolph, I say,—

Bard. Here, sir.

R. Go fetch me a quart of sack; put a toast in't. [*Exit Bard.*] Have I lived to be carried in a basket, like a barrow of butcher's offal? and to be thrown into the Thames? Well; if I be served such another trick, I'll have my brains ta'en out, and buttered, and give them to a dog for a new year's gift. The rogues slighted me into the river with as little remorse as they would have drowned blind puppies, fifteen i' the litter: and you may know by my size, that I have a kind of alacrity in sinking; if the bottom were ever so deep, I should down. I had been drowned, but that the shore was shelvy and shallow: a death that I abhor; for the water swells a man; and what a thing should I have been, when I had been swelled! I should have been a mountain of mummy.

Re-enter Bardolph, with the wine.

Bard. Here's mistress Quickly, sir, to speak with you.

Fal. Come, let me pour in some sack to the Thames water; for my inside's as cold as if I had swallowed snow-balls. Call her in.

Bard. Come in, woman.

¹ Specially.

² Neglect.

¹ A long arrow. ² A thick short arrow. ³ Lot.

Enter Mrs Quickly.

Quick. By your leave ; I cry you mercy : Give your worship good-morrow.

Fal. Take away these chalices : Go brew me a pottle of sack finely.—[*Exit Bardolph.*]—How now ?

Quick. Marry, sir, I come to your worship from mistress Ford.

Fal. Mistress Ford ! I have had ford enough : I was thrown into the ford.

Quick. Alas the day ! good heart, that was not her fault ; she does so take on with her men ; they mistook their erection.

Fal. So did I mine, to build upon a foolish woman's promise.

Quick. Well, she laments, sir, for it, that it would yearn your heart to see it. Her husband goes this morning a-birding ; she desires you once more to come to her between eight and nine : I must carry her word quickly ; she'll make you amends, I warrant you.

Fal. Well, I will visit her : Tell her so ; and bid her think, what a man is : let her consider his frailty, and then judge of my merit.

Quick. I will tell her.

Fal. Do so. Between nine and ten, say'st thou ?

Quick. Eight and nine, sir.

Fal. Well, be gone : I will not miss her.

Quick. Peace be with you, sir. [*Exit.*]

Fal. I marvel, I hear not of master Brook ; he sent me word to stay within : I like his money well. O, here he comes.

Enter Ford.

Ford. Bless you, sir !

Fal. Now, master Brook ? you come to know what hath passed between me and Ford's wife ?

Ford. That, indeed, Sir John, is my business.

Fal. Master Brook, I will not lie to you ; I was at her house the hour she appointed me.

Ford. And how sped you, sir ?

Fal. Very ill-favouredly, master Brook.

Ford. How so, sir ? Did she change her determination ?

Fal. No, master Brook ; but the peaking cornuto, her husband, master Brook, dwelling in a continual 'larum of jealousy, comes me in the instant of our encounter, after we had embraced, kissed, protested, and, as it were, spoke the prologue of our comedy ; and at his heels a rabble of his companions, thither provoked and instigated by his distemper, and, forsooth, to search his house for his wife's love.

Ford. What, while you were there ?

Fal. While I was there.

Ford. And did he search for you, and could not find you ?

Fal. You shall hear. As good luck would have it, comes in one mistress Page ; gives intelligence of Ford's approach ; and, by her invention, and Ford's wife's distraction, they conveyed me into a buck-basket !

Ford. A buck-basket ?

Fal. Yea, a buck-basket : rammed me in with foul shirts and socks, foul stockings, and greasy napkins ; that, master Brook, there was the rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended nostril.

Ford. And how long lay you there ?

Fal. Nay, you shall hear, master Brook, what I have suffered to bring this woman to evil for your good. Being thus crammed in the basket, a couple of Ford's knaves, his hinds, were called forth by their mistress, to carry me in the name of foul clothes to Datchet-lane : they took me on their shoulders : met the jealous knave their master in the door ; who asked them once or twice what they had in their basket : I quaked for fear, lest the lunatic knave would have searched it ; but Fate held his hand. Well ; on went he for a search, and away went I for foul clothes. But mark the sequel, master Brook : I suffered the pangs of three several deaths : first, an intolerable fright, to be detected with a jealous bell-wether ; next, to be compassed like a good bilbo, in the circumference of a peck, hilt to point, heel to head ; and then, to be stopped in, like a strong distillation, with stinking clothes : think of that—a man of my kidney, think of that ; that am as subject to heat as butter ; a man of continual dissolution and thaw ; it was a miracle to 'scape suffocation. And in the height of this bath, when I was more than half-stewed in grease, like a Dutch dish, to be thrown into the Thames, and cooled, glowing hot, in that surge, like a horse-shoe ; think of that ;—hissing hot,—think of that, master Brook.

Ford. In good sadness, sir, I am sorry that for my sake you have suffered all this. Mysuit then is desperate ; you'll undertake her no more ?

Fal. Master Brook, I will be thrown into Ætna, as I have been into Thames, ere I will leave her thus. Her husband is this morning gone a-birding : I have received from her another embassy of meeting ; 'twixt eight and nine is the hour, master Brook.

Ford. 'Tis past eight already, sir.

F. Is it ? I will then address me to my appointment. Come to me at your convenient leisure, and you shall know how I speed ; and the conclusion shall be crowned with your having her : Adieu. You shall have her, master Brook. [*Exit.*]

Ford. Hum ! ha ! is this a vision ? is this a dream ? do I sleep ? master Ford, awake ; awake, master Ford ; there's a hole made in your best coat, master Ford. This 'tis to be married ! this 'tis to have linen and buck-baskets !—Well, I will proclaim myself what I am : I will now take the lecher ; he is at my house : he cannot 'scape me ; 'tis impossible he should ; he cannot creep into a halfpenny purse, nor into a pepper-box ; but, lest the devil that guides him should aid him, I will search impossible places. Though what I am I cannot avoid, yet to be what I would not, shall not make me tame : if I have horns to make one mad, let the proverb go with me, I'll be horn mad. [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN FORD'S HOUSE.

Enter Falstaff and Mrs Ford.

Fal. Mistress Ford, your sorrow hath eaten up my sufferance ; I see you are obsequious in your

love, and I profess requital to a hair's breadth; not only, mistress Ford, in the simple office of love, but in all the accoutrement, complement, and ceremony of it. But are you sure of your husband now?

Mrs Ford. He's a-birding, sweet Sir John.

Mrs Page. [*Within.*] What ho, gossip Ford! what ho!

Mrs Ford. Step into the chamber, Sir John.

[*Exit Falstaff.*]

Enter Mrs Page.

Mrs Page. How now, sweetheart? who's at home beside yourself?

Mrs Ford. Why, none but mine own people.

Mrs Page. Indeed?

Mrs F. No, certainly;—speak louder. [*Aside.*]

Mrs Page. Truly, I am so glad you have nobody here.

Mrs Ford. Why?

Mrs P. Why, woman, your husband is in his own luns¹ again: he so takes on yonder with my husband; so rails against all married mankind; so curses all Eve's daughters, of what complexion soever; and so buffets himself on the forehead, crying *Peer out, peer out!* that any madness I ever yet beheld seemed but tameness, civility, and patience, to this his distemper he is in now: I am glad the fat knight is not here.

Mrs Ford. Why, does he talk of him?

Mrs P. Of none but him; and swears he was carried out, the last time he searched for him, in a basket: protests to my husband he is now here; and hath drawn him and the rest of their company from their sport, to make another experiment of his suspicion: but I am glad the knight is not here; now he shall see his own foolery.

Mrs Ford. How near is he, mistress Page?

Mrs Page. Hard by; at street end; he will be here anon.

Mrs Ford. I am undone!--the knight is here.

Mrs Page. Why, then you are utterly shamed, and he's but a dead man. What a woman are you?—Away with him, away with him; better shame than murder.

Mrs Ford. Which way should he go? how should I bestow him? Shall I put him into the basket again?

Re-enter Falstaff.

Fal. No, I'll come no more if the basket: May I not go out ere he come?

Mrs Page. Alas, three of master Ford's brothers watch the door with pistols, that none shall issue out; otherwise you might slip away ere he came. But what make you here?

Fal. What shall I do?—I'll creep up into the chimney.

Mrs Ford. There they always use to discharge their birding-pieces: creep into the kiln-hole.

Fal. Where is it?

Mrs Ford. He will seek there, on my word. Neither press, coffer, chest, trunk, well, vault, but he hath an abstract for the remembrance of such places, and goes to them by his note: There is no hiding you in the house.

Fal. I'll go out then.

Mrs Page. If you go out in your own sem-

1 Mad fits.

blance, you die, Sir John. Unless you go out disguised.

Mrs Ford. How might we disguise him?

Mrs Page. Alas the day, I know not. There is no woman's gown big enough for him; otherwise, he might put on a hat, a muffler, and a kerchief, and so escape.

Fal. Good hearts, devise something: any extremity rather than a mischief.

Mrs Ford. My maid's aunt, the fat woman of Brentford, has a gown above.

Mrs Page. On my word, it will serve him; she's as big as he is: and there's her thrum'd hat, and her muffler too: Run up, Sir John.

Mrs Ford. Go, go, sweet Sir John: mistress Page and I will look some linen for your head.

Mrs P. Quick, quick; we'll come dress you straight: put on the gown the while. [*Exit Fal.*]

Mrs F. I would my husband would meet him in this shape: he cannot abide the old woman of Brentford; he swears she's a witch: forbade her my house, and hath threatened to beat her.

Mrs P. Heaven guide him to thy husband's cudgel; and the devil guide his cudgel afterwards!

Mrs Ford. But is my husband coming?

Mrs Page. Ay, in good sadness is he; and talks of the basket too, howsoever he hath had intelligence.

Mrs Ford. We'll try that; for I'll appoint my men to carry the basket again, to meet him at the door with it, as they did last time.

Mrs Page. Nay, but he'll be here presently; let's go dress him like the witch of Brentford.

Mrs Ford. I'll first direct my men, what they shall do with the basket. Go up, I'll bring linen for him straight. [*Exit.*]

Mrs Page. Hang him, dishonest varlet! we cannot misuse him enough.

We'll leave a proof, by that which we will do, Wives may be merry, and yet honest too. [*Exit.*]

Re-enter Mrs Ford, with two Servants.

Mrs Ford. Go, sirs, take the basket again on your shoulders; your master is hard at door; if he bid you set it down, obey him: quickly, dispatch. [*Exit.*]

1 *Serv.* Come, come, take it up.

2 *Serv.* Pray heaven, it be not full of the knight again.

1 *Serv.* I hope not; I had as lief bear so much lead.

Enter Ford, Page, Shallow, Caius, and Sir Hugh Evans.

Ford. Ay, but if it prove true, master Page, have you any way then to unfool me again?—Set down the basket, villain:—Somebody call my wife—You, youth in a basket, come out here!—O, you panderly rascals! there's a knot, a gang, a pack, a conspiracy against me: Now shall the devil be shamed. What! wife, I say! come, come forth; behold what honest clothes you send forth to bleaching!

Page. Why, this passes! Master Ford, you are not to go loose any longer; you must be pinioned.

Eva. Why, this is lunatics! this is mad as a mad dog!

Shal. Indeed, master Ford, this is not well; indeed.

Enter Mrs Ford.

Ford. So say I too, sir.—Come hither, mistress Ford; mistress Ford, the honest woman, the modest wife, the virtuous creature, that hath the jealous fool to her husband!—I suspect without cause, mistress, do I?

Mrs Ford. Heaven be my witness, you do, if you suspect me in any dishonesty.

Ford. Well said, brazen face; hold it out.—Come forth, sirrah.

[Pulls the clothes out of the basket.]

Page. This passes!

Mrs Ford. Are you not ashamed? let the clothes alone.

Ford. I shall find you anon.

Eva. 'Tis unreasonable! Come away.

Ford. Empty the basket, I say.

Mrs Ford. Why, man, why,—

F. Master Page, as I am a man, there was one conveyed out of my house yesterday in this basket: Why may not he be there again? In my house I am sure he is: my intelligence is true; my jealousy is reasonable: Pluck me out all the linen.

Mrs Ford. If you find a man there, he shall die a flea's death.

Page. Here's no man.

Shal. By my fidelity, this is not well, master Ford; this wrongs you.

Eva. Master Ford, you must pray, and not follow the imaginations of your own heart: this is jealousies.

Ford. Well, he's not here I seek for.

Page. No, nor no where else, but in your brain.

Ford. Help to search my house this one time: if I find not what I seek, show no colour for my extremity, let me for ever be your table sport; let them say of me, as jealous as Ford, that searched a hollow walnut for his wife's leman. Satisfy me once more; once more search with me.

Mrs Ford. What ho, mistress Page! come you and the old woman down; my husband will come into the chamber.

Ford. Old woman! What old woman's that?

Mrs F. Why, it's my maid's aunt of Brentford.

Ford. A witch, a quean, an old cozening quean! Have I not forbid her my house? She comes of errands, does she? We are simple men; we do not know what's brought to pass under the profession of fortune-telling. She works by charms, by spells, by the figure, and such daubery as this is; beyond our element: we know nothing.—Come down, you witch, you hag you; come down, I say.

Mrs Ford. Nay, good, sweet husband;—good gentlemen, let him not strike the old woman.

Enter Falstaff in woman's clothes, led by Mrs Page.

Mrs Page. Come, mother Pratt, come, give me your hand.

Ford. I'll prat her:—out of my door, you witch! *[beats him.]* you rag, you baggage, you pole-cat! out! out! I'll conjure you, I'll fortune-tell you. *[Exit Fal.]*

Mrs Page. Are you not ashamed? I think you have kill'd the poor woman.

Mrs Ford. Nay, he will do it:—'Tis a goodly credit for you.

Ford. Hang her, witch!

Eva. By yea and no, I think, the 'oman is a witch indeed: I like not when a 'oman has a great peard; I spy a great peard under her muffler.

Ford. Will you follow, gentlemen? I beseech you, follow; see but the issue of my jealousy: if I cry out thus upon no trail, never trust me when I open again.

Page. Let's obey his humour a little further: Come, gentlemen,

[Exeunt Page, Ford, Shallow, and Evans.]

Mrs P. Trust me, he beat him most pitifully.

Mrs Ford. Nay, by the mass, that he did not; he beat him most unpitifully, methought.

Mrs Page. I'll have the cudgel hallowed; it hath done meritorious service.

Mrs Ford. What think you? May we, with the warrant of womanhood, and the witness of a good conscience, pursue him with any further revenge?

Mrs Page. The spirit of wantonness is, sure, scared out of him; if the devil have him not in fee-simple, with fine and recovery, he will never, I think, attempt us again.

Mrs Ford. Shall we tell our husbands how we have served him?

Mrs Page. Yes, by all means; if it be but to scrape the figures out of our husband's brains. If they can find in their hearts, the poor unvirtuous fat knight shall be any further afflicted, we two will still be the ministers.

Mrs F. I'll warrant, they'll have him publicly shamed; and, methinks, there would be no period to the jest, should he not be publicly shamed.

Mrs Page. Come, to the forge with it then, shape it: I would not have things cool. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Host and Bardolph.

Bard. Sir, the Germans desire to have three of your horses: the duke himself will be to-morrow at court, and they are going to meet him.

Host. What duke should that be, comes so secretly? I hear not of him in the court; Let me speak with the gentlemen; they speak English?

Bard. Ay, sir; I'll call them to you.

Host. They shall have my horses; but I'll make them pay, I'll sauce them: they have had my houses a week at command; I have turned away my other guests: they must come off; I'll sauce them: Come. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN FORD'S HOUSE.

Enter Page, Ford, Mrs Page, Mrs Ford, and Sir Hugh Evans.

Eva. 'Tis one of the best discretions of a 'oman as ever I did look upon.

Page. And did he send you both these letters at an instant?

Mrs Page. Within a quarter of an hour.

F. Pardon me, wife: Henceforth do what thou I rather will suspect the sun with cold, [wilt; Than thee with wantonness: now doth thy honour In him that was of late an heretick, . . . [stand, As firm as faith.

Page. 'Tis well, 'tis well; no more. Be not as extreme in submission, As in offence; But let our plot go forward: let our wives

Yet once again, to make us publick sport,
Appoint a meeting with this old fat fellow,
Where we may take him, and disgrace him for it.
Ford. There is no better way than that they
spoke of.

Page. How! to send him word they'll meet him
in the park at midnight! fie, fie! he'll never come.

Eva. You say, he has been thrown in the rivers;
and has been grievously peaten, as an old 'oman:
methinks, there should be terrors in him, that
he should not come.

Page. So think I too. [Enter Ford.] [He comes,
Mrs Ford. Devise but how you'll use him when
And let us two devise to bring him thither.

Mrs P. There is an old tale goes, that Herne
the hunter,

Sometime a keeper here in Windsor forest,
Doth all the winter time, at still midnight,
Walk roundabout an oak, with great ragg'd horns;
And there he blasts the tree, and takes¹ the cattle;
And makes milch-kine yield blood, and shakes a
In a most hideous and dreadful manner: [chain
You have heard of such a spirit; and well you
The superstitious idle-headed eld² [know,
Received, and did deliver to our age,
This tale of Herne the hunter for a truth.

P. Why, yet there want not many, that do fear
In deep of night to walk by this Herne's oak:
But what of this?

Mrs Ford. Marry, this is our device;
That Falstaff at that oak shall meet with us,
Disguis'd like Herne, with huge horns on his head.
P. Well, let it not be doubted but he'll come.
And in this shape: When you have brought him
thither,

Whatshall be done with him? what is your plot?

Mrs Page. That likewise have we thought
upon, and thus:

Nan Page my daughter, and my little son,
And three or four more of their growth, we'll dress
Like unchins, ophes,³ and fairies, green and
white,

With rounds of waxen tapers on their heads,
And rattles in their hands; upon a sudden,
As Falstaff, she, and I, are newly met,
Let them from forth a saw-pit rush at once
With some diffused song; upon their sight,
We two in great amazement will fly:
Then let them all encircle him about,
And, fairy-like, to pinch the unclean knight:
And ask him, why, that hour of fairy-revel,
In their so sacred paths he dares to tread,
In shape prophane.

Mrs Ford. And till he tell the truth,
Let the supposed fairies pinch him sound,
And burn him with their tapers.

Mrs Page. The truth being known,
We'll all present ourselves; dis-horn the spirit,
And mock him home to Windsor.

Ford. The children must
Be practis'd well to this, or they'll ne'er do't.

Eva. I will teach the children their behaviours;
and I will be like a jack-an-apes also, to burn
the knight with my taper. [vizards.]

Ford. That will be excellent. I'll go buy them

Mrs Page. My Nan shall be the queen of all
finely attired in a robe of white. [the fairies,

1 Strikes. 2 Old age. 3 Elves.

P. That silk will I go by;—and in that time
Shall master Slender steal my Nan away, [Aside.
And marry her at Eton.—Go, send to Falstaff
straight.

Ford. Nay, I'll to him again in name of Brook:
He'll tell me all his purpose: Sure, he'll come.

Mrs Page. Fear not you that: Go, get us pro-
And tricking for our fairies, [parties]

Eva. Let us about it: It is admirable pleasures,
and fery honest knaveries.

[Exeunt Page, Ford, and Evans.]

Mrs Page. Go, mistress Ford,
Send quickly to Sir John, to know his mind.

[Exit Mrs Ford.]

I'll to the doctor; he hath my good will,
And none but he, to marry with Nan Page.
That Slender, though well landed, is an idiot;
And he my husband best of all affects:
The doctor is well money'd, and his friends
Potent at court; he, none but he, shall have her,
Though twenty thousand worthier come to crave
her. [Exit]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Host and Simple.

Host. What would'st thou have, boor? what,
thick-skin? speak, breathe, discuss; brief, short,
quick, snap.

Sim. Marry, sir, I come to speak with Sir John
Falstaff from master Slender.

Host. There's his chamber, his house, his
castle, his standing-bed, and truckle-bed; 'tis
painted about with the story of the prodigal, fresh
and new: Go, knock and call; he'll speak like an
*Anthropophaginian*¹ unto thee: Knock, I say.

Sim. There's an old woman, a fat woman, gone
up into his chamber; I'll be so bold as stay, sir,
till she come down: I come to speak with her,
indeed.

Host. Ha! a fat woman! the knight may be
robb'd: I'll call.—Bully knight! Bully Sir John!
speak from thy lungs military: Art thou there?
it is thine host, thine Ephesian, calls.

Fal. [above.] How now, mine host?

Host. Here's a Bohemian-Tartar carries the
coming down of thy fat woman: Let her descend,
bully, let her descend; my chambers are honour-
able: Fye! privacy! fye!

Enter Falstaff.

Fal. There was, mine host, an old fat woman
even now with me; but she's gone.

Sim. Pray you, sir, was't not the wise woman
of Brentford?

Fal. Ay, marry, was it, muscle-shell; What
would you with her?

Sim. My master, sir, my master Slender, sent
to her, seeing her go through the streets, to
know, sir, whether one Nym, sir, that beguiled
him of a chain, had the chain, or no.

Fal. I spake with the old woman about it.

Sim. And what says she, I pray, sir?

Fal. Marry, she says, that the very same man,
that beguiled master Slender of his chain,
cozened him of it.

Sim. I would, I could have spoken with the

1 A cannibal.

woman herself; I had other things to have spoken with her too, from him.

Fal. What are they? let us know.

Host. Ay, come; quick.

Sim. I may not conceal them, sir.

Fal. Conceal them, or thou diest.

Sim. Why, sir, they were nothing but about mistress Anne Page; to know, if it were my master's fortune to have her, or no.

Fal. 'Tis his fortune.

Sim. What, sir?

Fal. To have her,—or no: Go; say, the woman told me so.

Sim. May I be so bold to say so, sir?

Fal. Ay, Sir Tike; who more bold?

Sim. I thank your worship: I shall make my master glad with these tidings. [*Exit Simple.*]

Host. Thou art clerkly,¹ thou art clerkly, Sir John. Was there a wise woman with thee?

Fal. Ay, that there was, mine host; one that hath taught me more wit than ever I learned before in my life: and I paid nothing for it neither, but was paid for my learning.

Enter Bardolph.

Bard. Out, alas, sir! cozenage! mere cozenage!

Host. Where be my horses? speak well of them, varletto.

Bard. Run away with the cozeners: for so soon as I came beyond Eton, they threw me off, from behind one of them, in a slough of mire; and set spurs, and away, like three German devils, three Doctor Faustuses.

Host. They are gone but to meet the duke, villain; do not say, they be fled; Germans are honest men.

Enter Sir Hugh Evans.

Eva. Where is mine host?

Host. What is the matter, sir?

Eva. Have a care of your entertainments; there is a friend of mine come to town, tells me, there is three couzin Germans, that has cozened all the hosts of Readings, of Maidenhead, of Colebrook, of horses and money. I tell you for good-will, look you: you are wise, and full of gibes and vlouting-stogs: and 'tis not convenient you should be cozened: Fare you well. [*Exit.*]

Enter Doctor Caius.

Caius. Vere is mine Host de Jarterre?

Host. Here, master doctor, in perplexity and doubtful dilemma.

Caius. I cannot tell vat is dat: but it is tell-a-me, dat you make grand preparation for a duke de Jarmany; by my trot, dere is no duke, dat the court is know to come; I tell you for good vill: Adieu. [*Exit.*]

Host. Hue and cry, villain, go:—assist me, knight; I am undone:—fly, run, hue and cry, villain! I am undone!

[*Exeunt Host and Bardolph.*]

Fal. I would all the world might be cozened; for I have been cozened and beaten too. If it should come to the ear of the court, how I have been transformed, and how my transformation hath been washed and cudgeled, they would melt me out of my fat, drop by drop, and liquor

fisherman's boots with me: I warrant, they would whip me with their fine wits, till I were as crest-fallen as a dried pear. I never prospered since I foreswore myself at *Primer*.¹ Well, if my wind were but long enough to say my prayers, I would repent.—

Enter Mrs Quickly.

Now! whence come you?

Quick. From the two parties, forsooth.

Fal. The devil take one party, and his dam the other, and so they shall be both bestow'd! I have suffered more for their sakes, more, than the villainous inconstancy of man's disposition is able to bear.

Quick. And have not they suffered? Yes, I warrant speciously one of them: mistress Ford, good heart, is beaten black and blue, that you cannot see a white spot about her.

Fal. What tell'st thou me of black and blue? I was beaten myself into all the colours of the rainbow, and I was like to be apprehended for the witch of Brentford; but that my admirable dexterity of wit, my counterfeiting the action of an old woman, deliver'd me, the knave constable had set me i' the stocks, i' the common stocks, for a witch.

Quick. Sir, let me speak with you in your chamber: you shall hear how things go; and, I warrant, to your content. Here is a letter will say somewhat. Good hearts, what ado here is to bring you together! Sure one of you does not serve heaven well, that you are so crossed.

Fal. Come up into my chamber. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

ANOTHER ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Fenton and Host.

Host. Master Fenton, talk not to me; my mind is heavy, I will give over all.

F. Yet hear me speak: Assist me in my pur- And, as I am a gentleman, I'll give thee [pose, A hundred pound in gold, more than your loss.

Host. I will hear you, master Fenton; and I will, at the least, keep your counsel.

F. From time to time I have acquainted you With the dear love I bear to fair Anne Page; Who, mutually, hath answered my affection (So far forth as herself might be her chooser), Even to my wish: I have a letter from her Of such contents as you will wonder at; The mirth whereof so larded with my matter, That neither, singly, can be manifested, Without the show of both;—wherein fat Falstaff Hath a great scene: the image of the jest

[*Showing the letter.*]

I'll show you here at large. Hark, good mine host, To-night at Herne's oak, just 'twixt twelve and Must my sweet Nan present the fairy queen; one, The purpose why, is here; in which disguise, While other jests are something rank on foot, Her father hath commanded her to slip Away with Slender, and with him at Eton Immediately to marry: she hath consented: Now, sir,

Her mother, ever strong against that match, And firm for doctor Caius, hath appointed

¹ Scholar-like.

¹ A game at cards.

That he shall likewise shuffle her away,
While other sports are tasking of their minds,
And at the deanery, where a priest attends,
Straight marry her: to this her mother's plot
She, seemingly obedient, likewise hath
Made promise to the doctor:—Now, thus it rests;
Her father means she shall be all in white;
And in that habit, when Slender sees his time
To take her by the hand, and bid her go,
She shall go with him:—her mother hath in-
The better to denote her to the doctor [tended,
(For they must all be mask'd and vizarded),
That, quaint in green, she shall be loose enrob'd,
With ribands pendant, flaring 'bout her head;
And when the doctor spies his vantage ripe,
To pinch her by the hand, and on that token,
The maid hath given consent to go with him.

Host. Which means she to deceive? father or mother!

F. Both, my good host, to go along with me:
And here it rests,—that you'll procure the vicar
To stay for me at church, 'twixt twelve and one,
And, in the lawful name of marrying,
To give our hearts united ceremony. [*vicar:*

Host. Well, husband your device: I'll to the
Bring you the maid, you shall not lack a priest.

Fent. So shall I evermore be bound to thee;
Besides, I'll make a present recompense.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE GARTER INN.

Enter Falstaff and Mrs Quickly.

Fal. Pr'ythee, no more prattling;—go.—
I'll hold. This is the third time; I hope, good
luck lies in odd numbers. Away, go; they say,
there is divinity in odd numbers, either in
nativity, chance, or death.—Away.

Quick. I'll provide you a chain; and I'll do
what I can to get you a pair of horns.

Fal. Away, I say; time wears: hold up your
head and mince. [*Exit Mrs Quickly.*

Enter Ford.

How now, master Brook? master Brook, the
matter will be known to-night, or never. Be
you in the Park about midnight, at Herne's
oak, and you shall see wonders.

Ford. Went you not to her yesterday, sir, as
you told me you had appointed?

Fal. I went to her, master Brook, as you see,
like a poor old man: but I came from her,
master Brook, like a poor old woman. That
same knave, Ford, her husband, hath the finest
mad devil of jealousy in him, master Brook,
that ever governed frenzy. I will tell you.—He
beat me grievously, in the shape of a woman;
for in the shape of man, master Brook, I fear
not Goliath with a weaver's beam; because I
know also, life is a shuttle. I am in haste; go
along with me; I'll tell you all, master Brook.
Since I plucked geese, played truant, and whip-
ped top, I knew not what it was to be beaten,
till lately. Follow me: I'll tell you strange
things of this knave Ford; on whom to-night
I will be revenged, and I will deliver his wife

into your hand.—Follow: Strange things in
hand, master Brook! follow. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—WINDSOR PARK.

Enter Page, Shallow, and Slender.

Page. Come, come; we'll couch i' the castle-
ditch, till we see the light of our fairies.—Re-
member, son Slender, my daughter.

Slend. Ay, forsooth; I have spoke with her,
and we have a nay-word,¹ how to know one an-
other. I come to her in white, and cry *mum*;
she cries *budget*; and by that we know one
another.

Shal. That's good too: But what needs either
your *mum* or her *budget*? the white will decipher
her well enough.—It hath struck ten o'clock.

Page. The night is dark; light and spirits will
become it well. Heaven prosper our sport! No
man means evil but the devil, and we shall
know him by his horns. Let's away: follow me.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—THE STREET IN WINDSOR.

Enter Mrs Page, Mrs Ford, and Dr Caius.

Mrs Page. Master doctor, my daughter is in
green; when you see your time, take her by the
hand, away with her to the deanery, and
despatch it quickly: Go before into the park;
we two must go together.

Caius. I know vat I have to do; Adieu.

Mrs Page. Fare you well, sir. [*Exit Caius.*
My husband will not rejoice so much at the
abuse of Falstaff, as he will chafe at the doctor's
marrying my daughter: but 'tis no matter; better
a little chiding than a great deal of heart-break.

Mrs Ford. Where is Nan now, and her troop
of fairies? and the Welsh devil, Hugh?

Mrs Page. They are all couched in a pit hard
by Herne's oak, with obscured lights; which at
the very instant of Falstaff's and our meeting,
they will at once display to the night.

Mrs Ford. That cannot choose but amaze him.

Mrs Page. If he be not amazed, he will be
mocked; if he be amazed, he will every way be
mocked.

Mrs Ford. We'll betray him finely.

Mrs P. Those who betray him do no treachery.

Mrs Ford. The hour draws on: To the oak,
to the oak! [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—WINDSOR PARK.

Enter Sir Hugh Evans, and Fairies.

E. Trib, trib, fairies; come; and remember
your parts: be bold, I pray you; follow me into
the pit: and when I give the watch-ords, do as
I bid you; come, come; trib, trib. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE PARK.

Enter Falstaff disguised, with a buck's head on.

F. The Windsor bell hath struck twelve; the
minute draws on: Now, love assist me:—Re-
member, Jove, thou wast a bull for thy Europa;
love set on thy horns.—O powerful love!—For
me, I am here a Windsor stag; and the fattest,
I think, i' the forest: Who comes here? my doe?

¹ Watchword.

Enter Mrs Ford and Mrs Page.

Mrs Ford. Sir John? art thou there, my deer? my male deer?

Fal. My doe?—Let the sky rain potatoes; let it thunder to the tune of *Green Sleeves*; hail kissing-comfits, and snow eringoos; I will shelter me here. *[Embracing her.]*

Mrs Ford. Mistress Page is come with me, sweet-heart.

Fal. Divide me like a bribe-buck, each a haunch: I will keep my sides to myself, my shoulders for the fellow of this walk, and my horns I bequeath your husbands. Am I a wood-man? ha! Speak I like Herne the hunter?—Why, now is Cupid a child of conscience; he makes restitution. As I am a true spirit, welcome. *[Noise within.]*

Mrs Page. Alas! what noise?

Mrs Ford. Heaven forgive our sins!

Fal. What should this be?

Mrs Ford. } Away, away. *[They run off.]*
Mrs Page. }

Fal. I think the devil will not have me; he would never else cross me thus.

Enter Sir Hugh Evans, like a satyr; Mrs Quickly and Pistol; Anne Page, as the Fairy Queen, attended by her brother and others, dressed like fairies, with waxen tapers on their heads.

Quick. Fairies, black, grey, green, and white, You moon-shine revellers, and shades of night, You orphan heirs of fixed destiny, Attend your office, and your quality.—Crier Hobgoblin, make the fairy o-yes. *[toys.]*

Pist. Elves, list your names; silence, you airy Cricket, to Windsor chimnies shalt thou leap: Where fires thou find'st unrak'd, and hearths un-There pinch the maids as blueas bilberry: *[sweet,]* Our radiant queen hates sluts and sluttery.

Fal. They are fairies; he, that speaks to them, shall die: *[eye.]*

I'll wink and couch: No man their works must *[Lies down upon his face.]*

Eva. Where's *Pede*?—Go you, and where you find a maid,

That, ere she sleep, has thrice her prayers said, Raise up the organs of her fantasy, Sleep she as sound as careless infancy:

But those as sleep, and think not on their sins, Pinch them, arms, legs, backs, shoulders, sides, *Quick.* About, about; *[and shins.]*

Search Windsor Castle, elves, within and out: Strew good luck, ouphes, on every sacred room; That it may stand till the perpetual doom, In state as wholesome, as in state 'tis fit; Worthy the owner, and the owner it.

The several chairs of order look you scour With juice of balm, and every precious flower; Each fair instalment, coat, and several crest, With royal blazon, evermore be blest!

And nightly, meadow-fairies, look you sing, Like to the Garter's compass, in a ring: The expresseure that it bears, green let it be, More fertile-fresh than all the field to see; And, *Hon y soit qui mal y pense*, write, In emerald tufts, flowers purple, blue, and white; Like sapphire, pearl, and rich embroidery, Buckled below fair knighthood's bending knee:

Fairies use flowers for their charactery, Away; disperse: But, till 'tis one o'clock, Our dance of custom, round about the oak Of Herne the hunter, let us not forget.

Eva. Pray you, lock hand in hand; yourselves in order set:

And twenty glow-worms shall our lanterns be, To guide our measure round about the tree. But, stay; I smell a man of middle earth.

F. Heavens defend me from that Welsh fairy! lest he transform me to a piece of cheese!

Pist. Vile worm thou wast o'erlooked even in thy birth.

Quick. With trial-fire touch me his finger-end: If he be chaste, the flame will back descend, And turn him to no pain; but if he start, It is the flesh of a corrupted heart.

Pist. A trial, come.

Eva. Come, will this wood take fire?

[They burn him with their tapers.]

Fal. Oh, oh, oh!

Quick. Corrupt, corrupt, and tainted in desire! About him fairies; sing a scornful rhyme:

And, as you trip, still pinch him to your time. *Eva.* It is right; indeed he is full of iniquity.

SONG.

Eye on sinful fantasy!

Eye on lust and luxury!

Lust is but a bloody fire,

Kindled with unchaste desire,

Fed in heart; whose flames aspire,

As thoughts do blow them, higher and higher.

Pinch him, fairies, mutually;

Pinch him for his villainy;

Pinch him, and burn him, and turn him about, Till candles, and starlight, and moonshine be out.

[During this song, the fairies pinch Falstaff. Doctor Caius comes one way, and steals away a fairy in green; Slender another way, and takes off a fairy in white; and Fenton comes, and steals away Mrs Anne Page. A noise of hunting is made within. All the fairies run away. Falstaff pulls off his buck's head, and rises.]

Enter Page, Ford, Mrs Page, and Mrs Ford.

They lay hold on him.

Page. Nay, do not fly; I think we have watch'd you now;

Will none but Herne the hunter serve your turn?

Mrs Page. I pray you, come; hold up the jest no higher:— *[wives?]*

Now, good Sir John, how like you Windsor See, you these, husband? do not these fair yokes? Become the forest better than the town?

Ford. Now, sir, who's a cackold now?—Master Brook, Falstaff's a knave, a cuckoldy knave; here are his horns, master Brook: And, master Brook, he hath enjoyed nothing of Ford's but his buck-basket, his cudgel, and twenty pounds of money; which must be paid to master Brook; his horses are arrested for it, master Brook.

Mrs Ford. Sir John, we have had ill luck: we could never meet. I will never take you for my love again, but I will always count you my deer.

F. I do begin to perceive that I am made an ass.

1 Falstaff's horns.

Ford. Ay, and an ox too; both the proofs are extant.

Fal. And these are not fairies? I was three or four times in the thought, they were not fairies; and yet the guiltiness of my mind, the sudden surprise of my powers, drove the grossness of the foppery into a received belief, in despite of the teeth of all rhyme and reason, that they were fairies. See now, how wit may be made a Jack-a-lent,¹ when 'tis upon ill employment!

Eva. Sir John Falstaff, serve Got, and leave your desires, and fairies will not pinse you.

Ford. Well said, fairy Hugh.

Eva. And leave you your jealousies too, I pray you.

Ford. I will never mistrust my wife again, till thou art able to woo her in good English.

Fal. Have I laid my brain in the sun, and dried it, that it wants matter to prevent so gross o'er-reaching as this? Am I ridden with a Welsh goat too? Shall I have a coxcomb, of frize?² 'tis time I were choked with a piece of toasted cheese.

Eva. Seese is not good to give putter; your pelly is all putter.

Fal. Seese and putter! Have I lived to stand at the taunt of one that makes fritters of English? This is enough to be the decay of late-walking through the realm.

Mrs Page. Why, Sir John, do you think, though we would have thrust virtue out of our hearts by the head and shoulders, and have given ourselves without scruple to hell, that ever the devil could have made you our delight?

Ford. What, a hodge-pudding? a bag of flax?

Mrs Page. A puffed man?

Page. Old, and withered?

Ford. And one that is as slanderous as Satan?

Page. And as poor as Job?

Ford. And as wicked as his wife?

Eva. And given to taverns, and sack, and wine, and metheglins, and to drinkings, and swearings, and starings, pribbles, and prables?

Fal. Well, I am your theme: you have the start of me: I am dejected; I am not able to answer the Welsh flannet; ignorance itself is a plummet o'er me: use me as you will.

Ford. Marry, sir, we'll bring you to Windsor, to one master Brook, that you have cozened of money, to whom you should have been a pander: over and above that you have suffered, I think to repay that money will be a biting affliction.

Mrs Ford. Nay, husband, let that go to make amends;

Forgive that sum, and so we'll all be friends.

F. Well, here's my hand; all's forgiven at last. P. Yet be cheerful, knight: thou shalt eat a posset to-night at my house; where I will desire thee to laugh at my wife that now laughs at thee: Tell her, master Slender hath married her daughter.

Mrs Page. Doctors doubt that:—If Anne Page be my daughter, she is, by this, doctor Caius's wife; and that, being in question, [Aside.]

Enter Slender.

Slender. Whoo, ho! ho! father Page!

Page. Son! how now? how now, son? have you despatched?

1 Puppet.

2 A Fool's cap.

Sl. Despatched—I'll make the best in Gloucestershire know'n't; would I were hanged, la, else.

Page. Of what, son?

Slender. I came yonder at Eton to marry mistress Anne Page, and she's a great lubberly boy: If it had not been i' the church, I would have swinged¹ him, or he should have swinged me. If I did not think it had been Anne Page, would I might never stir, and 'tis a post-master's boy.

Page. Upon my life then you took the wrong.

Slender. What need you tell me that? I think so, when I took a boy for a girl: If I had been married to him, for all he was in woman's apparel, I would not have had him.

Page. Why, this is your own folly. Did not I tell you, how you should know my daughter by her garments?

Sl. I went to her in white, and cry'd *mum*, and she cry'd *budget*, as Anne and I had appointed; and yet it was not Anne, but a post-master's boy.

Eva. Master Slender, cannot you see but marry boys?

Page. O, I am vexed at heart: What shall I do?

Mrs Page. Good George, be not angry: I knew of your purpose; turned my daughter into green; and, indeed, she is now with the doctor at the deanery, and there married.

Enter Caius.

Caius. Vere is mistress Page? By gar, I am cozened: I ha' married *un garçon*, a boy; *un paisan*, by gar, a boy; it is not Anne Page: by gar, I am cozened.

Mrs Page. Why, did you take her in green?

Caius. Ay, by gar; and 'tis a boy; by gar, I'll raise all Windsor. [Exit Caius.]

Ford. This is strange: Who hath got the right Anne?

Page. My heart misgives me: Here comes master Fenton.

Enter Fenton and Anne Page.

How now, master Fenton? [pardon!]

Anne. Pardon, good father! good my mother,

Page. Now, mistress! how chance you went not with master Slender? [maid?]

Mrs P. Why went you not with master doctor,

Fenton. You do amaze her: Hear the truth of it. You would have married her most shamefully,

Where there was no proportion held in love. The truth is, she and I, long since contracted,

Are now so sure, that nothing can dissolve us. The offence is holy, that she hath committed:

And this deceit loses the name of craft, Of disobedience, or unduteous title;

Since therein she doth evitate and shunn A thousand irreligious cursed hours, [her.]

Which forced marriage would have brought upon

Ford. Stand not amazed: here is no remedy:—In love, the heavens themselves do guide the state;

Money buys lands, and wives are sold by fate.

Fal. I am glad, though you have ta'en a special stand to strike at me, that your arrow hath glanced.

Page. Well, what remedy? Fenton, heaven give thee joy? What cannot be eschew'd must be embrac'd.

1 Thrashed.

Fal. When night-dogs run, all sorts of deer are chas'd.

E. I will dance and eat plums at your wedding.

Mrs Page. Well, I will muse no further:—
Master Fenton,

Heaven give you many, many merry days!
Good husband, let us every one go home,
And laugh this sport o'er by a country fire;
Sir John and all. [Exeunt.]

Twelfth Night; or, What You Will.

Persons Represented.

ORSINO, Duke of Illyria.

SEBASTIAN, a young Gentleman, Brother to Viola.

ANTONIO, a Sea-Captain, Friend to Sebastian.

A SEA-CAPTAIN, Friend to Viola.

VALENTINE, } Gentlemen attending on the Duke.

CURIO, }

SIR TOBY BELCH, Uncle of Olivia.

SIR ANDREW AGUE-CHEEK.

MALVOLIO, Steward to Olivia.

FABIAN, } Servants to Olivia.
CLOWN, }

OLIVIA, a rich Countess.

VIOLA, in love with the Duke.

MARIA, Olivia's woman.

Lords, Priests, Sailors, Officers, Musicians,
and other Attendants.

SCENE.—A city in Illyria; and the Sea-Coast near it.

Act First.

SCENE I.

AN APARTMENT IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke, Curio, Lords; Musicians attending.

Duke. If musick be the food of love, play on,
Give me excess of it; that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die.—
That strain again;—it had a dying fall:
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet south,
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing, and giving odour.—Enough; no more;
'Tis not so sweet now as it was before.

O spirit of love, how quick and fresh art thou!
That notwithstanding thy capacity
Receiveth as the sea, nought enters there,
Of what validity and pitch soever,
But falls into abatement and low price,
Even in a minute! so full of shapes is fancy
That it alone is high-fantastical.

Cur. Will you go hunt, my lord?

Duke. I have no business there, Curio.

Cur. The hart.

Duke. Why, so I do, the noblest that I have:
O, when mine eyes did see Olivia first,
Methought she purg'd the air of pestilence;
That instant was I turned into a hart;
And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds,
E'er since pursue me.—How now? what news
from her?

Enter Valentine.

V. So please my lord, I might not be admitted,
But from her handmaid do return this answer:
The element itself, till seven years' heat,
Shall not behold her face at ample view;
But, like a cloistress, she will veiled walk,
And water once a day her chamber round

With eye-offending brine: all this, to season
A brother's dead love, which she would keep
And lasting, in her sad remembrance. [fresh,
E. O, she, that hath a heart of that fine frame,
To pay this debt of love but to a brother,
How will she love, when the rich golden shaft
Hath killed the flock of all affections else
That live in her! when liver, brain, and heart,
These sovereign thrones, are all supplied, and
fill'd

(Her sweet perfections) with one self king!—
Away before me to sweet beds of flowers;
Love-thoughts lie rich, when canopied with
bowers. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—THE SEA COAST.

Enter Viola, Captain, and Sailors.

Vio. What country, friends, is this?

Cap. Illyria, lady.

Vio. And what should I do in Illyria?

My brother he is in Elysium. [sailors?
Perchance, he is not drown'd:—What think you,

Cap. It is perchance that you yourself were
saved.

Vio. O my poor brother! and so, perchance,
may he be.

Cap. True, madam: and to comfort you with
chance,

Assure yourself, after our ship did split,
When you, and that poor number saved with you,
Hung on our driving boat, I saw your brother,
Most provident in peril, bind himself
(Courage and hope both teaching him the prac-
To a strong mast, that lived upon the sea; [tice)
Where, like Arion on the dolphin's back,
I saw him hold acquaintance with the waves,
So long as I could see.

Vio. For saying so, there's gold:
Mine own escape unfoldeth to my hope
Whereto thy speech serves for authority,
The like of him. Know'st thou this country?

Cap. Ay, madam, well; for I was bred and
born,
Not three hours' travel from this very place.

Vio. Who governs here?

Cap. A noble duke, in nature,
As in his name.

Vio. What is his name?

Cap. Orsino.

Vio. Orsino! I have heard my father name
him!

He was a bachelor then.

Cap. And so is now,
Or was so very late: for but a month
Ago I went from hence; and then 'twas fresh
In murmur (as, you know, what great ones do,
The less will prattle of), that he did seek
The love of fair Olivia.

Vio. What's she?

Cap. A virtuous maid, the daughter of a count
That died some twelvemonths since; then leaving
In the protection of his son, her brother, (her
Who shortly also died: for whose dear love,
They say, she hath abjur'd the company
And sight of men.

Vio. O, that I served that lady:
And might not be delivered to the world,
Till I had made mine own occasion mellow,
What my estate is.

Cap. That were hard to compass;
Because she will admit no kind of suit,
No, not the duke's.

Vio. There is a fair behaviour in thee, captain;
And though that nature with a beauteous wall
Doth oft close in pollution, yet of thee
I will believe, thou hast a mind that suits
With this thy fair and outward character.
I pray thee, and I'll pay thee bounteously,
Conceal me what I am; and be my aid
For such disguise as, haply, shall become
The form of my intent. I'll serve this duke;
Thou shalt present me as a page to him,
It may be worth thy pains; for I can sing,
And speak to him in many sorts of musick,
That will allow me very worth his service.
What else may hap, to time I will commit;
Only shape thou thy silence to my wit.

Cap. Be you his page, and I your mate will be:
When my tongue blabs, let mine eyes not see!

Vio. I thank thee, lead me on. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Sir Toby Belch and Maria.

Sir To. What a plague means my niece, to
take the death of her brother thus? I am sure,
care's an enemy to life.

Mar. By troth, Sir Toby, you must come in
earlier o' nights; your cousin, my lady, takes
great exceptions to your ill hours.

Sir To. Why, let her except before excepted.

Mar. Ay, but you must confine yourself
within the modest limits of order.

Sir To. Confine! I'll confine myself no finer
than I am: these clothes are good enough to drink

in, and so be these boots too; an they be not, let
them hang themselves in their own straps.

Mar. That quaffing and drinking will undo you:
I heard my lady talk of it yesterday; and of a
foolish knight, that you brought in one night
here, to be her wooer.

Sir To. Who? Sir Andrew Ague-cheek?

Mar. Ay, he.

Sir To. He's as tall a man as any's in Illyria.

Mar. What's that to the purpose?

Sir To. Why, he has three thousand ducats a
year.

Mar. Ay, but he'll have but a year in all these
ducats; he's a very fool, and a prodigal.

Sir To. Fye, that you'll say so! he plays o'
the viol-de gambo, and speaks three or four
languages word for word without book, and
hath all the good gifts of nature.

Mar. He hath, indeed,—almost natural: for,
besides that he's a fool, he's a great quarreller;
and but that he hath the gift of a coward to allay
the gust he hath in quarrelling, 'tis thought
among the prudent he would quickly have the
gift of a grave.

Sir To. By this hand, they are scoundrels, and
substractors, that say so of him. Who are they?

Mar. They that add moreover, he's drunk
nightly in your company.

Sir To. With drinking healths to my niece; I'll
drink to her, as long as there is a passage in my
throat, and drink in Illyria: He's a coward, and
a coystil,¹ that will not drink to my niece, till
his brains turn o' the toe like a parish top.
Here comes Sir Andrew Ague-face.

Enter Sir Andrew Ague-cheek.

Sir A. Sir Toby Belch! how now, Sir Toby
Belch?

Sir To. Sweet Sir Andrew!

Sir And. Bless you, fair shrew.

Mar. And you too, sir.

Sir To. Accost, Sir Andrew, accost.

Sir And. What's that?

Sir To. My niece's chamber-maid.

Sir And. Good mistress Accost, I desire better
acquaintance.

Mar. My name is Mary, sir.

Sir And. Good mistress Mary Accost,—

Sir To. You mistake, knight: accost, is, front
her, board her, woo her, assail her.

Sir And. Is that the meaning of accost?

Mar. Fare you well, gentlemen.

Sir To. An thou let part so, Sir Andrew, 'would
thou might'st never draw sword again.

Sir And. An you part so, mistress, I would I
might never draw sword again. Fair lady, do
you think you have fools in hand?

Mar. Sir, I have not you by the hand.

Sir And. Marry, but you shall have; and
here's my hand.

M. Now, sir, thought is free: I pray you, bring
your hand to the buttery-bar, and let it drink.

Sir And. Wherefore, sweet heart? what's your
metaphor?

Mar. It's dry, sir.

Sir A. Why, I think so; I am not such an ass but
I can keep my hand dry. But what's your jest?

¹ Keystril, a bastard hawk.

Mar. A dry jest, sir.

Sir And. Are you full of them?

Mar. Ay, sir; I have them at my fingers' ends.

[*Exit Maria.*]

Sir To. O knight, thou lack'st a cup of canary: When did I see thee so put down!

Sir And. Never in your life, I think; unless you see canary put me down: Methinks, sometimes I have no more wit than an ordinary man has; but I am a great eater of beef, and I believe that does harm to my wit.

Sir To. No question.

Sir And. An I thought that, I'd forswear it. I'll ride home to-morrow, Sir Toby.

Sir To. *Pourquoy*, my dear knight?

Sir And. What is *pourquoy*? do or not do? I would I had bestowed that time in the tongues, that I have in fencing, dancing, and bear-baiting: O, had I but followed the arts!

Sir To. Then hadst thou had an excellent head of hair.

Sir A. Why, would that have mended my hair?

Sir To. Past question; for thou seest, it will not curl by nature.

Sir And. But it becomes me well enough, does't not?

Sir To. Excellent; it hangs like flax on a distaff.

Sir And. I'll home to-morrow, Sir Toby; your niece will not be seen; or, if she be, it's four to one she'll none of me: the count himself, here hard by, woos her.

Sir To. She'll none o' the count; she'll not match above her degree, neither in estate, years, nor wit; I have heard her swear it. Tut, there's life in't, man.

Sir And. I'll stay a month longer. I am a fellow o' the strangest mind i' the world; I delight in masques and revels sometimes altogether.

Sir To. Art thou good at these kick-shaws, knight?

Sir And. As any man in Illyria, whatsoever he be, under the degree of my betters; and yet I will not compare with an old man.

Sir To. What is thy excellence in a galliard, knight?

Sir And. I can cut a caper.

Sir To. And I can cut the mutton to't.

Sir And. Shall we set about some revels?

Sir To. What shall we do else?—Let me see thee caper: ha! higher: ha, ha!—excellent!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Valentine, and Viola in man's attire.

Val. If the duke continue these favours towards you, Cesario, you are like to be much advanced; he hath known you but three days, and already you are no stranger.

Vio. You either fear his humour, or my negligence, that you call in question the continuance of his love: Is he inconstant, sir, in his favours?

Val. No, believe me.

Enter Duke, Curio, and Attendants.

Vio. I thank you. Here comes the count.

Duke. Who saw Cesario, ho?

Vio. On your attendance, my lord; here.

Duke. Stand you awhile aloof.—Cesario, Thou know'st no less but all; I have unclasp'd To thee the book even of my secret soul: Therefore, good youth, address thy gait unto her; Be not deny'd access, stand at her doors, And tell them, there thy fix'd foot shall grow, Till thou have audience.

Vio. Sure, my noble lord, If she be so abandon'd to her sorrow As it is spoke, she never will admit me.

Duke. Be clamorous, and leap all civil bounds, Rather than make unprofitable return.

Vio. Say, I do speak with her, my lord: What then?

Duke. O, then unfold the passion of my love, Surprise her with discourse of my dear faith; It shall become thee well to act my woes; She will attend it better in thy youth, Than in a nuncio of grave aspect.

Vio. I think not so, my lord.

Duke. Dear lad, believe it; For they shall yet belie thy happy years That say, thou art a man: Diana's lip Is not more smooth and rubious; thy small pipe Is as the maiden's organ, shrill, and sound, And all its semblative a woman's part. I know, thy constellation is right apt, For this affair:—Some four, or five, attend him; All, if you will; for I myself am best, When least in company:—Prosper well in this, And thou shalt live as freely as thy lord, To call his fortunes thine.

Vio. I'll do my best, To woo your lady: yet, [*Aside.*] a barful strife!

Whoe'er I woo, myself would be his wife.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Maria and Clown.

Mar. Nay, either tell me where thou hast been, or I will not open my lips, so wide as a bristle may enter, in way of thy excuse: my lady will hang thee for thy absence.

Clo. Let her hang me: he, that is well hanged in this world, needs to fear no colours.

Mar. Make that good.

Clo. He shall see none to fear.

Mar. A good lenten² answer; I can tell thee where that saying was born of, I fear no colours.

Clo. Where, good mistress Mary?

Mar. In the wars; and that may you be bold to say in your foolery.

Clo. Well, Heaven give them wisdom, that have it; and those that are fools, let them use their talents.

Mar. Yet you will be hanged, for being so long absent: or, to be turned away; is not that as good as a hanging to you?

Clo. Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage; and, for turning away, let summer bear it out.

Mar. You are resolute, then?

Clo. Not so neither; but I am resolved on two points.

Mar. That, if one break, the other will hold.

1 Full of impediments. 2 Lenten. 2 Spring.

Clo. Apt, in good faith; very apt! Well, go thy way; if Sir Toby would leave drinking, thou wert as witty a piece of Eve's flesh as any in Illyria.

Mar. Peace, you rogue, no more o' that; here comes my lady: make your excuse wisely, you were best. *[Exit.]*

Enter Olivia and Malvolio.

Clo. Wit, and 't be thy will, put me into good fooling! Those wits, that think they have thee, do very oft prove fools; and I, that am sure I lack thee, may pass for a wise man: For what says Quinapalus? Better a witty fool than a foolish wit. — God bless thee, lady!

Ol. Take the fool away.

Clo. Do you not hear, fellows? Take away the lady.

Ol. Go to, you're a dry fool: I'll no more of you; besides, you grow dishonest.

Clo. Two faults, madonna,¹ that drink and good counsel will amend: for give the dry fool drink, then is the fool not dry; bid the dishonest man mend himself; if he mend, he is no longer dishonest; if he cannot, let the botcher mend him. — The lady bade take away the fool; therefore, I say again, take her away.

Ol. Sir, I bade them take away you.

Clo. Misprision in the highest degree! — Lady, *Cucullus non facit monachum*; that's as much as to say, I wear not motley in my brain.

Ol. What think you of this fool, Malvolio, doth he not mend?

Mal. Yes; and shall do, till the pangs of death shake him: Infirmary, that decays the wise, doth ever make the better fool.

Clo. Heaven send you, sir, a speedy infirmity, for the better increasing your folly! Sir Toby will be sworn that I am no fox; but he will not pass his word for twopence that you are no fool.

Ol. How say you to that, Malvolio?

Mal. I marvel your ladyship takes delight in such a barren rascal; I saw him put down the other day with an ordinary fool, that has no more brain than a stone. Look you now, he's out of his guard already; unless you laugh and minister occasion to him, he is gagged. I protest, I take these wise men, that crow so at these set kind of fools, no better than the fools' zanies.²

Ol. O, you are sick of self-love, Malvolio, and taste with a distempered appetite. To be generous, guiltless, and of free disposition, is to take those things for bird-bolts,³ that you deem cannon-bullets; There is no slander in an allowed fool, though he do nothing but rail; nor no railing in a known discreet man, though he do nothing but reprove.

Clo. Now Mercury endue thee with leasing,⁴ for thou speakest well of fools.

Re-enter Maria.

Mar. Madam, there is at the gate a young gentleman much desires to speak with you.

Ol. From the Count Orsino, is it?

Mar. I know not, madam; 'tis a fair young man, and well attended.

Ol. Who of my people hold him in delay?

¹ Mistress. ² Baubles. ³ Short-arrows. ⁴ Lying.

Mar. Sir Toby, madam, your kinsman.

Ol. Fetch him off, I pray you; he speaks nothing but madman: Fye on him! *[Exit Maria.]* Go you, Malvolio; if it be suit from the count, I am sick, or not at home; what you will, to dismiss it. *[Exit Malvolio.]* Now you see, sir, how your fooling grows old, and people dislike it.

Clo. Thou hast spoke for us, madonna, as if thy eldest son should be a fool: whose skull Jove crams with brains, for here comes one of thy kin, has a most weak *pia mater*.¹

Enter Sir Toby Belch.

Ol. By mine honour, half drunk. — What is he at the gate, cousin?

Sir To. A gentleman.

Ol. A gentleman! What gentleman?

Sir To. 'Tis a gentleman here — A plague o' these pickle-herrings! — How now, sot!

Clo. Good Sir Toby.

Sir To. There's one at the gate.

Ol. Ay, marry; what is he?

Sir To. Let him be the devil, an he will, I care not; give me faith, say I. Well, it's all one. *[Exit.]*

Ol. What's a drunken man like, fool?

Clo. Like a drown'd man, a fool, and a madman: one draught above heat makes him a fool; the second mads him: and a third drowns him.

Ol. Go thou and seek the coroner, and let him sit o' my coz; for he's in the third degree of drink, he's drown'd; go, look after him.

Clo. He is but mad yet, madonna; and the fool shall look to the madman. *[Exit Clown.]*

Re-enter Malvolio.

Mal. Madam, yond' young fellow swears he will speak with you. I told him you were sick; he takes on him to understand so much, and therefore comes to speak with you: I told him you were asleep; he seems to have a fore-knowledge of that too, and therefore comes to speak with you. What is to be said to him, lady? he's fortified against any denial.

Ol. Tell him, he shall not speak with me.

Mal. He has been told so; and he says, he'll stand at your door like a sheriff's post, and be the supporter of a bench, but he'll speak with you.

Ol. What kind of man is he?

Mal. Why, of man kind.

Ol. What manner of man?

Mal. Of very ill manner; he'll speak with you, will you or no.

Ol. Of what personage and years is he?

Mal. Not yet old enough for a man, nor young enough for a boy, between boy and man. He is very well favoured, and he speaks very shrewishly; one would think, his mother's milk were scarce out of him.

Ol. Let him approach: Call in my gentlewoman.

Mal. Gentlewoman, my lady calls. *[Exit.]*

Re-enter Maria.

Ol. Give me my veil: come, throw it o'er my We'll once more hear Orsino's embassy. *[face;*

¹ Membrane which encloses the brain.

Enter Viola.

Vio. The honourable lady of the house, which is she?

Oli. Speak to me, I shall answer for her. You will?

Vio. Most radiant, exquisite, and unmatchable beauty,—I pray you, tell me, if this be the lady of the house, for I never saw her: I would be loth to cast away my speech; for, besides that it is excellently well penn'd, I have taken great pains to con it. Good beauties, let me sustain no scorn: I am very comptible,¹ even to the least sinister usage.

Oli. Whence came you, sir?

V. I can say little more than I have studied, and that question's out of my part. Good gentle one, give me modest assurance, if you be the lady of the house, that I may proceed in my speech.

Oli. Are you a comedian?

Vio. No, my profound heart: and yet, by the very fangs of malice, I swear, I am not that I play. Are you the lady of the house?

Oli. If I do not usurp myself, I am.

Vio. Most certain, if you are she, you do usurp yourself; for what is yours to bestow, is not yours to reserve. But this is from my commission: I will on with my speech in your praise, and then show you the heart of my message.

Oli. Come to what is important in't: I forgive you the praise.

Vio. Alas, I took great pains to study it, and 'tis poetical.

Oli. It is the more like to be feigned; I pray you, keep it in. I heard, you were saucy at my gates; and allowed your approach, rather to wonder at you than to hear you. If you be not mad, be gone; if you have reason, be brief: 'tis not that time of moon with me, to make one in so skipping a dialogue.

M. Will you hoist sail, sir? here lies your way:

Vio. No, good swabber; I am to hull here a little longer.—Some mollification for your giant,² sweet lady.

Oli. Tell me your mind.

Vio. I am a messenger.

Oli. Sure, you have some hideous matter to deliver, when the courtesy of it is so fearful. Speak your office.

Vio. It alone concerns your ear. I bring no overture of war, no taxation of homage; I hold the olive in my hand: my words are as full of peace as matter.

Oli. Yet you began rudely. What are you? what would you?

Vio. The rudeness, that hath appear'd in me, have I learn'd from my entertainment. What I am, and what I would, are to your ears, divinity; to any other's profanation.

Oli. Give us the place alone: we will hear this divinity. [*Exit Maria.*] Now, sir, what is your text?

Vio. Most sweet lady,——

Oli. A comfortable doctrine, and much may be said of it. Where lies your text?

Vio. In Orsino's bosom.

O. In his bosom? In what chapter of his bosom?

Vio. To answer by the method, in the first of his heart.

Oli. O, I have read it; it is heresy. Have you no more to say?

Vio. Good madam, let me see your face.

Oli. Have you any commission from your lord to negotiate with my face? you are now out of your text; but we will draw the curtain, and show you the picture. Look you, sir, such a one as I was this present: Is't not well done? [*Unveiling.*]

Vio. Excellently done, if nature did all.

Oli. 'Tis in grain, sir; 'twill endure wind and weather. [white,

Vio. 'Tis beauty truly blent, whose red and Nature's own sweet and cunning hand laid on: Lady, you are the cruel'st she alive, If you will lead these graces to the grave, And leave the world no copy.

Oli. O, sir, I will not be so hard-hearted; I will give out divers schedules of my beauty: It shall be inventoried; and every particle, and utensil, labelled to my will: as, item, two lips indifferent red; item, two grey eyes, with lids to them: item, one neck, one chin, and so forth. Were you sent hither to 'praise me?

V. I see you what you are: you are too proud; But, if you were the devil, you are fair.

My lord and master loves you; O, such love Could be but recompens'd, though you were crown'd

The nonpareil of beauty!

Oli. How does he love me?

Vio. With adorations, with fertile tears, With groans that thunder love, with sighs of fire.

Oli. Your lord does know my mind, I cannot love him:

Yet I suppose him virtuous, know him noble, Of great estate, of fresh and stainless youth; In voices well divulg'd, free, learn'd, and valiant,

And, in dimension, and the shape of nature, A gracious person, but yet, I cannot love him; He might have took his answer long ago.

Vio. If I did love you in my master's flame, With such a suffering, such a deadly life, In your denial I would find no sense, I would not understand it.

Oli. Why, what would you?

Vio. Make me a willow cabin at your gate, And call upon my soul within the house; Write loyal cantons¹ of contemned love, And sing them loud even in the dead of night; Holla your name to the reverberate hills, And make the babbling gossip of the air Cry out, Olivia! O, you should not rest Between the elements of air and earth, But you should pity me. [age?

O. You might do much: What is your parent?

Vio. Above my fortunes, yet my state is well: I am a gentleman.

Oli. Get you to your lord; I cannot love him: let him send no more; Unless, perchance, you come to me again, To tell me how he takes it. Fare you well: I thank you for your pains: spend this for me.

¹ Accountable.

² The original actress of Maria was very short.

Vio. I am no fee'd post, lady; keep your purse; My master, not myself, lacks recompense. Love make his heart of flint, that you shall love; And let your fervour, like my master's, be Plac'd in contempt! Farewell, fair cruelty. [*Exit.*]

Oli. What is your parentage?
Above my fortunes, yet my state is well:
I am a gentleman.—I'll be sworn thou art;
 Thy tongue, thy face, thy limbs, actions, and spirit,
 Do give thee five-fold blazon:—Not too fast:—
 soft! soft!

Unless the master were the man.—How now?
 Even so quickly may one catch the plague?
 Methinks, I feel this youth's perfections,
 With an invisible and subtle stealth,
 To creep in at mine eyes. Well, let it be.—
 What, ho, Malvolio!—

Re-enter Malvolio.

Mal. Here, madam, at your service.

Oli. Run after that same peevish messenger,
 The county's man: he left this ring behind him,
 Would I, or not; tell him I'll none of it.
 Desire him not to flatter with his lord,
 Nor hold him up with hopes; I am not for him:
 If that the youth will come this way to-morrow,
 I'll give him reasons for't. Hie thee, Malvolio.

Mal. Madam, I will. [*Exit.*]

Oli. I do I know what: and fear to find
 Mine eye too great a flatterer for my mind.
 Fate, show thy force: Ourselves we do not
 owe!;

What is decreed, must be: and be this so! [*Exit.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—THE SEA-COAST.

Enter Antonio and Sebastian.

Ant. Will you stay no longer? nor will you
 not, that I go with you?

Seb. By your patience, no: my stars shine
 darkly over me; the malignancy of my fate
 might, perhaps, distemper yours; therefore I
 shall crave of you your leave, that I may bear
 my evils alone: It were a bad recompense for
 your love, to lay any of them on you.

Ant. Let me yet know of you, whither you
 are bound.

Seb. No, 'sooth, sir; my determinate voyage
 is mere extravagancy. But I perceive in you so
 excellent a touch of modesty, that you will not
 extort from me what I am willing to keep in;
 therefore it charges me in manners the rather to
 express myself. You must know of me then,
 Antonio, my name is Sebastian, which I called
 Roderigo: my father was that Sebastian of Mes-
 saline, whom, I know, you have heard of: he
 left behind him, myself, and a sister, both born
 in an hour. If the heavens had been pleas'd,
 would we had so ended! but you, sir, alter'd
 that; for, some hour before you took me from
 the breach of the sea, was my sister drowned.

Ant. Alas, the day!

1 Own.

Seb. A lady, sir, though it was said she much
 resembled me, was yet of many accounted beau-
 tiful: but though I could not, with such estim-
 able wonder, overfar believe that, yet thus far I
 will boldly publish her, she bore a mind that
 envy could not but call fair: she is drowned
 already, sir, with salt water, though I seem to
 drown her remembrance again with more.

Ant. Pardon me, sir, your bad entertain-
 ment.

S. O, good Antonio, forgive me your trouble.

Ant. If you will not murder me for my love,
 let me be your servant.

S. If you will not undo what you have done,
 that is, kill him whom you have recovered, desire
 it not. Fare ye well at once: my bosom is full
 of kindness; and I am yet so near the manners
 of my mother, that upon the least occasion more,
 mine eyes will tell tales of me. I am bound to
 the Count Orsino's court: farewell. [*Exit.*]

Ant. The gentleness of all the gods go with
 I have many enemies in Orsino's court, [thee:
 Else would I very shortly see thee there:

But come what may, I do adore thee so,
 That danger shall seem sport, and I will go.
 [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter Viola; Malvolio following.

Mal. Were not you even now with the
 Countess Olivia?

Vio. Even now, sir; on a moderate pace I
 have since arrived but hither.

Mal. She returns this ring to you, sir; you
 might have saved me my pains, to have taken
 it away yourself. She adds, moreover, that
 you should put your lord into a desperate
 assurance she will none of him: And one
 thing more; that you be never so hardy to
 come again in his affairs, unless it be to report
 your lord's taking of this. Receive it so.

Vio. She took the ring of me; I'll none
 of it.

Mal. Come, sir, you peevishly threw it to
 her; and her will is it should be so returned:
 if it be worth stooping for, there it lies in your
 eye; if not, be it his that finds it. [*Exit.*]

Vio. I left no ring with her: What means
 this lady?

Fortune forbid, my outside have not charm'd
 her!

She made good view of me; indeed, so much,
 That sure, methought her eyes had lost her
 tongue,

For she did speak in starts distractedly.
 She loves me, sure; the cunning of her passion
 Invites me in this churlish messenger.

None of my lord's ring! why, he sent her
 none.

I am the man;—If it be so (as 'tis),
 Poor lady, she were better love a dream.
 Disguise, I see, thou art a wickedness,
 Wherein the pregnant¹ enemy does much.
 How easy is it, for the proper-false
 In women's waxen hearts to set their forms!
 Alas, our frailty is the cause, not we;
 For, such as we are made of, such we be.

1 Dexterous.

How will this fadge! My master loves her dearly;
 And I poor monster, fond as much on him:
 And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me:
 What will become of this! As I am man,
 My state is desperate for my master's love;
 As I am woman, now alas the day!
 What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe!
 O time thou shalt entangle this, not I;
 It is too hard a knot for me to untie. [Exit.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Sir Toby Belch, and Sir Andrew Ague-cheek.

Sir To. Approach, Sir Andrew: not to be a-bed after midnight, is to be up betimes; and *diluculo surgere*, thou know'st,—

Sir And. Nay, by my troth, I know not: but I know, to be up late, is to be up late.

Sir To. A false conclusion: I hate it as an unfilled can: To be up after midnight, and to go to bed then, is early; so that, to go to bed after midnight, is to go to bed betimes. Do not our lives consist of the four elements?

Sir And. Faith, so they say; but I think it rather consists of eating and drinking.

Sir To. Thou art a scholar; let us therefore eat and drink.—Marian, I say!—a stoop of wine!

Enter Clown.

Sir And. Here comes the fool.

Clo. How now, my hearts? Did you never see the picture of we three?²

Sir To. Welcome, ass. Now, let's have a catch.

Sir And. By my troth, the fool has an excellent breast.³ I had rather than forty shillings I had such a leg; and so sweet a breath to sing, as the fool has. In sooth, thou wast in very gracious fooling last night; when thou spokest of *Pigrogromitus*, of the *Vapians* passing the equinoctial of *Queubus*; 'twas very good, i'faith.

Clo. My lady has a white hand, and the Myrmidons are no bottle-ale houses.

Sir And. Excellent! Why, this is the best fooling, when all is done. Now, a song.

Sir To. Come on; there is a sixpence for you: let's have a song.

Sir And. There's a testril of me too: if one knight give a—

Clo. Would you have a love-song, or a song of good life?

Sir To. A love-song, a love-song.

Sir And. Ay, ay; I care not for good life.

SONG.

CLO. O mistress mine, where are you roaming?
 O stay and hear; your true love's coming,

That can sing both high and low:

Trip no further, pretty sweeting;

Journeys end in lovers' meeting;

Every wise man's son doth know.

Sir And. Excellent good, i'faith!

Sir To. Good, good.

1 Suit. 2 "We three loggerheads be." 3 Chest.

CLO. What is love? 'tis not hereafter;
 Present mirth hath present laughter;
 What's to come, is still unsure:
 In delay there lies no plenty;
 Then come kiss me, sweet-and-twenty,
 Youth's a stuff will not endure.

Sir And. A mellifluous voice, as I am true knight.

Sir To. A contagious breath.

Sir And. Very sweet and contagious, i'faith.

Sir To. To hear by the nose, it is dulcest in contagion. But shall we make the welkin dance indeed? Shall we rouse the night-owl in a catch, that will draw three souls out of one weaver? Shall we do that?

Sir And. An you love me, let's do't: I am dog at a catch. [well.]

Clo. By'r lady, sir, and some dogs will catch.

Sir And. Most certain: let our catch be, *Thou knave.*

Clo. Hold thy peace, thou knave, knight! I shall be constrain'd in 't to call thee knave, knight.

Sir And. 'Tis not the first time I have constrain'd one to call me knave. Begin, fool; it begins, *Hold thy peace.*

Clo. I shall never begin, if I hold my peace.

Sir And. Good, i'faith! Come, begin.

[They sing a catch.

Enter Maria.

Mar. What a catterwauling do you keep here! If my lady have not called up her steward, Malvolio, and bid him turn you out of doors, never trust me.

Sir To. My lady's a Cataian,¹ we are politicians; Malvolio's a Peg-a-Ramsay,² and *Three merry men we be*. Am not I consanguineous? am I not of her blood? tilly-valley, lady! *There dwelt a man in Babylon, lady, lady!*

[Singing.

Clo. Beshrew me, the knight's in admirable fooling.

Sir And. Ay, he does well enough, if he be disposed, and so do I too; he does it with a better grace, but I do it more natural.

Sir To. O the twelfth day of December,—

Mar. Peace. [Singing.

Enter Malvolio.

Mal. My masters, are you mad? or what are you? Have you no wit, manners, nor honesty, but to gabble like tinkers at this time of night? Do ye make an alehouse of my lady's house, that ye squeak out your coziers' catches without any mitigation or remorse of voice? Is there no respect of place, persons, nor time, in you?

Sir To. We did keep time, sir, in our catches. Sneak up!⁴

Mal. Sir Toby, I must be round with you. My lady bade me tell you, that, though she harbours you as her kinsman, she's nothing allied to your disorders. If you can separate yourself and your misdemeanors, you are welcome to the house; if not, an it would please you to take leave of her, she is very willing to bid you farewell.

1 Romancer.

2 Name of an old song.

3 Cobblers.

4 Hang yourself

Sir To. Farewell, dear heart, since I must needs be gone.

Mar. Nay, good Sir Toby.

Clo. His eyes do show his days are almost done.

Mal. Is't even so?

Sir To. But I will never die.

Clo. Sir Toby, there you lie.

Mal. This is much credit to you.

Sir To. Shall I bid him go? [Singing.

Clo. What an if you do?

Sir To. Shall I bid him go, and spare not?

Clo. O no, no, no, no, you dare not.

Sir To. Out o'time? sir, yelie.—Art any more than a steward? Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?

Clo. Yes, by Saint Anne; and ginger shall be hot i' the mouth too.

Sir To. Thou'rt i' the right.—Go, sir, rub your chain with crums:—A stoop of wine, Maria!

Mal. Mistress Mary, if you prized my lady's favour at anything more than contempt, you would not give means for this uncivil rule; she shall know of it, by this hand. [Exit.

Mar. Go shake your ears.

Sir And. 'Twere as good a deed as to drink when a man's a hungry, to challenge him to the field; and then to break promise with him, and make a fool of him.

Sir To. Do't, knight; I'll write thee a challenge: or I'll deliver thy indignation to him by word of mouth.

Mar. Sweet Sir Toby, be patient for to-night: since the youth of the count's was to-day with my lady, she is much out of quiet. For monsieur Malvolio, let me alone with him: if I do not gull him into a nay-word,¹ and make him a common recreation, do not I think I have wit enough to lie straight in my bed: I know, I can do it.

Sir To. Possess us,² possess us; tell us something of him.

Mar. Marry, sir, sometimes he is a kind of Puritan.

Sir And. O, if I thought that, I'd beat him like a dog.

Sir To. What, for being a Puritan? thy exquisite reason, dear knight?

Sir And. I have no exquisite reason for't, but I have reason good enough.

Mar. The devil a Puritan that he is, or any thing constantly but a time-pleaser; an affectioned ass, that cons state without book, and utters it by great swarths³: the best persuaded of himself, so crammed, as he thinks, with excellencies, that it is his ground of faith, that all that look on him love him; and on that vice in him will my revenge find notable cause to work.

Sir To. What wilt thou do?

Mar. I will drop in his way some obscure epistles of love; wherein, by the colour of his beard, the shape of his leg, the manner of his gait, the expreasure of his eye, forehead, and complexion, he shall find himself most feelingly personated: I can write very like my lady, your

niece;—on a forgotten matter we can hardly make distinction of our hands.

Sir To. Excellent! I smell a device.

Sir And. I have't in my nose too.

Sir To. He shall think, by the letters that thou wilt drop, that they come from my niece, and that she is in love with him.

Mar. My purpose is, indeed, a horse of that colour.

Sir And. And your horse now would make him an ass.

Mar. Ass, I doubt not.

Sir And. O, 'twill be admirable.

M. Sport royal, I warrant you. I will plant you two, and let the fool make a third, where he shall find the letter; observe his construction of it. For this night to bed, and dream on the event. Farewell. [Exit.

Sir To. Good night, Penthesilea!¹

Sir And. Before me, she's a good wench.

Sir To. She's a beagle, true bred, and one that adores me: What o' that?

Sir And. I was adored once too.

Sir To. Let's to bed, knight.—Thou hadst need send for more money.

Sir And. If I cannot recover your niece, I am a foul way out.

Sir To. Send for money, knight; if thou hast her not i' the end, call me Cut.²

Sir And. If I do not, never trust me, take it how you will.

Sir To. Come, come; I'll go burn some sack. 'tis too late to go to bed now: come, knight: come, knight.

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke, Viola, Curio, and others.

Duke. Give me some musick:—Now, good morrow, friends:—

Now, good Cesario, but that piece of song, That old and antique song we heard last night; Methought, it did relieve my passion much; More than light airs, and recollected terms Of these most brisk and giddy-paced times:—Come, but one verse.

Cur. He is not here, so please, your lordship, that should sing it.

Duke. Who was it?

Cur. Feste, the jester, my lord; a fool, that the lady Olivia's father took much delight in: he is about the house.

Duke. Seek him out, and play the tune the while. [Exit Curio.—Musick.

Con. Either, boy: If ever thou shalt love, In the sweet pangs of it, remember me: For, such as I am, all true lovers are; Unstaid and skittish in all motions else, Save, in that constant image of the creature That is belov'd.—How dost thou like this tune?

Viola. It gives a very echo to the seat Where Love is thron'd.

Duke. Thou dost speak masterly: My life upon't, young though thou art, thine eye Hath stay'd upon some favour that it loves; Hath it not, boy?

¹ Eye-word.

² Inform us.

³ Row of grass left by a mower.

¹ Amazon.

² Fool.

Vio. A little, by your favour.

Duke. What kind of woman is't?

Vio. Of your complexion.

Duke. She is not worth thee, then. What years i'faith?

Vio. About your years, my lord.

Duke. Too old, by heaven; Let still the woman take

An elder than herself; so wears she to him,
So sways she level in her husband's heart.
For, boy, however we do praise ourselves,
Our fancies are more giddy and unfirm,
More longing, wavering, sooner lost and worn,
Than women's are.

Vio. I think it well, my lord.

Duke. Then let thy love be younger than thy-
Or thy affection cannot hold the bent: [self,
For women are as roses; whose fair flower,
Being once display'd, doth fall that very hour.

Vio. And so they are: alas, that they are so;
To die, even when they to perfection grow!

Re-enter Curio and Clown.

Duke. O fellow, come, the song we had last night:—

Mark it, Cesario; it is old, and plain:
The spinsters and the knitters in the sun,
And the free maids that weave their thread with
Do use to chaunt it; it is silly sooth,¹ [bones,
And dallies with the innocence of love,
Like the old age.

Clow. Are you ready, sir?

Duke. Ay; pr'ythee, sing. [Musick.

SONG.

CLO. Come away, come away, death,
And in sad cypress let me be laid;

Fly away, fly away breath;

I am slain by a fair cruel maid.

My shroud of white, stuck all with yew,

O, prepare it:

My part of death, no one so true

Did share it.

*Not a flower, not a flower, sweet,
On my black coffin let there be strown;*

*Not a friend, not a friend, greet
My poor corpse, where my bones shall be thrown:
A thousand thousand sighs to save,*

Lay me, O, where

*Sad true lover ne'er find my grave,
To weep there.*

Duke. There's for thy pains.

C. No pains, sir; I take pleasure in singing.

Duke. I'll pay thy pleasure, then. [sir.

Clow. Truly, sir, and pleasure will be paid,
one time or another.

Duke. Give me now leave to leave thee.

Clow. Now, the melancholy god protect thee;
and the tailor make thy doublet of changeable
taffeta, for thy mind is a very opal.—I would
have men of such constancy put to sea, that
their business might be every thing, and their
intent every where; for that's it, that always
makes a good voyage of nothing.—Farewell.

[Exit Clown.

1 Simple truth.

Duke. Let all the rest give place.—

[Exeunt Curio and Attendants.

Once more, Cesario.

Get thee to yon' same sovereign cruelty:

Tell her, my love, more noble than the world,

Prizes not quantity of dirty lands;

The parts that fortune hath bestow'd upon her,

Tell her, I hold as giddily as fortune;

But 'tis that miracle, and queen of gems,

That nature pranks! her in, attracts my soul.

Vio. But, if she cannot love you, sir?

Duke. I cannot be so answer'd.

Vio. 'Sooth, but you must.

Say, that some lady, as, perhaps, there is,
Hath for your love as great a pang of heart
As you have for Olivia: you cannot love her;
You tell her so; Must she not then be answer'd?

Duke. There is no woman's sides
Can bide the beating of so strong a passion
As love doth give my heart: no woman's heart
So big, to hold so much; they lack retention.
But mine is all as hungry as the sea,
And can digest as much: make no compare
Between that love a woman can bear me,
And that I owe Olivia.

Vio. Ay, but I know,—

Duke. What dost thou know?

Vio. Too well what love women to men may
owe;

In faith, they are as true of heart as we.
My father had a daughter lov'd a man,
As it might be, perhaps, were I a woman,
I should your lordship.

Duke. And what's her history?

Vio. A blank, my lord: She never told her love,
But let concealment, like a worm i' the bud,
Feed on her damask cheek; she pin'd in thought:
And, with a green and yellow melancholy,
She sat like patience on a monument,
Smiling at grief. Was not this love, indeed?
We men may say more, swear more; but, indeed,
Our shows are more than will; for still we prove
Much in our vows, but little in our love.

Duke. But did thy sister of her love, my boy?

V. I am all the daughters of my father's house,
And all the brothers too;—and yet I know
Sir, shall I to this lady? [not:—

Duke. Ay, that's the theme.
To her in haste; give her this jewel; say,
My love can give no place, bide no denial.²

[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—OLIVIA'S GARDEN.

*Enter Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Ague-cheek,
and Fabian.*

Sir To. Come thy ways, signior Fabian.

Fab. Nay, I'll come; if I lose a scruple of this
sport, let me be boiled to death with melancholy.

Sir To. Would'st thou not be glad to have
the niggardly rascally sheep-biter come by some
notable shame?

Fab. I would exult, man: you know, he
brought me out of favour with my lady, about a
bear-baiting here.

Sir To. To anger him, we'll have the bear
again; and we will fool him black and blue.—
Shall we not, Sir Andrew?

1 Decks.

2 Denial.

Sir And. An we do not, it is pity of our lives.

Enter Maria.

Sir To. Here comes the little villain:—How now, my nettle of India?

Mar. Get ye all three into the box-tree; Malvolio's coming down this walk; he has been yonder i' the sun, practising behaviour to his own shadow this half hour; observe him, for the love of mockery; for, I know, this letter will make a contemptible idiot of him. Close, in the name of jesting! [*The men hide themselves.*] Lie thou there; [*Throws down a letter,*] for here comes the trout that must be caught with tickling. [*Exit Maria.*]

Enter Malvolio.

Mal. 'Tis but fortune; all is fortune. Maria once told me, she did affect me: and I have heard herself come thus near, that, should she fancy, it should be one of my complexion. Besides, she uses me with a more exalted respect than any one else that follows her. What should I think on't?

Sir To. Here's an overweening rogue!

Fab. O, peace! Contemplation makes a rare turkey-cock of him; how he jets¹ under his advanced plumes!

Sir And. Slight, I could so beat the rogue:—

Sir To. Peace, I say.

Mal. To be Count Malvolio;—

Sir To. Ah, rogue!

Sir And. Pistol him, pistol him.

Sir To. Peace, peace!

Mal. There is example for't; the lady of the strachy married the yeoman of the wardrobe.

Sir And. Fie on ye, Jezebel!

Fab. O, peace! now he's deeply in, look, how imagination blows him.

Mal. Having been three months married to her, sitting in my state,—

Sir To. O, for a stone-bow, to hit him in the eye!

Mal. Calling my officers about me, in my branched velvet gown; having come from a day-bed, where I left Olivia sleeping.

Sir To. Fire and brimstone!

Fab. O, peace, peace!

Mal. And then to have the humour of state; and after a demure travel of regard,—telling them, I know my place, as I would they should do theirs,—To ask for my kinsman Toby:

Sir To. Bolts and shackles!

Fab. O, peace, peace, peace! now, now.

Mal. Seven of my people, with an obedient start, make out for him: I frown the while; and, perchance, wind up my watch, or play with some rich jewel. Toby approaches; court'sies there to me:

Sir To. Shall this fellow live?

Fab. Though our silence be drawn from us with cars, yet peace.

Mal. I extend my hand to him thus, quenching my familiar smile with an austere regard of control:

Sir To. And does not Toby take you a blow o' the hips then?

Mal. Saying, *Cousin Toby, my fortunes having cast me on your niece, give me this prerogative of speech:—*

Sir To. What, what?

Mal. You must amend your drunkenness.

Sir To. Out, scab!

Fab. Nay, patience, or we break the sinews of our plot.

Mal. Besides, you waste the treasure of your time with a foolish knight;

Sir And. That's me, I warrant you.

Mal. One Sir Andrew;

Sir And. I knew, 'twas I; for many do call me fool.

Mal. What employment have we here?

[*Taking up the letter.*]

Fab. Now is the woodcock near the gin.

Sir To. O, peace! and the spirit of humours intimate reading aloud to him!

Mal. By my life, this is my lady's hand: these be her very P's her U's and her T's, and thus makes she her great C's. It is, in contempt of question, her hand.

Sir And. Her P's, her U's, and her T's: Why that?

Mal. [*Reads.*] *To the unknown beloved, this, and my good wishes: her very phrases!—By your leave, wax.*—Soft!—and the impressure her Lucrece, with which she uses to seal: 'tis my lady: To whom should this be?

Fab. This wins him, liver and all.

Mal. [*Reads.*] *Jove knows, I love:*

But who?

Lips do not move,

No man must know.

No man must know.—What follows? the numbers altered!—*No man must know:—*If this should be thee, Malvolio?

Sir To. Marry, hang thee, brock!¹

Mal. I may command, where I adore:

But silence, like a Lucrece knife,

With bloodless stroke my heart doth gore;

M, O, A, I, doth sway my life.

Fab. A fustian riddle?

Sir To. Excellent wench, say I.

Mal. M, O, A, I, doth sway my life.—Nay, but first, let me see,—let me see,—let me see.

Fab. What a dish of poison has she dressed him!

Sir To. And with what wing the stannyl² checks³ at it!

Mal. I may command where I adore. Why, she may command me; I serve her, she is my lady. Why, this is evident to any formal capacity. There is no obstruction in this;—And the end,—What should that alphabetical position portend? If I could make that resemble something in me,—Softly!—*M, O, A, I,—*

Sir To. O, ay! make up that:—he is now at a cold scent.

Fab. Sowter⁴ will cry upon't for all this, though it be as rank as a fox.

Mal. M,—Malvolio;—M,—why, that begins my name.

Fab. Did not I say, he would work it out? the cur is excellent at faults.

¹ Struts.

¹ Badger. ² Hawk. ³ Flies. ⁴ Name of a hound.

Mal. M.—But then there is no consonancy in the sequel; that suffers under probation: *A* should follow, but *O* does.

Fab. And *O* shall end, I hope.

Sir To. Ay, or I'll cudgel him, and make him cry, *O*.

Mal. And then *I* comes behind;—

Fab. Ay, an you had any eye behind you, you might see more detraction at your heels than fortunes before you.

Mal. M. O, A, I;—This simulation is not as the former:—and, yet to crush this a little, it would bow to me, for every one of these letters are in my name. Soft; here follows prose.—*If this full into thy hand, revolve. In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. Thy fates open their hands; let thy blood and spirit embrace them. And to inure thyself to what thou art like to be, cast thy humble slough,¹ and appear fresh. Be opposite with a kinsman, surly with servants: let thy tongue tang arguments of state; put thyself into the trick of singularity: she thus advises thee, that sighs for thee. Remember who commended thy yellow stockings; and wished to see thee ever cross-gartered: I say, remember. Go to; thou art made, if thou desirest to be so; if not, let me see thee a steward still, the fellow of servants, and not worthy to touch fortune's fingers. Farewell. She that would alter services with thee, ² The fortunate-unhappy. Daylight and champion² discovers not more: this is open. I will be proud, I will read politick authors, I will baffle Sir Toby, I will wash off gross acquaintance, I will be point-de-vice³ the very man. I do not now fool myself, to let imagination jade me; for every reason excites to this, that my lady loves me. She did commend my yellow stockings of late, she did praise my leg being cross-gartered; and in this she manifests herself to my love, and, with a kind of injunction, drives me to these habits of her liking. I thank my stars, I am happy. I will be strange, stout, in yellow stockings, and cross-gartered, even with the swiftness of putting on. Jove and my stars be praised!—Here is yet a postscript. Thou canst not chide but know who I am. If thou entertainest my love, let it appear in thy smiling; thy smiles become thee well: therefore in my presence still smile, dear my sweet, I pry thee. Jove, I thank thee.—I will smile; I will do every thing that thou wilt have me. ³ [Exit.]*

Fab. I will not give my part of this sport for a pension of thousands to be paid from the Sophy.

Sir T. I could marry this wench for this device.

Sir And. So could I too.

Sir To. And ask no other dowry with her but such another jest.

Enter Maria.

Sir And. Nor I neither.

Fab. Here comes my noble gull-catcher.

Sir To. Will thou set thy foot o' my neck?

Sir And. Or o' mine either?

Sir To. Shall I play my freedom at tray-trip,¹ and become thy bond slave?

Sir And. I' faith, or I either.

Sir To. Why, thou hast put him in such a dream, that, when the image of it leaves him, he must run mad.

Mar. Nay, but say true; does it work upon him?

Sir To. Like aquæ vitæ.

Mar. If you will then see the fruits of the sport, mark his first approach before my lady: he will come to her in yellow stockings, and 'tis a colour she abhors; and cross-gartered, a fashion she detests; and he will smile upon her, which will now be so unsuitable to her disposition, being addicted to a melancholy as she is, that it cannot but turn him into a notable contempt: if you will see it, follow me.

Sir To. To the gates of Tartar, thou most excellent devil of wit?

Sir And. I'll make one too. [Exeunt.]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—OLIVIA'S GARDEN.

Enter Viola, and Clown with a tabor.

Vio. Save thee, friend, and thy musick: Dost thou live by thy tabor?

Clo. No, sir, I live by the church.

Vio. Art thou a churchman?

Clo. No such matter, sir; I do live by the church: for I do live at my house, and my house doth stand by the church.

Vio. So thou may'st say, the king lies by a beggar, if a beggar dwell near him: or, the church stands by thy tabor, if thy tabor stand by the church.

Clo. You have said, sir.—To see this age!—A sentence is but a cheveril² glove to a good wit; How quickly the wrong side may be turned outward!

Vio. I warrant thou art a merry fellow, and carest for nothing.

Clo. Not so, sir, I do care for something: but in my conscience, sir, I do not care for you; if that be to care for nothing, sir, I would it would make you invisible.

Vio. Art not thou the lady Olivia's fool?

Clo. No, indeed, sir; the lady Olivia has no folly: she will keep no fool, sir, till she be married; and fools are as like husbands as pilchards are to herrings, the husband's the bigger: I am, indeed, not her fool, but her corrupter of words.

Vio. I saw thee late at the Count Orsino's.

Clo. Foolery, sir, does walk about the orb, like the sun; it shines every where. I would be sorry, sir, but the fool should be as oft with your master, as with my mistress: I think, I saw your wisdom there.

Vio. Nay, an thou pass upon me, I'll no more with thee. Hold, there's expences for thee. Is thy lady within?

Clo. My lady is within, sir. I will construe to her whence you come; who you are, and what

1 Skin. 2 Open country. 3 To utmost exactness.

1 A boy's diversion. 2 Kid.

you would, are out of my welkin:¹ I might say, element; but the word is over-worn. [*Exit.*]

Vio. This fellow's wise enough to play the fool; And, to do that well, craves a kind of wit. He must observe their mood on whom he jests, The quality of persons, and the time. And, like the haggard,² check³ at every feather That comes before his eye. This is a practice, As full of labour as a wise man's art: For folly, that he wisely shows, is fit; But wise men, folly-fallen, quite taint their wit.

Enter Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Ague-cheek.

Sir To. Save you, gentlemen.

Vio. And you, sir.

Sir And. Dieu vous garde, monsieur.

Vio. Et vous aussi; votre serviteur.

Sir And. I hope, sir, you are; and I am yours.

Sir To. Will you encounter the house? my niece is desirous you should enter, if your trade be to her.

Vio. I am bound to your niece, sir; I mean, she is the list⁴ of my voyage.

Sir To. Taste your legs, sir, put them to motion.

Vio. My legs do better understand me, sir, than I understand what you mean by bidding me taste my legs.

Sir To. I mean, to go, sir, to enter.

Vio. I will answer you with gait and entrance: But we are prevented.

Enter Olivia and Maria.

Most excellent accomplished lady, the heavens rain odours on you!

Sir And. That youth's a rare courtier! Rain odours! well.

Vio. My matter hath no voice, lady, but to your own most pregnant⁵ and vouchsafed ear.

Sir A. Odours, pregnant, and vouchsafed:—I'll get 'em all three ready.

Oli. Let the garden door be shut, and leave me to my hearing.

[*Exeunt Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, and Maria.* Give me your hand, sir.

Vio. My duty, madam, and most humble service.

Oli. What is your name? [*princess.*]

Vio. Cesario is your servant's name, fair

O. My servant, sir! 'Twas never merry world, Since lowly feigning was called compliment: You are servant to the Count Orsino, youth.

V. And he is yours, and his must needs be yours: Your servant's servant is your servant, madam.

Oli. For him, I think not on him: for his thoughts, [*me!*]

'Would they were blanks, rather than fill'd with
Vio. Madam, I come to whet your gentle
On his behalf: [*thoughts*]

Oli. O, by your leave, I pray you;

I bade you never speak again of him:

But, would you undertake another suit,

I had rather hear you to solicit that,
Than musick from the spheres.

Vio. Dear lady, —

O. Give me leave, I beseech you: I did send, After the last enchantment you did here,

1 Sky. 3 Fly. 5 Ready.

2 Ill trained hawk. 4 Limit.

A ring in chase of you: so did I abuse
Myself, my servant, and, I fear me, you:
Under your hard construction must I sit,
To force that on you, in a shameful cunning,
Which you knew none of yours: What might
you think?

Have you not set mine honour at the stake
And bated it with all the unmuzzled thoughts
That tyrannous heart can think? To one of
your receiving¹

Enough is shown; a cyprus, not a bosom,
Hides my poor heart: So let me hear you

Vio. I pity you, [*come into conversation.*] [*speak.*]

Oli. That's a degree to love.

Vio. No, not a grise:² for 'tis a vulgar proof,
That very oft we pity enemies, [*and*] again;

Oli. Why, then, methinks, 'tis time to smile
O, world, how apt the poor are to be proud!
If one should be a prey, how much the better
To fall before the lion, than the wolf?

[*Clock strikes.*]

The clock upbraids me with the waste of time, —
Be not afraid, good youth, I will not have you:
And yet, when wit and youth is come to har-
Your wife is like to reap a proper man: [*vest,*
There lies your way, due west.

Vio. Then westward-hoe: [*ship!*]

Grace, and good disposition 'tend your lady-
You'll nothing, madam, to my lord by me?

Oli. Stay:

I pry'thee, tell me, what thou think'st of me.

V. That you do think, you are not what you are.

Oli. If I think so, I think the same of you.

V. Then think you right; I am not what I am.

O. I would you were as I would have you be!

Vio. Would it be better, madam, than I am,
I wish it might; for now I am your fool.

Oli. O, what a deal of scorn looks beautiful
In the contempt and anger of his lip!

A murd'rous guilt shows not itself more soon
Than love that would seem hid: love's night is
noon.

Cesario by the roses of the spring,
By maidhood, honour, truth, and every thing,
I love thee so, that, maugre all thy pride,
Nor wit, nor reason, can my passion hide.

Do not extort thy reasons from this clause,
For, that I woo, thou therefore hast no cause:
But, rather, reason thus with reason fetter:
Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.

V. By innocence I swear, and by my youth,
I have one heart, one bosom, and one truth,
And that no woman has; nor never none
Shall mistress be of it, save I alone.

And so adieu, good madam; never more
Will I my master's tears to you deplore. [*move*]

O. Yet come again: for thou, perhaps, may'st
That heart, which now abhors, to like his love.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

*Enter Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Ague-cheek,
and Fabian.*

Sir A. No, faith, I'll not stay a jot longer.

Sir To. Thy reason, dear venom, give thy
reason.

1 Ready apprehension. 3 Step.

Fab. You must needs yield your reason, Sir Andrew.

Sir And. Marry, I saw your niece do more favours to the count's serving man, than ever she bestowed upon me: I saw't i' the orchard.

Sir To. Did she see thee the while, old boy? tell me that.

Sir And. As plain as I see you now.

Fab. This was a great argument of love in her toward you.

Sir A. 'Slight! will you make an ass o' me?

Fab. I will prove it legitimate, sir, upon the oaths of judgment and reason.

Sir To. And they have been grand jury-men, since before Noah was a sailor.

Fab. She did show favour to the youth in your sight, only to exasperate you, to awake your dourmose valour, to put fire in your heart, and brimstone in your liver: You should then have accosted her; and with some excellent jests, fire-new from the mint, you should have banged the youth into dumbness. This was looked for at your hand, and this was baulked: the double gilt of this opportunity you let time wash off, and you are now sailed into the north of my lady's opinion; where you will hang like an icicle on a Dutchman's beard, unless you do redeem it by some laudable attempt, either of valour or policy.

Sir And. And't be any way, it must be with valour; for policy I hate: I had as lief¹ be a Brownist,² as a politician.

Sir To. Why then, build me thy fortunes upon the basis of valour. Challenge me the count's youth to fight with him; hurt him in eleven places; my niece shall take note of it: and assure thyself, there is no love-broker in the world can more prevail in man's commendation with woman, than report of valour.

Fab. There is no way but this, Sir Andrew.

Sir And. Will either of you bear me a challenge to him?

Sir To. Go, write it in a martial hand; be curst³ and brief; it is no matter how witty, so it be eloquent, and full of invention: taunt him with the licence of ink: if thou thou'st him some thrice, it shall not be amiss; and as many lies as will lie in thy sheet of paper, although the sheet were big enough for the bed of Ware⁴ in England, set 'em down; go, about it. Let there be gall enough in thy ink: though thou write with a goose pen, no matter: About it.

Sir And. Where shall I find you?

Sir To. We'll call thee at the cubiculo:⁵ Go.

[Exit Sir Andrew.]

Fab. This is a dear manakin to you, Sir Toby.

Sir To. I have been dear to him, lad; some two thousand strong, or so.

Fab. We shall have a rare letter from him: but you'll not deliver it?

Sir To. Never trust me then; and by all means stir on the youth to an answer. I think, oxen and wainropes cannot hale them together. For Sir Andrew, if he were opened, and you find so much blood in his liver as will clog the foot of a flea, I'll eat the rest of the anatomy.

Fab. And his opposite, the youth, bears in his visage no great presage of cruelty.

Enter Maria.

Sir To. Look, where the youngest wren of nine comes.

Mar. If you desire the spleen, and will laugh yourselves into stitches, follow me: yon' gull Malvolio is in yellow stockings.

Sir To. And cross-gartered?

Mar. Most villainously; like a pedant that keeps a school i' the church.—I have dogged him, like his murderer: He does obey every point of the letter that I dropped to betray him. He does smile his face into more lines than are in the new map, with the augmentation of the Indies: you have not seen such a thing as 'tis; I can hardly forbear hurling things at him. I know, my lady will strike him; if she do, he'll smile, and take 't for a great favour.

Sir To. Come, bring us, bring us where he is.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—A STREET.

Enter Antonio and Sebastian.

S. I would not, by my will, have troubled you; But, since you make your pleasure of your pains, I will no further chide you.

Ant. I could not stay behind you; my desire, More sharp than filed steel, did spur me forth: And not all love to see you (though so much, As might have drawn one to a longer voyage), But jealousy what might befall your travel, Being skillless in these parts; which to a stranger, Unguided and unfriended, often prove Rough and unhospitable: My willing love, The rather by these arguments of fear, Set forth in your pursuit.

Seb. My kind Antonio, I can no other answer make, but, thanks, And thanks, and ever thanks: Often good turns Are shuffled off with such uncurrent pay: But were my worth, as is my conscience, firm, You should find better dealing. What's to do? Shall we go see the reliques of this town?

Ant. To-morrow, sir; best, first, go see your lodging.

Seb. I am not weary, and 'tis long to-night; I pray you, let us satisfy our eyes With the memorials, and the things of fame, That do renown this city.

Ant. 'Would you'd pardon me; I do not without danger walk these streets: Once in a sea-fight, 'gainst the Count his galleys, I did some service; of such note, indeed, That, were I ta'en here, it would scarce be answer'd.

S. Belike, you slew great number of his people.

A. The offence is not of such a bloody nature; Albeit the quality of the time and quarrel, Might well have given us bloody argument. It might have since been answer'd in repaying What we took from them; which for traffick's sake

Most of our city did: only myself stood out; For which, if I be lapsed¹ in this place, I shall pay dear.

1 Caught.

1 As willingly. 3 Crabbed. 5 Chamber.

2 A Puritan sect. 4 Which held forty persons.

Seb. Do not then walk too open.

A. It doth not fit me. Hold, sir, here's my purse;

In the south suburbs, at the Elephant,
Is best to lodge: I will bespeak our diet. [ledge,
While you beguile the time, and feed your know-
With viewing of the town; there shall you have
me.

Seb. Why I your purse?

A. Haply, your eye shall light upon some toy
You have desire to purchase; and your store,
I think, is not for idle markets, sir.

Seb. I'll be your purse-bearer, and leave you
for an hour.

Ant. To the Elephant.—

Seb. I do remember.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—OLIVIA'S GARDEN.

Enter Olivia and Maria.

O. I have sent after him: He says, he'll come;
How shall I feast him? what bestow on him?
For youth is bought more oft, than begg'd, or
I speak too loud.— [borrow'd.
Where is Malvolio?—he is sad, and civil,
And suits well for a servant with my fortunes;—
Where is Malvolio?

Mar. He's coming, madam;
But in strange manner. He is sure possess'd.

Oli. Why, what's the matter? does he rave?

Mar. No, madam,
He does nothing but smile; your ladyship
Were best have guard about you if he come;
For, sure, the man is tainted in his wits.

Oli. Go call him hither. I'm as mad as he,
If sad and merry madness equal be.—

Enter Malvolio.

How now, Malvolio?

Mal. Sweet lady, ho, ho. [*Smiles fantastically.*]

Oli. Smil'st thou?

I sent for thee upon a sad¹ occasion.

Mal. Sad, lady? I could be sad: This does
make some obstruction in the blood, this cross-
gartering: But what of that, if it please the eye
of one, it is with me as the very true sonnet is:
Please one, and please all.

Oli. Why, how dost thou, man? what is the
matter with thee?

Mal. Not black in my mind, though yellow
in my legs: it did come to his hands, and com-
mands shall be executed. I think, we do know
the sweet Roman hand.

Oli. Wilt thou go to bed, Malvolio?

Mal. To bed? ay, sweet-heart.

Oli. Heaven comfort thee! Why dost thou
smile so, and kiss thy hand so oft?

Mar. How do you, Malvolio?

Mal. At your request? Yes; Nightingales
answer daws.

Mar. Why appear you with this ridiculous
boldness before my lady? [*writ.*]

Mal. Be not afraid of greatness: 'Twas well

Oli. What meanest thou by that, Malvolio?

Mal. Some are born great,—

Oli. Ha?

Mal. Some achieve greatness,—

Oli. What say'st thou?

Mal. And some have greatness thrust upon

Oli. Heaven restore thee! [*them.*]

Mal. Remember who commended thy yellow
stockings;—

Oli. Thy yellow stockings?

Mal. And wished to see thee cross-gartered.

Oli. Cross-gartered?

Mal. Go to: thou art made, if thou desirest
to be so;—

Oli. Am I made?

Mal. If not, let me see thee a servant still.

Oli. Why, this is very midsummer madness.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Madam, the young gentlemen of the
Count Orsino's is returned; I could hardly en-
treat him back: he attends your ladyship's
pleasure.

Oli. I'll come to him. [*Exit Servant.*] Good
Maria, let this fellow be looked to. Where's
my cousin Toby? Let some of my people
have a special care of him; I would not have
him miscarry for the half of my dowry.

[*Exeunt Olivia and Maria.*]

Mal. Oh, ho! do you come near me now? no
worse man than Sir Toby to look to me? This
concurs directly with the letter: she sends him
on purpose that I may appear stubborn to him;
for she incites me to that in the letter. *Cast thy
humble slough*, says she: *be opposite with a kins-
man, surly with servants,—let thy tongue tang
with arguments of state,—put thyself into the
trick of singularity;*—and, consequently, sets
down the manner how; as, a sad face, a reverend
carriage, a slow tongue, in the habit of some sir
of note, and so forth. I have limed her; but it
is Jove's doing, and Jove make me thankful!
And, when she went away now, *Let this fellow
be looked to:* Fellow¹ not Malvolio, nor after
my degree, but fellow. Why, every thing ad-
heres together; that no dram of a scruple, no
scruple of a scruple, no obstacle, no incredulous
or unsafe circumstance,—What can be said?
Nothing, that can be, can come between me and
the full prospect of my hopes. Well, Jove, not
I, is the doer of this, and he is to be thanked.

*Re-enter Maria, with Sir Toby Belch, and
Fabian.*

Sir To. Which way is he, in the name of
sanctity? I'll speak to him.

Fab. Here he is, here he is:—How is't with
you, sir? how is't with you, man?

Mal. Go off; I discard you, let me enjoy my
private; go off.

Mar. Lo, how hollow the fiend speaks within
him! did not I tell you?—Sir Toby, my lady
prays you to have a care of him.

Mal. Ah, ha! does she so?

Sir To. Go to, go to; peace, peace, we must
deal gently with him; let me alone. How do you,
Malvolio? how is't with you? What, man! defy
the devil: consider he's an enemy to mankind.

Mal. Do you know what you say?

Mar. La you, an you speak ill of the devil,

how he takes it at heart! Pray heaven, he be not bewitched! My lady would not lose him for more than I'll say.

Sir To. Pr'ythee, hold thy peace: this is not the way: Do you not see, you move him? let me alone with him.

Fab. No way but gentleness; gently, gently: the fiend is rough, and will not be roughly used.

Sir To. Why how now, my bawcock?¹ how dost thou, chuck?

Mal. Sir?

Sir To. Ay, Biddy, come with me. What, man! 'tis not for gravity to play at cherry-pit² with Satan; Hang him, foul collier!

Mal. Go hang yourselves all! you are idle shallow things: I am not of your element; you shall know more hereafter. [Exit.]

Sir To. Is't possible?

Fab. If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as an improbable fiction.

Sir To. His very genius hath taken the infection of the device, man.

Mar. Nay, pursue him now; lest the device take air, and taint.

Fab. Why, we shall make him mad, indeed.

Mar. The house will be the quieter.

Sir To. Come, we'll have him in a dark room, and bound. My niece is already in the belief that he is mad; we may carry it thus, for our pleasure, and his penance, till our very pastime, tired out of breath, prompt us to have mercy on him: at which time, we will bring the device to the bar, and crown thee for a finder of madmen. But see, but see.

Enter Sir Andrew Ague-cheek.

Fab. More matter for a May morning.

Sir And. Here's the challenge, read it; I warrant, there's vinegar and pepper in't.

Fab. Is't so sawcy?

Sir And. Ay is it, I warrant him; do but read.

Sir To. Give me. [Reads.] Youth, whatsoever thou art, thou art but a scurvy fellow.

Fab. Good and valiant.

Sir To. Wonder not, nor admire not in thy mind, why I do call thee so, for I will show thee no reason for't.

Fab. A good note: that keeps you from the blow of the law.

Sir To. Thou comest to the lady Olivia, and in my sight she uses thee kindly: but thou liest in thy throat, that is not the matter I challenge thee for.

F. Very brief, and exceeding good sense-less.

Sir To. I will way-lay thee going home; where if it be thy chance to kill me,—

Fab. Good.

Sir To. Thou killest me like a rogue and a villain.

Fab. Still you keep o' the windy side of the law: Good.

Sir To. Fare thee well: And God have mercy upon one of our souls! He may have mercy upon mine; but my hope is better, and so look to thyself. Thy friend, as thou usest him, and thy sworn enemy. *Andrew Ague-cheek.*

¹ Beau-cook.

² A boy's play.

Sir To. If this letter move him not, his legs cannot: I'll gi'v' him.

Mar. You may have very fit occasion for't; he is now in some commerce with my lady, and will by and by depart.

Sir To. Go, Sir Andrew; scout me for him at the corner of the orchard, like a bailiff: so soon as ever thou seest him, draw; and, as thou drawest, swear horrible; for it comes to pass off, that a terrible oath, with a swaggering accent sharply twanged off, gives manhood more approbation than ever proof itself would have earned him. Away.

Sir And. Nay, let me alone forswearing. [Exit.]

Sir To. Now will not I deliver his letter: for the behaviour of the young gentleman gives him out to be of good capacity and breeding; his employment between his lord and my niece confirms no less; therefore this letter, being so excellently ignorant, will breed no terror in the youth; he will find it comes from a clodpole. But, sir, I will deliver his challenge by word of mouth; set upon Ague-cheek a notable report of valour; and drive the gentleman (as, I know his youth will aptly receive it) into a most hideous opinion of his rage, skill, fury, and impetuosity. This will so frighten them both, that they will kill one another by the look, like cockatrices.

Enter Olivia and Viola.

Fab. Here he comes with your niece: give them way, till he take leave, and presently after him.

Sir To. I will meditate the while upon some horrid message for a challenge.

[*Exeunt Sir Toby, Fabian, and Maria.*]

Oli. I have said too much unto a heart of stone, And laid mine honour too unchary out: There's something in me, that reproves my fault; But such a headstrong potent fault it is, That it but mocks reproof.

Vio. With the same 'haviour that your passion Go on my master's griefs. [Tears.]

O. Here, wear this jewel for me, 'tis my picture; Refuse it not, it hath no tongue to vex you: And, I beseech you, come again to-morrow.

What shall you ask of me, that I'll deny; That honour, say'd, may upon asking give?

Vio. Nothing but this, your true love for my master.

Oli. How with mine honour may I give him Which I have given to you? [that]

Vio. I will acquit you.

Oli. Well, come again to-morrow: Fare thee well. [Exit.]

Re-enter Sir Toby Belch and Fabian.

Sir To. Gentleman, heaven save thee.

Vio. And you, sir.

Sir To. That defence thou hast, betake thee to't: of what nature the wrongs are thou hast done him, I know not; but thy interceptor, full of despight, bloody as the hunter, attends thee at the orchard end: dismount thy tuck,¹ be yare² in thy preparation, for thy assailant is quick, skilful, and deadly.

Vio. You mistake, sir; I am sure, no man

¹ Rapier.

² Ready.

hath any quarrel to me; my remembrance is very free and clear from any image of offence done to any man.

Sir To. You'll find it otherwise, I assure you: therefore, if you hold your life at any price, betake you to your guard; for your opposite hath in him what youth, strength, skill and wrath, can furnish man withal.

Vio. I pray you, sir, what is he?

Sir To. He is knight, dubbed with unhacked rapier, and on carpet consideration; but he is a devil in private brawl: souls and bodies hath he divorced three; and his incensement at this moment is so implacable, that satisfaction can be none but by pangs of death and sepulchre; hob, nob, is his word; give't or tak't.

Vio. I will return again into the house, and desire some conduct of the lady. I am no fighter. I have heard of some kind of men, that put quarrels purposely on others, to taste their valour: belike, this is a man of that quirk.

Sir To. Sir, no; his indignation derives itself out of a very competent injury; therefore get you on, and give him his desire. Back you shall not to the house, unless you undertake that with me, which with as much safety you might answer him: therefore, on, or strip your sword stark naked: for meddle you must, that's certain, or forswear to wear iron about you.

Vio. That is as uncivil, as strange. I beseech you, do me this courteous office, as to know of the knight what my offence to him is: it is something of my negligence, nothing of my purpose.

Sir To. I will do so. Signor Fabian, stay you by this gentleman till my return. [*Exit Sir To.*]

Vio. Pray you, sir, do you know of this matter?

Fab. I know the knight is incensed against you, even to a mortal arbitrement; but nothing of the circumstance more.

Vio. I beseech you, what manner of man is he?

Fab. Nothing of that wonderful promise, to read him by his form, as you are like to find him in the proof of his valour. He is, indeed, sir, the most skilful, bloody, and fatal opposite that you could possibly have found in any part of Illyria: Will you walk towards him? I will make your peace with him, if I can.

Vio. I shall be much bound to you for't: I am one, that would rather go with sir priest, than sir knight: I care not who knows so much of my mettle. [*Exeunt.*]

Re-enter Sir Toby with Sir Andrew.

Sir To. Why, man, he's a very devil; I have not seen such a virago. I had a pass with him, rapier, scabbard, and all, and he gives me the stuck-in,¹ with such a mortal motion, that it is inevitable; and on the answer, he pays you as surely as your feet hit the ground they step on: They say he has been fencer to the Sophy.

Sir And. I'll not meddle with him.

Sir To. Ay, but he will not now be pacified; Fabian can scarce hold him yonder.

Sir And. Plague on't; an I thought he had been valiant, and so cunning in fence, I'd have seen him hanged ere I'd have challenged him.

¹ Stoccato, a term in fencing.

Let him let the matter slip, and I'll give him my horse, grey Capilet.

Sir To. I'll make the motion: Stand here, make a good show on't; this shall end without the perdition of souls. [*Aside.*] Marry, I'll ride your horse as well as I ride you.

Re-enter Fabian and Viola.

[*To Fab.*] I have his horse to take up the quarrel; I have persuaded him the youth's a devil.

Fab. He is as horribly conceited of him; and pants, and looks pale, as if a bear were at his heels.

Sir To. There's no remedy, sir; he will fight with you for his oath's sake: marry, he hath better bethought him of his quarrel, and he finds that now scarce to be worth talking of: therefore draw, for the supportance of his vow: he protests, he will not hurt you.

Vio. [*Aside.*] Pray heaven defend me! A little thing would make me tell them how much I lack of a man.

Fab. Give ground, if you see him furious.

Sir To. Come, Sir Andrew, there's no remedy; the gentleman will, for his honour's sake, have one bout with you: he cannot by the duello¹ avoid it: but he has promised me, as he is a gentleman and a soldier, he will not hurt you. Come on; to't.

Sir A. Pray heaven, he keep his oath! [*Draws.*]

Enter Antonio.

V. I do assure you, 'tis against my will. [*Draws.*]

Ant. Put up your sword;—if this young gentleman

Have done offence, I take the fault on me;

If you offend him, I for him defy you. [*Drawing.*]

Sir To. You, sir? why, what are you?

A. One, sir, that for his love dares yet do more Than you have heard him brag to you he will.

Sir To. Nay, if you be an undertaker, I am for you. [*Draws.*]

Enter two Officers.

Fab. O good Sir Toby, hold; here come the officers.

Sir To. I'll be with you anon. [*To Antonio,*

Vio. Pray, sir, put up your sword if you please. [*To Sir Andrew.*]

Sir And. Marry, will I, sir;—and, for that I promised you, I'll be as good as my word; He will bear you easily, and reins well.

1 Off. This is the man, do thy office.

2 Off. Antonio, I arrest thee at the suit Of Count Orsino.

Ant. You do mistake me, sir.

1 Off. No, sir, no jot; I know your favour well, Though now you have no sea-cap on your head.— Take him away; he knows I know him well.

Ant. [*To Viola.*] I must obey.—This comes with seeking you;

But there's no remedy; I shall answer it.

What will you do? Now my necessity Makes me to ask you for my purse: It grieves me Much more, for what I cannot do for you, Than what befalls myself. You stand amaz'd; But be of comfort.

2 Off. Come, sir, away.

A. I must entreat of you some of that money.

¹ Laws of duel.

Vio. What money, sir?
For the fair kindness you have show'd me here,
And, part, being prompted by your present
trouble,

Out of my lean and low ability
I'll lend you something: my having is not much;
I'll make division of my present with you:
Hold, there is half my coffer.

Ant. Will you deny me now?
Is't possible, that my deserts to you
Can lack persuasion? Do not tempt my misery,
Lest that it make me so unsound a man,
As to upbraid you with those kindnesses
That I have done for you.

Vio. I know of none;
Nor know I you by voice, or any feature:
I hate ingratitude more in a man,
Than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness,
Or any taint of vice, whose strong corruption
Inhabits our frail blood.

Ant. O heavens themselves!
2 *Off.* Come, sir, I pray you, go.

A. Let me speak a little. This youth that you
see here,

I snatch'd him one half out of the jaws of death;
Reliev'd him with such sanctity of love,—
And to his image, which, methought, did promise
Most venerable worth, did I devotion.

1 *Off.* What's that to us? The time goes by;
away.

A. But, O, how vile an idol proves this god!—
Thou hast, Sebastian, done good featureshame.—
In nature there's no blemish, but the mind;
None can be call'd deform'd, but the unkind:
Virtue is beauty; but the beauteous evil
Are empty trunks, o'erflourish'd by the devil.

1 *Off.* The man grows mad; away with him.
Come, come, sir.

A. Lead me on. [*Exit Officers with Antonio.*]
V. Methinks, his words do from such passions
fly,

That he believes himself; so do not I.
Prove true, imagination, O, prove true,
That I, dear brother, be now ta'en for you!

Sir To. Come hither, knight; come hither,
Fabian; we'll whisper o'er a couplet or two of
most sage saws.

Vio. He nam'd Sebastian; I my brother know
Yet living in my glass; even such, and so,
In favour was my brother; and he went
Still in this fashion, colour, ornament,
For him I imitate: O, if it prove,
Tempests are kind, and salt waves fresh in love!

[*Exit.*]

Sir To. A very dishonest paltry boy, and more
a coward than a hare: his dishonesty appears in
leaving his friend here in necessity, and denying
him; and for his cowardship, ask Fabian.

Fab. A coward, a most devout coward, religious
in it.

Sir A. Slid, I'll after him again, and beat him.

Sir To. Do, cuff him soundly, but never draw
thy sword.

Sir And. An I do not,— [*Exit.*]

Fab. Come, let's see the event.

Sir To. I dare lay any money, 'twill be no
thing yet, [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

THE STREET BEFORE OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Sebastian and Clown.

Clo. Will you make me believe, that I am not
sent for you?

Seb. Go to, go to, thou art a foolish fellow;
Let me be clear of thee.

Clo. Well held out, i' faith! No, I do not know
you; nor I am not sent to you by my lady, to
bid you come speak with her; nor your name
is not master Cesario; nor this is not my nose
neither.—Nothing, that is so, is so.

Seb. I pr'ythee, vent thy folly somewhere else;
Thou know'st not me.

Clo. Vent my folly! He has heard that word
of some great man, and now applies it to a fool.
Vent my folly! I am afraid this great lubber,
the world, will prove a cockney.—I pr'ythee now
ungird thy strangeness, and tell me what I shall
vent to my lady; Shall I vent to her, that thou
art coming?

Seb. I pr'ythee, foolish Greek, depart from me;
There's money for thee; if you tarry longer,
I shall give worse payment.

C. By my troth, thou hast an open hand:—These
wise men, that give fools money, get themselves
a good report after fourteen years' purchase.

Enter Sir Andrew, Sir Toby, and Fabian.

Sir And. Now, sir, have I met you again?
there's for you. [*Striking Sebastian.*]

Seb. Why, there's for thee, and there, and there:
Are all the people mad? [*Beating Sir Andrew.*]

Sir To. Hold, sir, or I'll throw your dagger
o'er the house.

Clo. This will I tell my lady straight: I would
not be in some of your coats for two-pence.

[*Exit Clown.*]

Sir T. Come on, sir; hold. [*Holding Sebastian.*]

Sir A. Nay, let him alone, I'll go another way
to work with him; I'll have an action of battery
against him, if there be any law in Illyria: though
I struck him first, yet it's no matter for that.

Seb. Let go thy hand.

Sir To. Come, sir, I will not let you go. Come,
my young soldier, put up your iron: you are
well fleshed; come on. [*thou know?*]

Seb. I will be free from thee. What would'st
If thou dar'st tempt me further, draw thy sword.

[*Draws.*]

Sir To. What, what? Nay, then I must have
an ounce or two of this malapert blood from you.

[*Draws.*]

Enter Olivia.

Oli. Hold, Toby; on thy life, I charge thee,
Sir To. Madam? [*hold.*]

Oli. Will it be ever thus? Ungracious wretch,
Fit for the mountains, and the barbarous caves,
Where manners ne'er were preached! out of my
Be not offended, dear Cesario:— [*sight,*
Rudesby, I be gone!—I pr'ythee, gentle friend,
[*Exit Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, and Fabian.*]
Let thy fair wisdom, not thy passion, sway
In this uncivil and unjust extent?

1 Rude fellow. 2 Degree.

Against thy peace. Go with me to my house ;
And hear thou there how many fruitless pranks
This ruffian hath botch'd up, that thou thereby
May'st smile at this : thou shalt not choose but
Do not deny : Beshrew his soul for me, [go ;
He started one poor heart of mine in thee.

S. What relish is in this ? how runs the stream ?
Or I am mad, or else this is a dream :—
Let fancy still my sense in Lethe steep ;
If it be thus to dream, still let me sleep !

Oli. Nay, come, I pr'ythee : 'Would thou'dst

Seb. Madam, I will. [be rul'd by me !

Oli. O, say so, and so be !

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Maria and Clown.

Mar. Nay, I pr'ythee, put on this gown, and
this beard ; make him believe thou art Sir Topas,
the curate ; do it quickly : I'll call Sir Toby the
whilst.

Exit Maria.

Clo. Well, I'll put it on, and I will dissemble
myself in't ; I am not tall enough to become the
function well : nor lean enough to be thought a
good student : but to be said, an honest man,
and a good housekeeper, goes as fairly, as to
say, a careful man, and a great scholar. The
competitors¹ enter.

Enter Sir Toby Belch and Maria.

Sir To. Jove bless thee, master parson.

Clo. *Bonos dies*, Sir Toby : for as the old her-
mit of Prague, that never saw pen and ink, very
wittily said to a niece of king Gorboduc, *That,*
that is, is ; so I, being master parson, am master
parson ; For what is that, but that ? and is, but is ?

Sir To. To him, Sir Topas.

Clo. What, ho, I say,—Peace in this prison !
Sir To. The knave counterfeits well ; a good
knaue.

Mal. [In an inner chamber.] Who calls there ?

Sir Topas, the curate, who comes to visit
Malvolio the lunatick.

Mal. Sir Topas, Sir Topas, good Sir Topas,
go to my lady.

Clo. Out, hyperbolical fiend ! how vexest thou
this man ? talkest thou nothing but of ladies ?

Sir To. Well said, master parson.

M. Sir Topas, never was a man thus wronged :
good Sir Topas, do not think I am mad ; they
have laid me here in hideous darkness.

Clo. Fie, thou dishonest Sathan ! I call thee
by the most modest terms ; for I am one of those
gentle ones that will use the devil himself with
courtesy : Say'st thou, that house is dark ?

Mal. As hell, Sir Topas.

Clo. Why, it hath bay-windows, transparent
as barricadoes, and the clear stones towards the
south-north are as lustrous as ebony ; and yet
complainest thou of obstruction ?

Mal. I am not mad, Sir Topas ; I say to you,
this house is dark.

Clo. Madman, thou errest : I say, there is no
darkness, but ignorance ; in which thou art more
puzzled than the Egyptians in their fog.

Mal. I say, this house is as dark as ignorance,

¹ Confederates.

though ignorance were as dark as hell ; and I
say, there was never man thus abused : I am
no more mad than you are ; make the trial of
it in any constant question.¹

Clo. What is the opinion of Pythagoras, con-
cerning wild-fowl ?

Mal. That the soul of our grandam might
happily inhabit a bird.

Clo. What thinkest thou of his opinion ?

Mal. I think nobly of the soul, and no way
approve his opinion.

Clo. Fare thee well : Remain thou still in
darkness : thou shalt hold the opinion of Pytha-
goras, ere I will allow of thy wits ; and fear to
kill a woodcock, less thou dispossess the soul
of thy grandam. Fare thee well.

Mal. Sir Topas, Sir Topas,—

Sir To. My most exquisite Sir Topas !

Clo. Nay, I am for all waters.²

Mar. Thou might'st have done this without
thy beard, and gown ; he sees thee not.

Sir To. To him in thine own voice, and bring
me word how thou findest him : I would we were
well rid of this knavery. If he may be conveni-
ently delivered, I would he were ; for I am now
so far in offence with my niece, that I cannot
pursue with any safety this sport to the upshot.
Come by and by to my chamber.

[*Exeunt Sir Toby and Maria.*]

Clo. Hey Robin, jolly Robin,

Tell me how thy lady does. [Singing.

Mal. Fool.—

Clo. My lady is unkind, perdy.

Mal. Fool.—

Clo. Alas, why is she so ?

Mal. Fool, I say ;—

Clo. She loves another—Who calls, ha ?

Mal. Good fool, as ever thou wilt deserve well
at my hand, help me to a candle, and pen, ink,
and paper ; as I am a gentleman, I will live to
be thankful to thee for't.

Clo. Master Malvolio !

Mal. Ay, good fool.

C. Alas, sir, how fell you besides your five wits ?

Mal. Fool, there was never man so notoriously
abused : I am as well in my wits, fool, as thou art.

Clo. But as well ? then you are mad, indeed, if
you be no better in your wits than a fool.

Mal. They have here propertyed me ; keep me
in darkness, send ministers to me, asses, and do
all they can to face me out of my wits.

Clo. Advise you what you say ; the minister is
here.—Malvolio, Malvolio, thy wits the heavens
restore ? endeavour thyself to sleep, and leave
thy vain bible babble.

Mal. Sir Topas—

Clo. Maintain no words with him, good fellow.
—Who, I, sir ? not I, sir. God b' wi' you, good
Sir Topas.—Marry, amen.—I will, sir, I will.

Mal. Fool, fool, fool, I say,—

Clo. Alas, sir, be patient. What say you, sir ?
I am shent³ for speaking to you.

Mal. Good fool, help me to some light, and
some paper ; I tell thee I am as well in my wits,
as any man in Illyria.

Clo. Well-a-day,—that you were, sir !

¹ Regular conversation.

² Scolded.

³ Any other gem as well as a *Topas*.

Mal. By this hand I am : Good fool, some ink, paper, and light, and convey what I will set down to my lady ; it shall advantage thee more than ever the bearing of letter did.

Clo. I will help you to't. But tell me true, are you not mad indeed ? or do you but counterfeit ?

Mal. Believe me, I am not ; I tell thee true.

Clo. Nay, I'll ne'er believe a madman, till I see his brains. I will fetch you light, and paper, and ink.

Mal. Fool, I'll requite it in the highest degree : I prythee, be gone.

Clo. : I am gone, sir,
And anon, sir,
I'll be with you again,
In a trice ;
Like to the old vice¹
Your need to sustain.

Who with dagger of lath,
In his rage and his wrath,
Cries, ah, ha ! to the devil :
Like a mad lad,
Pare thy nails, dad.
Adieu, Goodman drival. [Exit.

SCENE III.—OLIVIA'S GARDEN.

Enter Sebastian.

Seb. This is the air ; that is the glorious sun ; This pearl she gave me, I do feel't and see't : And though 'tis wonder that enwraps me thus, Yet 'tis not madness. Where's Antonio then ? I could not find him at the Elephant :

Yet there he was ; and there I found this credit,² That he did range the town to seek me out. His counsel now might do me golden service : For though my soul disputes well with my sense, That this may be some error, but no madness, Yet doth this accident and flood of fortune So far exceed all instance, all discourse, That I am ready to distrust mine eyes, And wrangle with my reason, that persuades me

To any other trust, but that I am mad, Or else the lady's mad ; yet, if 'twere so, She could not sway her house, command her followers,

Take, and give back, affairs and their despatch, With such a smooth, discreet, and stable bearing, As, I perceive, she does : there's something in't, That is deceivable. But here comes the lady.

Enter Olivia and a Priest.

Oli. Blame not this haste of mine : If you mean well,

Now go with me, and with this holy man, Into the chantry by : there, before him, And underneath that consecrated roof, Plight me the full assurance of your faith ; That my most jealous, and too doubtful soul May live at peace : he shall conceal it, Whiles³ you are willing it shall come to note ; What time we will our celebration keep According to my birth.—What do you say ?

S. I'll follow this good man, and go with you ; And, having sworn truth, ever will be true.

1 Buffoon.

2 Account.

3 Until.

Oli. Then lead the way, good father ;—And heaven to shine,
That they may fairly note this act of mine !
[Exeunt.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

THE STREET BEFORE OLIVIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Clown and Fabian.

F. Now, as thou lovest me, let me see his letter.

Clo. Good master Fabian, grant me another request.

Fab. Any thing.

Clo. Do not desire to see this letter.

Fab. That is, to give a dog, and, in recompense, desire my dog again.

Enter Duke, Viola, and Attendants.

Duke. Belong you to the lady Olivia, friends ?

Clo. Ay, sir ; we are some of her trappings.

Duke. I know thee well ; How dost thou, my good fellow ?

Clo. Truly, sir, the better for my foes, and the worse for my friends.

Duke. Just the contrary ; the better for thy

Clo. No, sir, the worse. [friends.

Duke. How can that be ?

Clo. Marry, sir, they praise me, and make an ass of me ; now my foes tell me plainly I am an ass ; so that by my foes, sir, I profit in the knowledge of myself ; and by my friends I am abused : so that, conclusions to be as kisses, if your four negatives make your two affirmatives, why, then the worse for my friends, and the better for my foes.

Duke. Why, this is excellent.

Clo. By my troth, sir, no : though it please you to be one of my friends.

Duke. Thou shalt not be the worse for me ; there's gold.

Clo. But that it would be double-dealing, sir, I would you could make it another.

Duke. O, you give me ill counsel.

Clo. Put your grace in your pocket, sir, for this once, and let your flesh and blood obey it.

Duke. Well, I will be so much a sinner to be a double-dealer ; there's another.

Clo. *Primo, secundo, tertio*, is a good play ; and the old saying is, the third pays for all : the *triplex*, sir, is a good tripping measure ; or the bells of St Bennet, sir, may put you in mind : One, two, three.

Duke. You can fool no more money out of me at this throw : if you will let your lady know, I am here to speak with her, and bring her along with you, it may awake my bounty further.

Clo. Marry, sir, lullaby to your bounty till I come again. I go, sir ; but I would not have you to think, that my desire of having is the sin of covetousness : but, as you say, sir, let your bounty take a nap, I will awake it anon. [Exit Clown.

Enter Antonio and Officers.

V. Here comes the man, sir, that did rescue me.

Duke. That face of his I do remember well : Yet, when I saw it last, it was besmear'd

As black as vulcan, in the smoke of war?
A bawling vessel was he captain of,
For shallow draught, and bulk, unpriizable;
With which such scathful grapple did he make
With the most noble bottom of our fleet,
That very envy, and the tongue of loss, [matter?
Cry'd fame and honour on him.—What's the

1 Off. Orsino, this is that Antonio,
That took the Phoenix, and her fraught¹ from
And this is he that did the Tiger board, [Candy;
When your young nephew Titus lost his leg;
Here in the streets, desperate of shame and state,
In private brabble did we apprehend him.

V. He did me kindness, sir; drew on my side;
But, in conclusion, put strange speech upon me,
I know not what 'twas, but distraction.

Duke. Notable pirate! thou salt-water thief!
What foolish boldness brought thee to their
mercies,

Whom thou, in terms so bloody, and so dear,
Hast made thine enemies?

Ant. Orsino, noble sir,
Be pleased that I shake off these names you give
Antonio never yet was thief, or pirate, [me;
Though I confess, on base and ground enough,
Orsino's enemy. A witchcraft drew me hither:
That most ingrateful boy there, by your side,
From the rude sea's enrag'd and foamy mouth
Did I redeem; a wreck past hope he was:
His life I gave him, and did thereto add
My love, without retention, or restraint,
All his in dedication: for his sake,
Did I expose myself, pure for his love,
Into the danger of this adverse town;
Drew to defend him, when he was beset;
Where being apprehended, his false cunning
(Not meaning to partake with me in danger,)
Taught him to face me out of his acquaintance,
And grew a twenty-years-removed thing,
While one would wink; denied me mine own
Which I had recommended to his use [purse,
Not half an hour before.

Vio. How can this be?

Duke. When came he to this town?

Ant. To-day, my lord; and for three months
(No interim, not a minute's vacancy,) [before,
Both day and night did we keep company.

Enter Olivia and Attendants.

Duke. Here comes the countess; now heaven
walks on earth.—— [madness,
But for thee, fellow, fellow, thy words are
Three months this youth hath tended upon me;
But more of that anon.——Take him aside.

O. What would my lord, but that he may not
Wherein Olivia may seem serviceable?—[have,
Cesario, you do not keep promise with me.

Vio. Madam?

Duke. Gracious Olivia,—— [lord,——

O. What do you say, Cesario?—Good my

V. My lord would speak, my duty hushes me,

Ol. If it be aught to the old tune, my lord,
It is as fat² and fulsome to mine ear
As howling after musick.

Duke. Still so cruel.

Ol. Still so constant, lord.

Duke. What! to perverseness? you uncivillady,

¹ Freight,

² Gross.

To whose ingrate and unauspicious altars [out,
My soul the faithfull'st offerings hath breath'd
That e'er devotion tender'd! What shall I do?

Ol. Even what it please my lord, that shall
become him.

Du. Why should I not, had I the heart to do it,
Like to the Egyptian thief at point of death,
Kill what I lov'd; a savage jealousy, [this:
That sometimes savours nobly?—But hear me
Since you to non-regardance cast my faith,
And that I partly know the instrument [our,
That screws me from my true place in your fav-
live you, the marble-breasted tyrant, still;
But this your minion, whom, I know, you love,
And whom, by heaven, I swear, I tender dearly,
Him will I tear out of that cruel eye,
Where he sits crowned in his master's spite.—
Come boy, with me; my thoughts are ripe in
mischief:

I'll sacrifice the lamb that I do love,
To spite a raven's heart within a dove. [Going.

Vio. And I, most jocund, apt, and willingly,
To do you rest, a thousand deaths would die.

[Following.

Ol. Where goes Cesario?

Vio. After him I love,
More than I love these eyes, more than my life,
More, by all mores, than e'er I shall love wife:
If I do feign, you witnesses above,
Punish my life, for tainting of my love!

Ol. Ah me, detested! how am I beguild!

Vio. Who does beguile you? who does do you
wrong?

Ol. Hast thou forgot thyself! Is it so long?—
Call forth the holy father. [Exit an attendant.

Duke. And an attendant. Come away. [To Viola.

O. Whither, my lord?—Cesario, husband, stay.

Duke. Husband?

Ol. Ay, husband; Can he that deny?

Duke. Her husband, sirrah?

Vio. No, my lord, not I.

Ol. Alas, it is the baseness of thy fear,
That makes thee strangle thy propriety:
Fear not, Cesario, take thy fortunes up;
Be that thou know'st thou art, and then thou art
As great as that thou fear'st—O, welcome, father!

Re-enter Attendant and Priest.

Father, I charge thee, by thy reverence,
Here to unfold (though lately we intended
To keep in darkness, what occasion now
Reveals before 'tis ripe), what thou dost know
Hath newly pass'd between this youth and me.

Priest. A contract of eternal bond of love,
Confirm'd by mutual joinder of your hands,
Attested by the holy close of lips,
Strengthen'd by interchangement of your rings;
And all the ceremony of this compact
Seal'd in my function, by my testimony:
Since when, my watch hath told me, toward my
I have travell'd but two hours. [grave,

D. O, thou dissembling cub! what wilt thou be,
When time hath sow'd a grizzle on thy case?
Or wilt not else thy craft so quickly grow,
That thine own trip shall be thine overthrow?
Farewell, and take her; but direct thy feet,
Where thou and I henceforth may never meet.

Vio. My lord, I do protest,—

Oli. O, do not swear ;
Hold little faith, though thou hast too much to fear.

Enter Sir Andrew Ague-cheek, with his head broke.

Sir And. For the love of heaven, a surgeon ;
send one presently to Sir Toby.

Oli. What's the matter ?

Sir And. He has broke my head across, and has given Sir Toby a bloody coxcomb too : for the love of heaven, your help : I had rather than forty pound I were at home.

Oli. Who has done this, Sir Andrew ?

Sir And. The count's gentleman, one Cesario : we took him for a coward, but he's the very devil incardinate.

Duke. My gentleman, Cesario !

Sir And. Od's lifelings, here he is :—You broke my head for nothing ; and that that I did, I was set on to do't by Sir Toby.

Vio. Why do you speak to me ? I never hurt you : You drew your sword upon me, without cause ; But I bespake you fair, and hurt you not.

Sir And. If a bloody coxcomb be a hurt, you have hurt me ; I think, you set nothing by a bloody coxcomb.

Enter Sir Toby Belch, drunk, led by the Clown.

Here comes Sir Toby halting, you shall hear more ; but if he had not been in drink, he would have tickled you othergates¹ than he did.

D. How now, gentleman ? how is't with you ?

Sir To. That's all one ; he has hurt me, and there's the end on't.—Sot, did'st see Dick surgeon, sot ?

Clo. O he's drunk, Sir Toby, an hour ago ; his eyes were set at eight i' the morning.

Sir To. Then he's a rogue, and after a passy-measures pavin ;² I hate a drunken rogue.

Oli. Away with him : Who hath made this havock with them.

Sir And. I'll help you, Sir Toby, because we'll be dressed together.

Sir To. Will you help an ass-head, and a coxcomb, and a knave ? a thin-faced knave, a gull ?

Oli. Get him to bed, and let his hurt be look'd to.

[*Exeunt Clown, Sir Toby, and Sir Andrew.*]

Enter Sebastian.

Seb. I am sorry, madam, I have hurt your kins-
But had it been the brother of my blood, [man ;
I must have done no less, with wit, and safety.
You throw a strange regard upon me, and
By that I do perceive it hath offended you ;
Pardon me, sweet one, even for the vows
We made each other but so late ago. [persons ;

Duke. One face, one voice, one habit, and two
A natural perspective, that is, and is not.

Seb. Antonio, O my dear Antonio !

How have the hours rack'd and tortur'd me,
Since I have lost thee !

Ant. Sebastian are you ?

Seb. Fear'st thou that, Antonio ?

A. How have you made division of yourself ?—
An apple cleft in two, is not more twin
Than these two creatures. Which is Sebastian ?

Oli. Most wonderful !

¹ Otherways.

² Stately dances.

Seb. Do I stand there ? I never had a brother ;
Nor can there be that deity in my nature
Of here and everywhere. I had a sister, [your'd :—
Whom the blind waves and surges have de-
[To Viola.] Of charity, what kin are you to me ?
What countryman ? what name ? what parentage ?

Vio. Of Messaline : Sebastian was my father ;
Such a Sebastian was my brother too,
So went he suited to his watery tomb :
If spirits can assume both form and suit,
You come to fright us.

Seb. A spirit I am, indeed ;
But am in that dimension grossly clad,
Which from the womb I did participate.

Were you a woman, as the rest goes even,
I should my tears let fall upon your cheek,
And say—Thrice welcome, drown'd Viola !

Vio. My father had a mole upon his brow.

Seb. And so had mine.

Vio. And died that day when Viola from her
Had number'd thirteen years. [birth

Seb. O, that record is lively in my soul !

He finished, indeed, his mortal act,
That day that made my sister thirteen years.

Vio. If nothing lets to make us happy both,
But this my masculine usurp'd attire,
Do not embrace me, till each circumstance
Of place, time, fortune, do cohere, and jump,
That I am Viola : which to confirm,
I'll bring you to a captain in this town,
Where lie my maiden weeds ; by whose gentle
I was preserv'd, to serve this noble count : [help
All the occurrence of my fortune since
Hath been between this lady and this lord.

Seb. So comes it lady, you have been mistook :
[To Olivia.

But nature to her bias drew in that.

You would have been contracted to a maid ;
Nor are you therein, by my life, deceived,
You are betroth'd both to a maid and man.

D. Be not amazed ; right noble is his blood.—
If this be so, as yet the glass seems true,
I shall have share in this most happy wreck ;
Boy, thou hast said to me a thousand times,

[To Viola.

Thou never should'st love woman like to me.

Vio. And all those sayings will I over-swear ;
And all those swearings keep as true in soul,
As doth that orb'd continent the fire
That severs day from night.

Duke. Give me thy hand ;
And let me see thee in thy woman's weeds.

V. The captain that did bring me first on shore
Hath my maid's garments : he, upon some action,
Is now in durance ; at Malvolio's suit,
A gentleman, and follower of my lady's.

Oli. He shall enlarge him ;—Fetch Malvolio
And yet, alas, now I remember me, [hither :—
They say, poor gentleman, he's much distract.

Re-enter Clown, with a Letter.

A most extracting frenzy of mine own
From my remembrance clearly banish'd his.—
How does he, sirrah ?

Clo. Truly, madam, he holds Belzebub at the
stave's end, as well as a man in his case may do :
he has here writ a letter to you ; I should have
given it to you to-day morning ; but as a mad-

man's epistles are no gospels, so it skills not much when they are delivered.

Oli. Open it, and read it.

Clo. Look then to be well edified, when the fool delivers the madman:—

Oli. How now! art thou mad?

Clo. No, madam, I do but read madness: an your ladyship will have it as it ought to be, you must allow *vox*!

Oli. Pr'ythee, read i' thy right wits.

Clo. So I do, madonna; but to read his right wits, is to read thus: therefore preprend,² my princess, and give ear.

Oli. Read it you, sirrah. [To *Fabian*.]

Fab. [Reads.] *Madam, you wrong me, and the world shall know it: though you have put me into darkness, and given your drunken cousin rule over me, yet have I the benefit of my senses as well as your ladyship. I have your own letter that induced me to the semblance I put on; with the which I doubt not but to do myself much right, or you much shame. Think of me as you please. I leave my duty a little unthought of, and speak out of my injury. The madly-used Malvolio.*

Oli. Did he write this?

Clo. Ay, madam.

Duke. This savours not much of distraction.

Oli. See him deliver'd, *Fabian*; bring him hither. [Exit *Fabian*.]

My lord, so please you, these things further To think me as well a sister as a wife, [thought on, One day shall crown the alliance on't, so please Here at my house, and at my proper cost.

Duke. Madam, I am most apt to embrace your offer.— [you, Your master quits you: [To *Viola*] and, for your service done him,

So much against the mettle of your sex, So far beneath your soft and tender breeding, And since you call'd me master for so long, Here is my hand: you shall from this time be Your master's mistress.

Oli. A sister?—you are she.

Re-enter Fabian, with Malvolio.

Duke. Is this the madman?

Oli. Ay, my lord, the same: How now, *Malvolio*?

Mal. Madam, you have done me wrong, Notorious wrong.

Oli. Have I, *Malvolio*? no. [letter:

M. Lady, you have. Pray you peruse that You must not now deny it is your hand, Write from it, if you can, in hand or phrase; Or say, 'tis not your seal, nor your invention: You can say none of this: Well, grant it then, And tell me, in the modesty of honour, Why you have given me such clear lights of favour;

Bade me come smiling, and cross-garter'd to you, To put on yellow stockings, and to frown Upon Sir Toby, and the lighter people: And, acting this in an obedient hope, Why have you suffer'd me to be imprison'd, Kept in a dark house, visited by the priest, And made the most notorious geck,³ and gull, That e'er invention played on? tell me why.

Oli. Alas, *Malvolio*, this is not my writing, Though I confess much like the character: But out of question, 'tis *Maria's* hand.

And now I do bethink me, it was she [smiling, First told me thou wast mad: then cam'st in And in such forms which here were presuppos'd Upon thee in the letter. Pr'ythee, be content: This practice hath most shrewdly pass'd upon thee;

But when we know the grounds and authors of it, Thou shalt be both the plaintiff and the judge Of thine own cause.

Fab. Good madam, hear me speak; And let no quarrel, nor no brawl to come, Taint the condition of this present hour, Which I have wonder'd at. In hope it shall not, Most freely I confess, myself, and Toby, Set this device against *Malvolio* here, Upon some stubborn and uncourteous parts We had conceived against him: *Maria* writ The letter, at Sir Toby's great importance;¹ In recompense whereof, he hath married her. How with a sportful malice it was follow'd, May rather pluck on laughter than revenge; If that the injuries be justly weigh'd, That have on both sides past.

O. Alas, poor fool! how have they baffled thee!

Clo. Why, some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrown upon them. I was one, sir, in this interlude; one Sir Topas, sir; but that's all one:—Fool, I am not mad;—But do you remember? *Madam*, why laugh you at such a barren rascal? an you smile not, he's gag'd. And thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

Mal. I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you. [Exit.

Oli. He hath been most notoriously abus'd.

D. Pursue him, and entreat him to a peace:—He hath not told us of the captain yet; When that is known and golden time convents,² A solemn combination shall be made Of our dear souls—Mean time, sweet sister, We will not part from hence.—*Cesario*, come, For so you shall be, while you are a man: But, when in other habits you are seen, Orsino's mistress, and his fancy's queen. [Exeunt.

SONG.

CLO. When that I was and a little tiny boy,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
A foolish thing was but a toy,
For the rain it raineth every day.
But when I come to man's estate,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
'Gainst knave and thief men shut their gate,
For the rain it raineth every day.
But when I came, alas! to wive,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
By swaggering could I never thrive,
For the rain it raineth every day.
A great while ago, the world begun,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
But that's all one, our play is done,
And we'll strive to please you every day. [Exit.

Measure for Measure.

Persons Represented.

VINCENTIO, *Duke of Vienna.*
 ANGELO, *Lord Deputy in the Duke's absence.*
 ESCALUS, *an ancient Lord, joined with Angelo in the deputation.*
 CLAUDIO, *a young Gentleman.*
 LUCIO, *a Fantastic.*
Two other like Gentlemen.
 VARRIUS, *a Gentleman, Servant to the Duke.*
Provost.
 THOMAS, } *Two Friars.*
 PETER, }
 ELBOW, *a simple Constable.*

CLOWN, *Servant to Mrs Overdone.*
 ABHORSON, *an Executioner.*
 BARNARDINE, *a dissolute Prisoner.*

ISABELLA, *Sister to Claudio.*
 MARIANA, *betrothed to Angelo.*
 JULIET, *beloved by Claudio.*
 FRANCISCA, *a Nun.*
Mistress Overdone.

Lords, Gentlemen, Guards, Officers, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Vienna.*

Act First.

SCENE I.

AN APARTMENT IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke, Escalus, and Lords.

Duke. Escalus,—

Esc. My lord.

Duke. Of government the properties to unfold,
 Would seem in me t' affect speech and discourse,
 Since I am put to know, that your own science
 Exceeds in that the lists¹ of all advice
 My strength can give you: Then no more remains
 But that to your sufficiency, as your worth is able,
 And let them work. The nature of our people,
 Our city's institutions, and the terms
 For common justice, you are as pregnant in
 As art and practice hath enriched any
 That we remember: There is our commission,
 From which we would not have you warp. Call
 I say, bid come before us, Angelo.— [hither,
 What figure of us think you he will bear?
 For you must know, we have with special soul
 Elected him our absence to supply;
 Lent him our terror, drest him with our love,
 And given his deputations all the organs
 Of our own power: What think you of it?

Esc. If any in Vienna be of worth
 To undergo such ample grace and honour,
 It is lord Angelo.

Enter Angelo.

Duke. Look, where he comes.

Ang. Always obedient to your grace's will,
 I come to know your pleasure.

Duke. Angelo,
 There is a kind of character in thy life,
 That to th' observer, doth thy history
 Fully unfold:—Thyself, and thy belongings,
 Are not thine own so proper, as to waste
 Thyself upon thy virtues, them on thee.
 Heaven doth with us, as we with torches do.
 Not light them for themselves: for if our virtues

Did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike [touch'd
 As if we had them not. Spirits are not finely
 But to fine issues: nor nature never lends
 The smallest scruple of her excellence,
 But, like a thrifty goddess, she determines
 Herself the glory of a creditor,
 Both thanks and use; but I do bend my speech
 To one that can my part in him advertise;
 Hold, therefore, Angelo:
 In our remove, be thou at full yourself;
 Mortality and mercy in Vienna
 Live in thy tongue and heart: Old Escalus,
 Though first in question, is thy secondary.
 Take thy commission.

Ang. Now, good my lord,
 Let there be some more test made of my mettle,
 Before so noble and so great a figure
 Be stamp'd upon it.

Duke. No more evasion:
 We have with a heaven'd and prepared choice
 Proceeded to you; therefore take your honours.
 Our haste from hence is of so quick condition,
 That it prefers itself, and leaves unquestion'd
 Matters of needful value. We shall write to you,
 As time and our concerns shall importune,
 How it goes with us, and do look to know
 What doth befall you here. So, fare you well:
 To th' hopeful execution do I leave you
 Of your commissions.

Ang. Yet, give leave, my lord,
 That we may bring you something on the way.

Duke. My haste may not admit it;
 Nor need you, on mine honour, have to do
 With any scruple: your scope is as mine own,
 So to enforce or qualify the laws
 As to your soul seems good:—Give me your
 I'll privily away: I love the people, [hand;
 But do not like to stage me to their eyes:
 Though it do well, I no not relish well
 Their loud applause, and *aves* vehement:
 Nor do I think the man of safe discretion
 That does affect it. Once more, fare you well.
Ang. The heavens give safety to your purposes!
E. Lead forth, and bring you back in happiness!

Duke. I thank you.—Fare you well. [*Exit.*]

Esc. I shall desire you, sir, to give me leave To have free speech with you; and it concerns To look into the bottom of my place: I (me) A power I have, but of what strength and nature, I am not yet instructed. [*Enter Duke.*]

Aug. 'Tis so with me: Let us withdraw to— And we may soon our satisfaction have Touching that point.

Esc. I'll wait upon your honour. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter Lucio, and two Gentlemen.

Lucio. If the duke, with the other dukes, come Not to composition with the king of Hungary, why then all the dukes fall upon the king.

1st Gent. Heaven grant us its peace; but not the king of Hungary's!

2nd Gent. Amen.

Lucio. Thou concludest like the sanctimonious pirate, that went to sea with the ten commandments, but scraped one out of the table.

2nd Gent. Thou shalt not steal?

Lucio. Ay, that he razed.

1st Gent. Why, 'twas a commandment to command the captain and all the rest from their functions: they put forth to steal: there's not a soldier of us all, that, in the thanksgiving before meat, doth relish the petition well that prays for peace.

2nd Gent. I never heard any soldier dislike it.

Lucio. I believe thee; for, I think, thou never wast where grace was said. Thou thyself art a wicked villain, despite of all grace. But see, where madam Mitigation comes.

Enter Mrs Overdone.

1st Gent. How now?

Overd. There's one yonder, arrested and carried to prison, was worth five thousand of you all.

1st Gent. Who's that, I pray thee?

Overd. Marry, sir, that's Claudio, Signior Claudio.

1st Gent. Claudio to prison! 'tis not so.

O. Nay, but I know 'tis so: I saw him arrested; saw him carried away; and, which is more, within these three days his head's to be chopped off.

Lucio. But, after all this fooling, I would not have it so: art thou sure of this?

Overd. I am too sure of it; and it is because of Madam Julietta.

Lucio. Believe me, this may be: he promised to meet me two hours since; and he was ever precise in promise-keeping.

2nd Gent. Besides, you know, it draws something near to the speech we had to such a purpose.

1st Gent. But most of all, agreeing with the proclamation.

Lucio. Away; let's go learn the truth of it. [*Exeunt Lucio and Gentlemen.*]

Enter Clown.

Overd. How now, what's the news with you?

Clown. You have not heard of the proclamation, have you?

Overd. What proclamation, man?

Clown. All our houses in the suburbs of Vienna must be pluck'd down.

Overd. And what shall become of those in the city?

Clown. They had gone down too, but that a wise burgher put in for them.

Overd. But, shall all our houses in the suburbs be pulled down?

Clown. To the ground, mistress.

Overd. Why, here's a change, indeed, in the commonwealth: what shall become of me?

Clown. Here comes Signior Claudio, led by the provost to prison: and there's Madam Juliet, [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter Provost, Claudio, Juliet, and Officers.

Claud. Fellow, why dost thou show me thus to the world? Bear me to prison, where I am committed.

Prov. I do it not in evil disposition, But from lord Angelo by special charge.

Claud. Thus can the demigod, Authority, Make us pay down for our offence by weight.— The words of heaven; on whom it will, it will; On whom it will not, so; yet still 'tis just.

Enter Lucio.

Lucio. Why, how now, Claudio? whence comes this restraint?

Claud. From too much liberty, my Lucio, As surfeit is the father of much fast, [liberty: So every scope by the immoderate use Turns to restraint: Our natures do pursue (Like rats that ravin down their proper bane), A thirsty evil; and when we drink, we die.

Lucio. If I could speak so wisely under an arrest, I would send for certain of my creditors; And yet, to say the truth, I had as lief have the foppery of freedom as the morality of imprisonment.—What's thy offence, Claudio?

Cla. What, but to speak of would offend again.

Lucio. What is it? murder?

Claud. No.

Prov. Away, sir; you must go.

Claud. One word, good friend:—Lucio, a word with you. [*Takes him aside.*]

Lucio. A hundred, if they'll do you any good.

Claud. Thus stands it with me:—Upon a true I got possession of Julietta's bed; [contract, You know the lady; she is fast my wife, Save that we do the denunciation¹ lack Of outward order; this we came not to, Only for propagation of a dower

Remaining in the coffer of her friends; From whom we thought it meet to hide our love, Till time had made them for us. But it chanceth, The stealth of our most mutual intercourse, With character too gross, is writ on Juliet.

Lucio. With child, perhaps?

Claud. Unhappily, even so.

And the new deputy now for the duke,— Whether it be the fault and glimpse of newness; Or whether that the body public be A horse whereon the governor doth ride, Who, newly in the seat, that it may know He can command, lets it straight feel the spur: Whether the tyranny be in his place, Or in his eminence that fills it up,

¹ Proclamation.

I stagger in:—But this new governor
Awakes me all the enrolled penalties, [wall
Which have like unscour'd armour, hung by the
So long, that nineteen zodiacs have gone round,
And none of them been worn; and, for a name,
Now puts the drowsy and neglected act
Freshly on me:—'tis surely for a name.

Lucio. I warrant it is: and thy head stands
so tickle on thy shoulders, that a milkmaid, if
she be in love, may sigh it off. Send after the
duke, and appeal to him.

Claud. I have done so, but he's not to be found,
I pr'ythee, *Lucio*, do me this kind service:
This day my sister should the cloister enter,
And there receive her approbation:
Acquaint her with the danger of my state;
Implore her, in my voice, that she make friends
To the strict deputy: bid herself assay him;
I have great hope in that: for in her youth
There is a prone and speechless dialect, [art
Such as moves men: beside, she hath prosperous
When she will play with reason and discourse,
And well she can persuade.

Lucio. I pray she may: as well for the en-
couragement of the like, which else would
stand under grievous imposition; as for the
enjoying of thy life, who I would be sorry
should be thus foolishly lost. I'll to her.

Claud. I thank you, good friend *Lucio*.

Lucio. Within two hours,—

Claud. Come, officer, away. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—A MONASTERY.

Enter Duke and Friar Thomas.

D. No, holy father; throw away that thought;
Believe not that the dribbling dart of love
Can pierce a complete bosom: why I desire thee
To give me a secret harbour, hath a purpose
More grave and wrinkled than the aims and ends
Of burning youth.

Fri. May your grace speak of it?

D. My holy sir, none better knows than you
How I have ever lov'd the life remov'd;
And held in idle price to haunt assemblies,
Where youth and cost, and witless bravery
I have deliver'd to Lord Angelo [keeps.
(A man of stricture and firm abstinence)
My absolute power and place here in Vienna,
And he supposes me travell'd to Poland;
For so I have strew'd it in the common ear,
And so it is receiv'd: Now, pious sir,
You will demand of me, why I do this?

Fri. Gladly, my lord. [biting laws,

Duke. We have strict statutes, and most
(The needful bits and curbs for headstrong
steeds),

Which for these fourteen years we have let sleep;
Even like an o'ergrown lion in a cave,
That goes not out to prey: Now, as fond fathers
Having bound up the threat'ning twigs of birch,
Only to stick it in their children's sight,
For terror, not to use; in time the rod [crees,
Becomes more mock'd than fear'd: so our de-
ad to infliction, to themselves are dead;
And liberty plucks justice by the nose:
The baby beats the nurse, and quite athwart
Goes all decorum.

Fri. It rested in your grace
To unloose this tied-up justice, when you pleas'd:
And in it you more dreadful would have
Than in lord Angelo. [seem'd,

Duke. I do fear, too dreadful:
Sith 'twas my fault to give the people scope,
'Twould be my tyranny to strike, and gall them
For what I bid them do: For we bid this be done,
When evil deeds have their permissive pass,
And not the punishment. Therefore, indeed, my
I have on Angelo impos'd the office; [father,
Who may, in the ambush of my name, strike
And yet my nature never in the sight, [home,
To do it slander: And to behold his sway,
I will, as 'twere a brother of your order, [thee,
Visit both prince and people: therefore, I pr'y-
Supply me with the habit, and instruct me
How I may formally in person bear me
Like a true friar. More reasons for this action,
At our more leisure shall I render you;
Only, this one:—Lord Angelo is precise;
Stands at a guard with envy; scarce confesses
That his blood flows, or that his appetite [see,
Is more to bread than stone: Hence shall we
If power change purpose, what our seemers be.

[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A NUNNERY.

Enter Isabella and Francisca.

I. And have you nuns no further privileges?
Fran. Are not these large enough?

I. Yes, truly: I speak not as desiring more;
But rather wishing a more strict restraint
Upon the sisterhood, the votarists of Saint Clare.

Lucio. Ho! Peace be in this place! [Within.

Isab. Who is that which calls?

Fran. It is a man's voice: Gentle Isabella,
Turn you the key, and know his business of him;
You may, I may not; you are yet unsworn:
When you have vow'd, you must not speak with
But in the presence of the prioress: [men,
Then, if you speak, you must not show your face;
Or if you show your face, you must not speak.
He calls again; I pray you answer him.

[Exit Francisca.

I. Peace and prosperity! Who is't that calls?

Enter Lucio.

L. Hail, virgin, if you be; as those cheek-roses
Proclaim you are no less! Can you so stead me
As bring me to the sight of Isabella,
A novice of this place, and the fair sister
To her unhappy brother Claudio?

Isab. Why her unhappy brother? let me ask;
The rather, for I now must make you know
I am that Isabella, and his sister. [you:

L. Gentle and fair, your brother kindly greets
Not to be weary with you, he's in prison.

Isab. Woe me! For what? [judge,

Lucio. For that which, if myself might be his
He should receive his punishment in thanks:
His friend's with child by him.

Isab. Sir, make me not your story.¹

Lucio. It is true.
I hold you as a thing ensky'd, and sainted;
By your renouncement an immortal spirit;
And to be talk'd with in sincerity,
As with a saint.

I. You do blaspheme the good, in mocking me.
Lu. Do not believe it. Fewness and truth,¹ 'tis
Isab. My cousin Juliet? [thus.
Lucio. Is she your cousin?
Isab. Adoptedly: as school-maids change their
 By vain without apt affections. [names,
Lucio. She it is.
Isab. O, let him marry her!

Lucio. This is the point.
 The duke is very strangely gone from hence;
 Bore many gentlemen, myself being one,
 In hand, and hope of action: but we do learn
 By those that know the very nerves of state,
 His givings out were of an infinite distance
 From his true-meant design. Upon his place,
 And with full line of his authority,
 Governs lord Angelo; a man, whose blood
 Is very snow-broth; one who never feels
 The wanton stings and motions of the sense;
 But doth rebate² and blunt his natural edge
 With profits of the mind, study and fast.
 He (to give fear to use and liberty,
 Which have, for long, run by the hideous law,
 As mice by lions,) hath pick'd out an act,
 Under whose heavy sense your brother's life
 Falls into forfeit! he arrests him on it;
 And follows close the rigour of the statute,
 To make him an example: all hope is gone,
 Unless you have the grace by your fair prayer
 To soften Angelo: And that's my pith
 Of business 'twixt you and your poor brother.

Isab. Doth he so seek his life?
Lucio. Has censur'd³ him
 Already; and, as I hear, the provost hath
 A warrant for his execution.

Isab. Alas! what poor ability's in me
 To do him good?

Lucio. Assay the power you have.
Isab. My power! Alas! I doubt,—

Lucio. Our doubts are traitors,
 And make us lose the good we oft might win,
 By fearing to attempt: Go to lord Angelo,
 And let him learn to know, when maidens sue,
 Men give like gods; but when they weep and
 kneel,

All their petitions are as freely theirs
 As they themselves would owe⁴ them.

Isab. I'll see what I can do.

Lucio. But speedily.

Isab. I will about it straight;
 No longer staying but to give the mother
 Notice of my affair. I humbly thank you:
 Commend me to my brother: soon at night
 I'll send him certain word of my success.

Lucio. I take my leave of you.

Isab. Good sir, adieu.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A HALL IN ANGELO'S HOUSE.

*Enter Angelo, Escalus, Provost, Officers, and
 other Attendants.*

Ang. We must not make a scare-crow of the law,
 Setting it up to fear the birds of prey,

¹ In few and true words. ² Dull. ³ Sentenced. ⁴ Have.

And let it keep one shape, till custom make it
 Their perch and not their terror.

Escal. Ay, but yet
 Let us be keen, and rather cut a little, [man,
 Than fall, and bruise to death: Alas! this gentle-
 Whom I would save, had a most noble father.
 Let but your honour know
 (Whom I believe to be most straight in virtue),
 That, in the working of your own affections,
 Had time coher'd with place, or place with wish-
 Or that the resolute acting of your blood [ing,
 Could have attain'd the effect of your own
 purpose,

Whether you had not some time in your life
 Err'd in this point which now you censure him,
 And pull'd the law upon you.

Ang. 'Tis one thing to be tempted, Escalus,
 Another thing to fall. I not deny,
 The jury, passing on the prisoner's life,
 May, in the sworn twelve, have a thief or two
 Guiltier than him they try: What's open made to
 That justice seizes. What know the laws, [justice,
 That thieves do pass on thieves? 'Tis very preg-
 The jewel that we find, we stoop and take it, [nant,
 Because we see it; but what we do not see,
 We tread upon, and never think of it.
 You may not so extenuate his offence,
 For I have had such faults; but rather tell me,
 When I that censure him, do so offend,
 Let mine own judgment pattern out my death,
 And nothing come in partial. Sir, he must die.

Escal. Be it as your wisdom will.

Ang. Where is the provost?

Prov. Here, if it like your honour.

Ang. See that Claudio
 Be executed by nine to-morrow morning:
 Bring him his confessor, let him be prepared:
 For that's the utmost of his pilgrimage.

[*Exeunt Angelo and Provost.*]

Es. Well, heaven forgive him; and forgive us
 Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall: [all!
 Some run from brakes of vice, and answer none;
 And some condemned for a fault alone.
 Mercy is not itself that oft looks so,
 Pardon is still the nurse of second woe.
 But yet, poor Claudio!—there's no remedy.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Provost and a Servant.

Serv. He's hearing of a cause; he will come
 I'll tell him of you. [straight.

Prov. Pray you, do. [*Exit Servant.*] I'll know
 His pleasure; may be, he will relent: Alas!
 All sects, all ages, smack of this vice; and he
 To die for it!

Enter Angelo.

Ang. Now, what's the matter, Provost?
Prov. Is it your will Claudio shall die to-
 morrow?

Ang. Did I not tell thee, yea? hadst thou not
 Why dost thou ask again? [order?

Prov. Lest I might be too rash:
 Under your good correction, I have seen,
 When, after execution, judgment hath
 Repented o'er his doom.

Ang. Go to; let that be mine:

Do you your office, or give up your place,
And you shall well be spar'd.

Prov. I crave your honour's pardon.—
What shall be done, sir, with the groaning Juliet?
She's very near her hour.

Ang. Dispose of her
To some more fitter place; and that with speed.

Re-enter Servant.

Serv. Here is the sister of the man condemn'd
Desires access to you.

Ang. Hath he a sister?

Prov. Ay, my good lord; a very virtuous maid,
And to be shortly of a sisterhood,
If not already.

Ang. Well, let her be admitted.

[Exit Servant.]

See you, that Julietta be remov'd;
Let her have needful, but not lavish, means;
There shall be order for it.

Enter Lucio and Isabella.

Prov. Save your honour! *[Offering to retire.]*

Ang. Stay a little while.—*[To Isab.]* You are
welcome: What's your will?

Isab. I am a woeful suitor to your honour:
Please but your honour hear me.

Ang. Well; what's your suit?

Isab. There is a vice that most I do abhor,
And most desires should meet the blow of justice;
For which I would not plead, but that I must;
For which I must not plead, but that I am
At war, 'twixt will, and will not.

Ang. Well; the matter?

Isab. I have a brother is condemn'd to die:
I do beseech you, let it be his fault,
And not my brother.

Prov. Heaven give thee moving graces!

Ang. Condemn the fault and not the actor of it!
Why, every fault's condemn'd, ere it be done:
Mine were the very cipher of a function,
To find the faults, whose fine stands in record,
And let go by the actor.

Isab. O just, but severe law!
I had a brother then.—Heaven keep your
honour! *[Retiring.]*

Lucio. *[To Isab.]* Give't not o'er so: to him
again, intreat him;
Kneel down before him, hang upon his gown;
You are too cold: if you should need a pin,
You could not with more tame a tongue desire it:
To him, I say.

Isab. Must he needs die?

Ang. Maiden, no remedy.
Is. Yes; I do think that you might pardon him,
And neither heaven, nor man, grieve at the

Ang. I will not do't. *[mercy.]*

Isab. But can you, if you would?

Ang. Look, what I will not, that I cannot do.

Isab. But might you do't, and do the world
no wrong?

If so, your heart were touch'd with that remorse
As mine is to him.

Ang. He's sentenc'd: 'tis too late.

Lucio. You are too cold. *[To Isabella.]*

Is. Too late? why, no; I, that do speak a word,
May call it back again: Well, believe this,
No ceremony that to great ones 'longs,

Not the king's crown, nor the deputed sword,
The marshal's truncheon, nor the judge's robe,
Become them with one half so good a grace
As mercy does. If he had been as you,
And you as he, you would have slipt like him;
But he like you, would not have been so stern.

Ang. Pray you, begone.

Isab. I would to heaven I had your potency,
And you were Isabel! should it then be thus?
No; I would tell what 'twere to be a judge,
And what a prisoner.

Lu. *[Aside.]* Ay, touch him: there's the vein.

Ang. Your brother is a forfeit of the law,
And you but waste your words.

Isab. Alas! alas!

Why, all the souls that were, were forfeit once;
And He that might the vantage best have took,
Found out the remedy: How would you be,
If He, which is the top of judgment, should
But judge you as you are? O, think on that;
And mercy then will breathe within your lips,
Like man new made.

Ang. Be you content, fair maid;
It is the law, not I, condemns your brother:
Were he my kinsman, brother, or my son,
It should be thus with him;—he must die to-
morrow.

Isab. To-morrow? O, that's sudden! Spare
him, spare him:

He's not prepar'd for death! Even for our
kitchens

We kill the fowl of season; shall we serve Heaven
With less respect than we do minister
To our gross selves? Good, good my lord, bethink
Who is it that hath died for this offence? *[you:]*
There's many have committed it.

Lucio. Ay, well said.

Ang. The law hath not been dead, though it
hath slept:

Those many had not dar'd to do that evil,
If the first man that did the edict infringe
Had answer'd for his deed: now, 'tis awake;
Takes note of what is done; and, like a prophet,
Looks in a glass, that shows what future evils,
(Either now, or by remissness new-conceiv'd,
And so in progress to be hatch'd and born),
Are now to have no successive degrees,
But, where they live, to end.

Isab. Yet show some pity.

Ang. I show it most of all, when I show jus-
For then I pity those I do not know, *[tice:]*
Which a dismiss'd offence would after gall;
And do him right, that answering one foul wrong,
Lives not to act another. Be satisfied;
Your brother dies to-morrow: be content.

Isab. So you must be the first that gives this
sentence;

And he, that suffers: O, it is excellent
To have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant.

Lucio. That's well said.

Isab. Could great men thunder
As Jove himself does, Jove would ne'er be quiet,
For every pelting, petty officer,
Would use his heaven for thunder; nothing but
Merciful heaven! *[thunder.]*
Thou rather, with thy sharp and sulphurous bolt,

Split't the unwedgeable and gnarled oak,
Than the soft myrtle; O, but man, proud man!
Drest in a little brief authority;
Most ignorant of what he's most assured,
His glassy essence,—like an angry ape,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven,
As make the angels weep, who with our spleens,
Would all themselves laugh mortal.

Luc. O, to him, to him, wench: he will relent;
He's coming, I perceive 't.

Prov. Pray heaven she win him!

I. We cannot weigh our brother with yourself:
Great men may jest with saints: 'tis wit in them;
But, in the less, foul profanation.

Lucio. Thou'rt in the right, girl; more o' that.

Isab. That in the captain's but a choleric word,
Which in the soldier is flat blasphemy.

Lucio. Art advis'd o' that? more on't.

Ang. Why do you put these sayings upon me?

I. Because authority, though it err like others,
Hath yet a kind of medicine in itself,
That skins the vice o' the top: Go to your bosom;
Knock there; and ask your heart, what it doth
know

That's like my brother's fault: if it confess
A natural guiltiness, such as is his,
Let it not sound a thought upon your tongue
Against my brother's life.

Ang. She speaks, and 'tis
Such sense, that my sense breeds with it.—Fare

Isab. Gentle my lord, turn back. [you well.

A. I will bethink me:—Come again to-morrow.

Isab. Hark, how I'll bribe you: Good my lord,
turn back.

Ang. How, bribe me?

I. Ay, with such gifts, that heaven shall share

Lucio. You had marr'd all else. [with you.

Isab. Not with fond shekels of the tested gold,
Or stones, whose rates are either rich or poor,
As fancy values them: but with true prayers
That shall be up at heaven, and enter there,
Ere sun-rise; prayers from preserved souls,
From fasting maids, whose minds are dedicate
To nothing temporal.

Ang. Well: come to me
To-morrow.

Lucio. Go to; it is well; away. [Aside to *Isab.*

Isab. Heaven keep your honour safe!

Ang. Amen: for I
Am that way going to temptation, [Aside.
Where prayers cross.

Isab. At what hour to-morrow
Shall I attend your lordship?

Ang. At any time 'fore noon.

Isab. Save your honour!

[*Exeunt Lucio, Isabella, and Provost.*

Ang. From thee; even from thy virtue!—
What's this? what's this? Is this her fault or
mine?

The tempter, or the tempted, who sins most? ha!
Not she; nor doth she tempt: but it is I,
That lying by the violet, in the sun,
Do, as the carrion does, not as the flower,
Corrupt with virtuous season. Can it be,
That modesty may more betray our sense
Than woman's lightness? Having waste ground
enough,

Shall we desire to raise the sanctuary,

And pitch our evils there? O, fye, fye, fye!
What dost thou? or what art thou, Angelo?
Dost thou desire her foully, for those things
That make her good! O, let her brother live:
Thieves for their robbery have authority,
When judges steal themselves. What? do I love
That I desire to hear her speak again, [her,
And feast upon her eyes? What is't I dream on?
O cunning enemy, that, to catch a saint,
With saints dost bait thy hook! Most dangerous
Is that temptation, that doth goad us on
To sin in loving virtue; never could the wanton
Once stir my temper; but this virtuous maid
Subdues me quite;—Ever, till now,
When men were fond, I smil'd, and wonder'd
how. [Exit.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN A PRISON.

Enter Duke, habited like a Friar, and Provost.

Duke. Hail to you, provost! so I think you are.

Prov. I am the provost. What's your will,
good friar?

Duke. Bound by my charity, and my bless'd
I come to visit the afflicted spirits [order,
Here in the prison: do me the common right
To let me see them; and to make me know
The nature of their crimes, that I may minister
To them accordingly.

Prov. I would do more than that, if more were
[needful.

Enter Juliet.

Look, here comes one; a gentlewoman of mine,
Who, falling in the flames of her own youth,
Hath blister'd her report: She is with child;
And he that owns it sentenc'd.

Duke. When must he die?

Prov. As I do think, to-morrow.—

I have provided for you; stay awhile, [To *Juliet*.
And you shall be conducted.

D. Repent you, fair one, of the sin you carry?

Jul. I do; and bear the same most patiently.

Duke. I'll teach you how you shall arraign
your conscience,

And try your penitence, if it be sound,
Or howlowly put on.

Juliet. I'll gladly learn.

Duke. Love you the man that wrong'd you?

J. Yes, as I love the woman that wrong'd him.

Duke. So then, it seems, your most offenceful
Was mutually committed? [act

Juliet. Mutually.

D. Then was your sin of heavier kind than his.

Juliet. I do confess it, and repent it, father.

Duke. 'Tis meet so, daughter: But lest you
do repent,

As that the sin hath brought you to this shame,—
Which sorrow is always toward ourselves, not
heaven;

Showing, we'd not spare heaven, as we love it,
But as we stand in fear.

Juliet. I do repent me, as it is an evil;

And take the shame with joy.

Duke. There rest,

Your partner, as I hear, must die to-morrow,
And I am going with instruction to him.—

Grace go with you! *Benedicite!* [Exit.

Juliet. Must die to-morrow! O, injurious love,

That respites me a life, whose very comfort
Is still a dying horror!

Prov. 'Tis pity of him. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN ANGELO'S HOUSE.

Enter Angelo.

Ang. When I would pray and think, I think
and pray [words].
To several subjects: heaven hath my empty
Whilst my invention, hearing not my tongue,
Anchors on Isabel: Heaven in my mouth,
As if I did but only chew his name;
And in my heart, the strong and swelling evil
Of my conception: The state, whereon I studied,
Is like a good thing, being often read,
Grown fear'd and tedious: yea, my gravity,
Wherein (let no man hear me) I take pride,
Could I, with boot, change for an idle plume,
Which the air beats for vain. O place! O form!
How often dost thou with thy case, thy habit,
Wrench awe from fools, and tie the wiser souls
To thy false seeming? Blood, thou still art blood;
Let's write good angel on the devil's horn,
'Tis not the devil's crest.

Enter Servant.

How now, who's there?

Serv. One Isabel, a sister,
Desires access to you.

Ang. Teach her the way. [*Exit Serv.*]
O heavens!

Why does my blood thus muster to my heart;
Making both it unable for itself,
And dispossessing all the other parts
Of necessary fitness?

So play the foolish throngs with one that swoons;
Come all to help him, and so stop the air
By which he should revive: and even so
The general,² subject to a well-wished king,
Quit their own part, and in obsequious fondness
Crowd to his presence, where their untaught love
Must needs appear offence.

Enter Isabella.

How now, fair maid?

Isab. I am come to know your pleasure.

Ang. That you might know it, would much
better please me. [live.]

Than to demand what 'tis. Your brother cannot
Isab. Even so?—Heaven keep your honour!

[*Retiring.*]

Ang. Yet may he live a while; and, it may be
As long as you or I: Yet he must die.

Isab. Under your sentence?

Ang. Yea.

Is. When, I beseech you? that in his reprieve,
Longer or shorter, he may be so fitted,
This his soul sicken not.

A. Ha! fy, these filthy vices! It were as good
To pardon him, that hath from nature stolen
A man already made, as to remit [image],
Their saucy sweetness, that do coin heaven's
In stamps that are forbid; 'tis all as easy
Falsely to take away a life true made,
As to put mettle in restrained means,
To make a false one.

1 Profit.

2 People.

Is. 'Tis set down so in heaven, but not in earth.
A. Say you so? then I shall pose you quickly.
Which had you rather, that the most just law
Now took your brother's life; or, to redeem him,
Give up your person to such sweet uncleanness,
As she that he hath stain'd?

Isab. Sir, believe this,
I had rather give my body than my soul.

Ang. I talk not of your soul; our compell'd sins
Stand more for number than account.

Isab. How say you?
Ang. Nay, I'll not warrant that; for I can speak
Against the thing I say. Answer to this:—
I, now the voice of the recorded law,
Pronounce a sentence on your brother's life:
Might there not be charity in sin,
To save this brother's life?

Isab. Please you to do't,
I'll take it as a peril to my soul,
It is no sin at all, but charity.

Ang. Pleas'd you to do't, at peril of your soul,
Were equal poise of sin and charity.

Isab. That I do beg his life, if it be sin,
Heaven let me bear it! you granting of my suit,
If that be sin, I'll make it my morn prayer
To have it added to the faults of mine,
And nothing of your answer.

Ang. Nay, but hear me:
Your sense pursues not mine: either you are igno-
Or seem so craftily; and that's not good. [rant,

Isab. Let me be ignorant, and in nothing good,
But graciously to know I am no better. [bright,

Ang. Thus wisdom wishes to appear most
When it doth tax itself: as these black masks
Proclaim an enshield'd beauty ten times louder
Than beauty could display.—But mark me;
To be received plain, I'll speak more gross:
Your brother is to die.

Isab. So.

Ang. And his offence is so, as it appears
Accountant to the law upon that pain.

Isab. True.

Ang. Admit no other way to save his life,
(As I subscribe not that, nor any other,
But in the loss of question), that you, his sister,
Finding yourself desir'd of such a person,
Whose credit with the judge, or own great place,
Could fetch your brother from the manacles
Of the all-binding law; and that there were
No earthly mean to save him, but that either
You must lay down the treasures of your person
To this supposed, or else let him suffer;
What would you do?

Isab. As much for my poor brother as myself:
That is, were I under the terms of death,
The impression of keen whips I'd wear as rubies,
And strip myself to death, as to a bed
That longing I have been sick for, ere I'd yield
My honour up to shame.

Ang. Then must your brother die.

Isab. And 'twere the cheaper way:

Better it were a brother died at once,
Than that a sister, by redeeming him,
Should die for ever.

Ang. Were not you then as cruel as the sentence
That you have slander'd so?

Isab. Ignomy in ransom, and free pardon,

1 Covered.

Are of two houses: lawful mercy is

Nothing akin to foul redemption. [tyrant;
Ang. You seem'd of late to make the law a
 And rather prov'd the sliding of your brother
 A merriment than a vice.

Isab. O, pardon me, my lord; it oft falls out,
 To have what we'd have, we speak not what we
 I something do excuse the thing I hate, [mean:
 For his advantage that I dearly love.

Ang. We are all frail.

Isab. Else let my brother die,

If, not a feodary,¹ but only he
 Owe,² and succeed by weakness.

Ang. Nay, women are frail too.

I. Ay, as the glasses where they view themselves;
 Which are as easy broke as they make forms.
 Women!—Help heaven! men their creation mar
 In profiting by them. Nay, call us ten times frail;
 For we are soft as our complexions are,
 And credulous to false prints.

Ang. I think it well;

And from this testimony of your own sex,
 (Since, I suppose, we are made to be no stronger
 Than faults may shake our frames), let me be
 I do arrest your words; be that you are, [bold?
 That is, a woman; if you be more, you're none:
 If you be one (as you are well express'd
 By all external warrants), show it now,
 By putting on the destin'd livery.

Isab. I have no tongue but one: gentle my lord,
 Let me entreat you, speak the former language.

Ang. Plainly conceive, I love you.

Isab. My brother did love Juliet; and you tell
 That he shall die for it. [me,

Ang. He shall not, Isabel, if you give me love.

Isab. I know your virtue hath a licence in't,
 Which seems a little fouler than it is,
 To pluck on others.

Ang. Believe me, on mine honour,
 My words express my purpose.

Isab. Ha? little honour to be much believ'd,
 And most pernicious purpose!—Seeming, seem-
 I will proclaim thee, Angelo; look for't: [sing!
 Sign me a present pardon for my brother,
 Or, with an outstretch'd throat, I'll tell the world
 Aloud, what man thou art.

Ang. Who will believe thee, Isabel?

My unsoil'd name, the austereness of my life,
 My vouch against you, and my place i' the state
 Will so your accusation overweigh,
 That you shall stifle in your own report,
 And smell of calumny. I have begun;
 And now I give my sensual race the rein:
 Fit thy consent to my sharp appetite;
 Lay by all nicety and prolixious blushes.
 That banish what they sue for; redeem thy brother
 By yielding up thy person to my will;
 Or else he must not only die the death,
 But thy unkindness shall his death draw out
 To lingering sufferance: answer me to-morrow,
 Or, by the affection that now guides me most,
 I'll prove a tyrant to him: As for you,
 Say what you can, my false o'erweighs your true.

[*Exit.*

Isab. To whom shall I complain? Did I tell this,
 Who would believe me? O perilous mouths,
 That bear in them one and the self-same tongue,

¹ Owing service. ² Own.

Either of condemnation or reproof!

Bidding the law make court'sy to their will;
 Hooking both right and wrong to the appetite,
 To follow as it draws? I'll to my brother:
 Though he hath fallen by prompture of the blood,
 Yet hath he in him such a mind of honour,
 That had he twenty heads to tender down
 On twenty bloody blocks, he'd yield them up,
 Before his sister should her person stoop
 To such abhorrd pollution.
 Then, Isabel, live chaste, and, brother, die:
 More than our brother is our chastity.
 I'll tell him yet of Angelo's request,
 And fit his mind to death, for his soul's rest.

[*Exit.*

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE PRISON.

Enter Duke, Claudio, and Provost.

D. So, then you hope of pardon from lord Angelo?
Claud. The miserable have no other medicine
 But only hope:

I have hope to live, and am prepar'd to die.

Du. Be absolute for death: either death, or life,
 Shall thereby be the sweeter. Reason thus with
 If I do lose thee, I do lose a thing [life,—
 That none but fools would keep: a breath thou
 (Servile to all the skiey influences), [art,
 That dost this habitation, where thou keep'st,
 Hourly afflict: merely, thou art death's fool;
 For him thou labour'st by thy flight to shun,
 And yet run'st toward him still: Thou art not
 noble;

For all the accommodations that thou bear'st,
 Are nurs'd by baseness: Thou art by no means
 valiant;

For thou dost fear the soft and tender fork
 Of a poor worm: Thy best of rest is sleep,
 And that thou oft provok'st; yet grossly fear'st
 Thy death, which is no more. Thou art not thy
 For thou exist'st on many a thousand grains [self;
 That issue out of dust: Happy thou art not:
 For what thou hast not, still thou striv'st to get;
 And what thou hast, forget'st: Thou art not
 certain;

For thy complexion shifts to strange effects,¹
 After the moon: If thou art rich, thou art poor;
 For, like an ass, whose back with ingots bows,
 Thou bear'st thy heavy riches but a journey,
 And death unloads thee: Friend hast thou none;
 For thine own bowels, which do call thee sire,
 The mere effusion of thy proper loins,
 Do curse the gout, serpigo,² and the rheum,
 For ending thee no sooner: Thou hast nor youth,
 But, as it were, an after-dinner's sleep, [nor age;
 Dreaming on both: for all thy blessed youth
 Becomes as aged, and doth beg the alms
 Of palsied eld; and when thou art old and rich,
 Thou hast neither heat, affection, limb, nor beauty,
 To make thy riches pleasant. What's yet in this,
 That bears the name of life? Yet in this life
 Lie hid more thousand deaths: yet death we fear,
 That makes these odds all even.

Claud. I humbly thank you.

¹ Affections. ² Leprous eruptions.

To sue to live, I find, I seek to die ;
And seeking death, find life : Let it come on.

Enter Isabella.

Isab. What, ho ! Peace here ; grace and good company !

Prov. Who's there ? come in : the wish deserves

Duke. Dear sir, ere long I'll visit you again.

Claud. Most holy sir, I thank you.

Is. My business is a word or two with Claudio.

Prov. And very welcome. Look, signior, here's

Duke. Provost, a word with you. [your sister.

Prov. As many as you please.

Duke. Bring them to speak, where I may be
Yet hear them. [conceal'd,

[*Exeunt Duke and Provost.*

Claud. Now, sister, what's the comfort ?

Isab. Why, as all comforts are ; most good in

Lord Angelo, having affairs to heaven, [deed :

Intends you for his swift ambassador,

Where you shall be an everlasting lieger :¹

Therefore your best appointment make with

To-morrow you set on. [speed :

Claud. Is there no remedy ?

Isab. None, but such remedy, as to save a head,
To cleave a heart in twain.

Claud. But is there any ?

Isab. Yes, brother, you may live ;

There is a devilish mercy in the judge,

If you'll implore it, that will free your life,

But fetter you till death.

Claud. Perpetual durance ?

Isab. Ay, just perpetual durance ; a restraint,

Though all the world's fastidious you had,

To a determined scope.

Claud. But in what nature ?

Isab. In such a one as (you consenting to't)

Would bark your honour from that trunk you

And leave you naked. [bear,

Claud. Let me know the point.

Isab. O, I do fear thee, Claudio ; and I quake,

Lest thou a feverous life should'st entertain,

And six or seven winters more respect

Than a perpetual honour. Darest thou die ?

The sense of death is most in apprehension ;

And the poor beetle that we tread upon,

In corporal sufferance finds a pang as great

As when a giant dies.

Claud. Why give you me this shame !

Think you I can a resolution fetch

From flowery tenderness ? If I must die,

I will encounter darkness as a bride,

And hug it in mine arms.

I. There spake my brother ; there my father's
grave

Did utter forth a voice ! Yes, thou must die :

Thou art too noble to conserve a life [deputy—

In base appliances. This outward-sainted

Whose settled visage and deliberate word

Nips youth i' the head, and follies doth enmew,²

As falcon doth the fowl,—is yet a devil ;

His filth within being cast, he would appear

A pond as deep as hell.

Claud. The princely Angelo ?

Isab. O, 'tis the cunning livery of hell,

The vilest body to invest and cover

In princely guards ! Dost thou think, Claudio,

¹ Resident.

² Make hide under cover.

If I would yield him up my person,
Thou might'st be freed ?

Claud. O, heavens ! it cannot be.

Isab. Yes, he would give it thee, from this
rank offence,

So to offend him still : This night's the time,

That I should do what I abhor to name,

Or else thou diest to-morrow.

Claud. Thou shalt not do't.

Isab. O, were it but my life,

I'd throw it down for your deliverance

As frankly as a pin.

Claud. Thanks, dear Isabel.

I. Be ready, Claudio, for your death to-morrow.

Claud. Yes.—Has he affections in him,

That thus can make him bite the law by the nose,

When he would force it ? Sure it is no sin ;

Or of the deadly seven it is the least.

Isab. Which is the least ?

Claud. If it were damnable, he, being so wise,

Why, would he for the momentary trick

Be perdurably find—O Isabel !

Isab. What says my brother ?

Claud. Death is a fearful thing.

Isab. And shamed life a hateful.

C. Ay, but to die, and go we know not where ;

To lie in cold obstruction, and to rot :

This sensible warm motion to become

A kneaded clod ; and the delighted spirit

To bathe in fiery floods, or to reside

In thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice ;

To be imprison'd in the viewless winds,

And blown with restless violence round about

The pendent world ; or to be worse than worst

Of those, that lawless and incertain thoughts

Imagine howling !—'tis too horrible !

The weariest and most loathed worldly life,

That age, ache, penury, and imprisonment

Can lay on nature, is a paradise

To what we fear of death.

Isab. Alas ! alas !

Claud. Sweet sister, let me live ;

What sin you do to save a brother's life,

Nature dispenses with the deed so far,

That it becomes a virtue.

Is. O, faithless coward ! O, dishonest wretch !

Wilt thou be made a man out of my vice ?

Is't not a kind of incest, to take life

From thine own sister's shame ? take my defiance :

Die ; perish ! might but my bending down

Reprieve thee from thy fate, it should proceed :

I'll pray a thousand prayers for thy death,

No word to save thee.

Claud. Nay, hear me, Isabel.

Isab. O, fye, fye, fye :

Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade :

'Tis best that thou diest quickly. [*Going.*

Claud. O hear me, Isabella.

Re-enter Duke.

Duke. Vouchsafe a word, young sister, but
one word.

Isab. What is your will ?

Duke. Might you dispense with your leisure,

I would by and by have some speech with you :

the satisfaction I would require, is likewise your
own benefit.

Isab. I have no superfluous leisure ; my stay

must be stolen out of other affairs; but I will attend you awhile.

Duke. [To *Claudio*, *aside*.] Son, I have overheard what hath past between you and your sister. Angelo had never the purpose to corrupt her; only he hath made an essay of her virtue, to practise his judgment with the disposition of natures; she, having the truth of honour in her, hath made him that gracious denial which he is most glad to receive: I am confessor to Angelo, and I know this to be true; therefore prepare yourself to death: Do not satisfy your resolution with hopes that are fallible: to-morrow you must die; go to your knees, and make ready.

C. Let me ask my sister pardon. I am so out of love with life, that I will sue to be rid of it.

D. Hold you there: Farewell. [*Exit Claudio*.]

Re-enter Provost.

Provost, a word with you.

Prov. What's your will, father?

Duke. That now you are come you will be gone: Leave me a while with the maid; my mind promises with my habit, no loss shall touch her by my company.

Prov. In good time. [*Exit Provost*.]

Duke. The hand that hath made you fair, hath made you good: the goodness that is cheap in beauty, makes beauty brief in goodness: but grace, being the soul of your complexion, should keep the body of it ever fair. The assault that Angelo hath made to you, fortune hath convey'd to my understanding; and, but that frailty hath examples for his falling, I should wonder at Angelo. How would you do to content this substitute, and to save your brother?

Isab. I am now going to resolve him: I had rather my brother die by the law, than my son should be unlawfully born. But O, how much is the good duke deceived in Angelo! If ever he return, and I can speak to him, I will open my lips in vain, or discover his government.

Duke. That shall not be much amiss: Yet, as the matter now stands, he will avoid your accusation; he made trial of you only.—Therefore, fasten your ear on my advisings: to the love I have in doing good, a remedy presents itself. I do make myself believe, that you may most uprightly do a poor wronged lady a merited benefit; redeem your brother from the angry law; do no stain to your own gracious person; and much please the absent duke, if, peradventure, he shall ever return to have hearing of this business.

Isab. Let me hear you speak further: I have spirit to do any thing that appears not foul in the truth of my spirit.

Duke. Virtue is bold, and goodness never fearful. Have you not heard speak of Mariana the sister of Frederick, the great soldier, who miscarried at sea?

Isab. I have heard of the lady, and good words went with her name.

Duke. Her should this Angelo have married; was affianced to her by oath, and the nuptial appointed: between which time of the contract, and limit of the solemnity, her brother Frederick was wrecked at sea, having in that perish'd vessel the dowry of his sister. But mark, how

heavily this befel to the poor gentlewoman: there she lost a noble and renowned brother, in his love toward her ever most kind and natural; with him the portion and sinew of her fortune; her marriage-dowry; with both, her combinate¹ husband, this well seeming Angelo.

Isa. Can this be so? Did Angelo so leave her?

D. Left her in her tears, and dry'd not one of them with his comfort; swallowed his vows whole, pretending in her discoveries of dishonour: in few, bestowed her on her own lamentation, which she yet wears for his sake; and he, a marble to her tears, is washed with them, but relents not.

Isab. What a merit were it in death to take this poor maid from the world! What corruption in this life, that it will let this man live!—but how out of this can she avail?

Duke. It is a rupture that you may easily heal: and the cure of it not only saves your brother, but keeps you from dishonour in doing it.

Isab. Show me how, good father.

D. This fore-named maid hath yet in her the continuance of her first affection; his unjust unkindness, that in all reason should have quenched her love, hath, like an impediment in the current, made it more violent and unruly. Go you to Angelo; answer his requiring with a plausible obedience; agree with his demands to the point: only refer yourself to this advantage,—first, that your stay with him may not be long; that the time may have all shadow and silence in it; and the place answer to convenience: this being granted in course, now follows all. We shall advise this wronged maid to stand up your appointment, go in your place; it may compel him to her recompense: and here, by this, is your brother saved, your honour untainted, the poor Mariana advantaged, and the corrupt deputy scaled.² The maid will I frame, and make fit for his attempt. If you think well to carry this as you may, the doubleness of the benefit defends the deceit from reproof. What think you of it?

I. The image of it gives me content already; and I trust it will grow to a most prosperous perfection.

Duke. It lies much in your holding up: Haste you speedily to Angelo; if for this night he entreat you to his bed, give him promise of satisfaction. I will presently to St. Luke's; there, at the moated grange, resides this dejected Mariana: At that place call upon me; and despatch with Angelo, that it may be quickly.

Isab. I thank you for this comfort: Fare you well, good father. [*Exeunt severally*.]

SCENE II.—THE STREET BEFORE THE PRISON.

Enter Duke, as a Friar; to him Elbow, Clown, and Officers.

Elb. Nay, if there be no remedy of it, but that you will needs buy and sell men and women like beasts, we shall have all the world drink brown and white bastard.³

Duke. O, heavens! what stuff is here!

Clo. 'Twas never merry world, since, of two usuries, the merriest was put down, and the worse allow'd by order of law a furr'd gown to keep him warm; and furr'd with fox and lamb

1 Betrothed. 2 Over-reached. 3 A sweet wine

skins too, to signify, that craft, being richer than innocency, stands for the facing.

Elb. Come your way, sir;—Bless you, good father friar.

Duke. And you, good brother father: What offence hath this man made you, sir?

Elb. Marry, sir, he hath offended the law; and, sir, we take him to be a thief too, sir: for we have found upon him, sir, a strange pick-lock, which we have sent to the deputy.

Duke. Fye, sirrah.

Take him to prison, officer;
Correction and instruction must both work,
Ere this rude beast will profit.

Elb. He must before the deputy, sir; he has given him warning.

D. That we were all, as some would seem to be,
Free from our faults, as faults from seeming free?

Enter Lucio.

El. His neck will come to your waist, a cord, sir.

Clo. I spy comfort; I cry bail: Here's a gentleman, and a friend of mine.

Lucio. How, now, noble Pompey? What, at the heels of Cæsar? Art thou led in triumph? Art going to prison, Pompey?

Clo. Yes, faith, sir.

Lucio. Why, 'tis not amiss, Pompey: Farewell: Go; say, I sent thee thither.

C. I hope, sir, your good worship will be my bail.

Lucio. No, indeed, will I not, Pompey; it is not the wear. I will pray, Pompey, to increase your bondage: if you take it not patiently, why your mettle is the more: Adieu, trusty Pompey.—Bless you, friar.

Duke. And you.

Lucio. Does Bridget paint still, Pompey? Ha?

Elb. Come your ways, sir; come.

Clo. You will not bail me then, sir?

Lucio. Then, Pompey? nor now—What news abroad, friar? What news?

Elb. Come your ways, sir; come.

Lucio. Go,—to kennel, Pompey, go:

[Exeunt Elbow, Clown, and Officers.]

What news, friar, of the Duke?

Duke. I know none: Can you tell me of any?

Lucio. Some say, he is with the emperor of Russia; other some, he is in Rome: But where is he, think you?

Duke. I know not where: But wheresoever, I wish him well.

Lucio. It was a mad fantastical trick of him, to steal from the state, and usurp the beggary he was never born to. Lord Angelo dukes it well in his absence; he puts transgression to't.

Duke. He does well in't.

Lucio. A little more lenity to wenching would do no harm in him: something too crabbed that way, friar.

Duke. It is too general a vice, and severity must cure it.

Lucio. Yes, in good sooth, the vice is of a great kindred; it is well ally'd.

Duke. You are pleasant, sir; and speak apace.

Lucio. Why, what a ruthless thing is it in Angelo to take away the life of a man thus? Would the duke that is absent have done this? He knew the service, and that instructed him to mercy.

Duke. I never heard the absent duke much detected for women; he was not inclined that way.

Lucio. O, sir, you are deceived.

Duke. 'Tis not possible.

Lucio. Who? not the duke? yes, your beggar of fifty;—and his use was, to put a ducat in her clack-dish:¹ the duke had crotchets in him: He would be drunk too; that let me inform you.

Duke. You do him wrong, surely.

Lucio. Sir, I was an invader of his: a shy fellow was the duke: and I believe I know the cause of his withdrawing.

Duke. What, I pry'thee, might be the cause?

Lucio. No,—pardon,—'tis a secret must be lock'd within the teeth and the lips: but this I can let you understand,—The greater file of the subject held the duke to be wise.

Duke. Wise? why, no question but he was.

Lucio. A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.

Duke. Either this is envy in you, folly, or mistaking; the very stream of his life, and the business he hath helmed,² must, upon a warranted need, give him a better proclamation. Let him be but testimonied in his own bringings forth, and he shall appear to the envious a scholar, a statesman, and a soldier: Therefore, you speak unskilfully; or, if your knowledge be more, it is much darken'd in your malice.

Lucio. Sir, I know him, and I love him.

Duke. Love talks with better knowledge, and knowledge with dearer love.

Lucio. Come, sir, I know what I know.

Duke. I can hardly believe that, since you know not what you speak. But, if ever the duke return (as our prayers are he may), let me desire you to make your answer before him: If it be honest you have spoke, you have courage to maintain it: I am bound to call upon you; and, I pray you, your name?

Lucio. Sir, my name is Lucio, well known to the duke.

Duke. He shall know you better, sir, if I may live to report you.

Lucio. I fear you not.

Duke. O, you hope the duke will return no more; or you imagine me too unhurtful an opposite. But, indeed, I can do you little harm: you'll forswear this again.

Lucio. I'll be hanged first: thou art deceived in me, friar. But no more of this: I would the duke we talk of were return'd again: this agent will unpeople the province. Farewell, good friar: I pry'thee pray for me. The duke, I say to thee again, would eat mutton on Fridays: say that I said so. Farewell. *[Exit.]*

Duke. No might nor greatness in mortality Can censure 'scape; back-wounding calumny The whitest virtue strikes: What king so strong, Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue? But who comes here?

Enter Escalus, Provost, Overdone, and Officers.

Escal. Go, away with her to prison.

Over. Good my lord, be good to me; your honour is accounted a merciful man; good my lord.

¹ *Clack-dish*: The beggars proclaimed their want by a wooden dish with a cover, which they clacked.

² *Guided*.

Escal. Double and treble admonition, and still forfeit¹ in the same kind! This would make mercy swear, and play the tyrant.—Away with her to prison: Go to; no more words. [*Exeunt Overdone and Officers.*] Provost, my brother Angelo will not be altered; Claudio must die to-morrow: let him be furnished with divines, and have all charitable preparation: if my brother wrought by my pity, it should not be so with him.

P. So please you, this friar hath been with him, and advised him for the entertainment of death.

Escal. Good even, good father.

Duke. Bliss and goodness on you!

Escal. Of whence are you?

D. Not of this country, though my chance is To use it for my time: I am a brother [now Of gracious order, late come from the see, In special business from his holiness.

Escal. What news abroad i' the world?

Duke. None, but that there is so great a fever on goodness that the dissolution of it must cure it: novelty is only in request; and it is as dangerous to be aged in any kind of course, as it is virtuous to be constant in any undertaking. There is scarce truth enough alive to make societies secure; but security enough, to make fellowships accurs'd: much upon this riddle runs the wisdom of the world. This news is old enough, yet it is every day's news. I pray you, sir, of what disposition was the duke?

Escal. One that, above all other strifes, contented especially to know himself.

Duke. What pleasure was he given to?

Escal. Rather rejoicing to see another merry, than merry at any thing which profess'd to make him rejoice: a gentleman of all temperance. But leave we him to his events, with a prayer they may prove prosperous: and let me desire to know how you find Claudio prepared. I am made to understand, that you have lent him visitation.

Duke. He professes to have received no sinister measure from his judge, but most willingly humbleth himself to the determination of justice: yet had he framed to himself, by the instruction of his frailty, many deceiving promises of life; which I, by my good leisure, have discredited to him, and now is he resolved to die.

Esc. You have paid the heavens your function, and the prisoner the very debt of your calling. I have labour'd for the poor gentleman, to the extremest shore of my modesty; but my brother justice have I found so severe, that he hath forced me to tell him, he is indeed—justice.

Duke. If his own life answer the straitness of his proceeding, it shall become him well; wherein, if he chance to fail, he hath sentenced himself.

Escal. I am going to visit the prisoner: Fare you well.

Duke. Peace be with you!

[*Exeunt Escalus and Provost.*]

He, who the sword of heaven would bear,
Should be as holy as severe;
Pattern in himself to know,
Grace to stand, and virtue go;
More nor less to others paying,
Than by self-offences weighing.
Shame to him, whose cruel striking

1 Transgression.

Kills for faults of his own liking!
Twice treble shame on Angelo,
To weed my vice, and let his grow!
O, what may man within him hide,
Though angel on the outward side!
How may likeness, made in crimes,
Making practice on the times,
Draw with idle spiders' strings
Most pond'rous and substantial things!
Craft against vice I must apply:
With Angelo to-night shall lie
His old betrothed, but despis'd;
So disguise shall, by the disguis'd,
Pay with falsehood false exacting,
And perform an old contracting.

[*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN MARIANA'S HOUSE.

Mariana discovered sitting; a Boy singing.

SONG.

Take, oh take those lips away,
That so sweetly were forsworn;
And those eyes, the break of day,
Lights that do mislead the morn:
But my kisses bring again,
bring again,
Seals of love, but seal'd in vain,
seal'd in vain.

Mari. Break off thy song, and haste thee quick away;

Here comes a man of comfort, whose advice
Hath often still'd my brawling discontent.—

[*Exit Boy.*]

Enter Duke.

I cry you mercy, sir; and well could wish
You had not found me here so musical:
Let me excuse me, and believe me so,— [woe.
My mirth it much displeas'd, but pleas'd my
Duke. 'Tis good: though music oft hath such
a charm,

To make bad good, and good provoke to harm.
I pray you, tell me, hath any body enquired for me here to-day? meet upon this time have I promis'd here to meet.

Mari. You have not been enquired after: I have sat here all day.

Enter Isabella.

Duke. I do constantly believe you:—The time is come, even now. I shall crave your forbearance a little: may be, I will call upon you anon, for some advantage to yourself.

Mari. I am always bound to you. [Exit.]

Duke. Very well met, and welcome.

What is the news from this good deputy? [brick.

Isab. He hath a garden circum-mur'd with
Whose western side is with a vineyard back'd;
And to that vineyard is a planch'd¹ gate,
That makes his opening with this bigger key:
This other doth command a little door,
Which from the vineyard to the garden leads:
There have I made my promise to call on him,
Upon the heavy middle of the night.

1 Wooden.

Duke. But shall you on your knowledge find this way?

I. I have ta'en a due and wary note upon't; With whispering and most guilty diligence, In action all of precept, he did show me The way twice o'er.

Duke. Are there no other tokens Between you 'greed, concerning her observance?

Isab. No, none, but only a repair i' the dark, And that I have possess'd him, my most stay Can be but brief: for I have made him know, I have a servant comes with me along, That stays upon me; whose persuasion is, I come about my brother.

Duke. 'Tis well borne up. I have not yet made known to Mariana A word of this:—What ho! within! come forth!

Re-enter Mariana.

I pray you, be acquainted with this maid; She comes to do you good.

Isab. I do desire the like.

D. Do you persuade yourself that I respect you?

Mari. Good friar, I know you do; and have found it.

Duke. Take then this your companion by the Who hath a story ready for your ear: [hand, I shall attend your leisure; but make haste; The vaporous night approaches.

Mari. Will't please you walk aside?
[*Exeunt Mariana and Isabella.*

D. O place and greatness, millions of false eyes Are stuck upon thee! volumes of report Run with these false and most contrarious quests! Upon thy doings! thousand 'scapes² of wit Make thee the father of their idle dream, And rack thee in their fancies!—Welcome!

How agreed?

Re-enter Mariana and Isabella.

I. She'll take the enterprise upon her, father, If you advise it.

Duke. It is not my consent, But my entreaty too.

Isab. Little have you to say, When you depart from him, but, soft and low, Remember now my brother.

Mari. Fear me not.

D. Nor, gentle daughter, fear you not at all: He is your husband on a pre-contract: To bring you thus together 'tis no sin; Sith³ that the justice of your title to him Doth flourish⁴ the deceit. Come, let us go; Our corn's to reap, for yet our tithe's⁵ to sow.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN A PRISON.

Enter Provost and Clown.

Prov. Come hither, sirrah: Can you cut off a man's head?

Clo. If the man be a batchelor, sir, I can: but if he be a married man, he is his wife's head, and I can never cut off a woman's head.

Prov. Come, sir, leave me your snatches, and yield me a direct answer. To-morrow morning are to die Claudio and Barnardine: here is in our prison a common executioner, who in his office

lacks a helper: if you will take it on you to assist him, it shall redeem you from your gyves;¹ if not, you shall have your full time of imprisonment, and your deliverance with an unpitied whipping.

Clo. Sir, I will be content to be a lawful hangman. I would be glad to receive some instruction from my fellow-partner.

Prov. What ho, Abhorson! Where's Abhorson, there?

Enter Abhorson.

Abhor. Do you call, sir?

Prov. Sirrah, here's a fellow will help you to-morrow in your execution: If you think it meet, compound with him by the year, and let him abide here with you; if not, use him for the present, and dismiss him.

Abhor. Fye upon him, he will discredit our mystery.²

Prov. Go to, sir; you weigh equally; a feather will turn the scale. [*Exit.*

Clo. Pray, sir, by your good favour (for surely, sir, a good favour you have, but that you have a hanging look), do you call, sir, your occupation a mystery?

Abhor. Ay, sir; a mystery.

Clo. Painting, sir, I have heard say, is a mystery, but what mystery there should be in hanging, if I should be hanged, I cannot imagine.

Abhor. Sir, it is a mystery.

Clo. Proof.

Abhor. Every true man's apparel fits your thief: if it be too little for your thief, your true man thinks it big enough; if it be too big for your thief, your thief thinks it little enough; so every true man's apparel fits your thief.

Re-enter Provost.

Prov. Are you agreed?

Clo. Sir, I will serve him; for I do find your hangman is a penitent trade; he doth often ask forgiveness.

Prov. You, sirrah, provide your block and your axe, to-morrow, four o'clock.

Abhor. Come on; I will instruct thee in my trade; follow.

Clo. I do desire to learn, sir; and, I hope, if you have occasion to use me for your own turn, you shall find me yare;³ for truly, sir, for your kindness, I owe you a good turn.

Prov. Call hither Barnardine and Claudio:

[*Exeunt Clown and Abhorson.*

One has my pity; not a jot the other, Being a murderer, though he were my brother.

Enter Claudio.

Look, here's the warrant, Claudio, for thy death: 'Tis now dead midnight, and by eight to-morrow Thou must be made immortal. Where's Barnardine?

[*labour.*
Clo. As fast lock'd up in sleep as guiltless When it lies starkly⁴ in the traveller's bones: He will not wake.

Prov. Who can do good on him?

Well, go prepare yourself. But, hark, what noise?

[*Knocking within.*
Heaven give your spirits comfort! [*Exit Claudio.*

By and by:—

1 Inquiries. 2 Since. 3 Tilth, tilled ground.
2 Sallies. 4 Grace.

1 Fetters. 2 Trade. 3 Ready. 4 Stiff.

I hope it is some pardon or reprieve,
For the most gentle Claudio. — Welcome, father.

Enter Duke.

Duke. The best and wholesomest spirits of
the night

Envelope you, good provost? Who call'd here of
Prov. None, since the curfew rung. [late?

Duke. Not Isabel?

Prov. No.

Duke. They will then, ere't be long.

Prov. What comfort is for Claudio?

Duke. There's some in hope.

Prov. It is a bitter deputy.

Duke. Not so, not so; his life is parallel'd
Even with the stroke and line of his great justice;

He doth with holy abstinence subdue

That in himself, which he spurs on his power

To qualify in others: were he meal'd¹ [uous;

With that which he corrects, then were he tyrann

But this being so, he's just. — Now are they come.

[Knocking within—Provost goes out.

This is a gentle provost: Seldom, when

The steel'd gaoler is the friend of men. —

How now? what noise? That spirit's possess'd

with haste, [strokes.

That wounds the unsisting² postern with these

Provost returns, speaking to one at the door.

Prov. There he must stay until the officer

Arise to let him in; he is call'd up.

Duke. Have you no countermend for Claudio

But he must die to-morrow? [yet,

Prov. None, sir, none.

Duke. As near the dawning, provost, as it is,

You shall hear more ere morning.

Prov. Happily,³

You something know; yet, I believe, there comes

No countermend; no such example have we:

Besides, upon the very siege⁴ of justice,

Lord Angelo hath to the public ear

Profess'd the contrary.

Enter a Messenger.

Duke. This is his lordship's man.

Prov. And here comes Claudio's pardon.

Mess. My lord hath sent you this note; and by

me this further charge, that you swerve not from

the smallest article of it, neither in time, matter,

or other circumstance. Good morrow; for, as I

take it, it is almost day.

Prov. I shall obey him. [Exit Messenger.

Duke. This is his pardon; purchas'd by such

sin, [Aside.

For which the pardoner himself is in:

Hence hath offence his quick celerity,

When it is borne in high authority:

When vice makes mercy, mercy's so extended,

That for the fault's love is the offender

Now, sir, what news? [friendly.—

Prov. I told you: Lord Angelo, belike, think-

ing me remiss in mine office, awakens me with

this unawonted putting on: methinks, strangely;

for he hath not used it before.

Duke. Pray you, let's hear.

Prov. [Reads.] Whatsoever you may hear to the

contrary, let Claudio be executed by four of the

clock; and, in the afternoon, Barnardine: for my

better satisfaction, let me have Claudio's head
sent me by five. Let this be duly performed: with
a thought that more depends on it than we must
yet deliver. Thus fail not to do your office, as
you will answer it at your peril.

What say you to this, sir?

Duke. What is that Barnardine who is to be
executed in the afternoon?

Prov. A Bohemian born; but here nursed up
and bred; one that is a prisoner nine years old.

D. How came it, that the absent duke had not
either delivered him to his liberty, or executed

I have heard it was ever his manner to do so. [him?

P. His friends still wrought reprieves for him:

And indeed, his fact, till now in the government

of lord Angelo, came not to an undoubted proof.

Duke. Is it now apparent?

P. Most manifest, and not denied by himself.

Duke. Hath he borne himself penitently in

prison? How seems he to be touch'd?

Prov. A man that apprehends death no more

dreadfully but as a drunken sleep; careless,

reckless, and fearless of what's past, present,

or to come; insensible of mortality, and despe-

rate mortal.

Duke. He wants advice.

Prov. He will hear none: he hath evermore

had the liberty of the prison; give him leave to

escape hence, he would not: drunk many times a

day, if not many days entirely drunk. We have

very often awaked him, as if to carry him to

execution, and showed him a seeming warrant

for it: it hath not moved him at all.

Duke. More of him anon. There is written in

your brow, provost, honesty and constancy: if

I read it not truly, my ancient skill beguiles me;

but in the boldness of my cunning, I will lay my-

self in hazard. Claudio, whom here you have a

warrant to execute, is no greater forfeit to the law

than Angelo who hath sentenced him: To make

you understand this in a manifested effect, I crave

but four days' respite; for the which you are to

do me both a present and a dangerous courtesy.

Prov. Pray, sir, in what?

Duke. In the delaying death.

Prov. Alack! how may I do it? having the

hour limited; and an express command, under

penalty, to deliver his head in the view of Angelo?

I may make my case as Claudio's, to cross this

in the smallest.

Duke. By the vow of mine order, I warrant you,

if my instructions may be your guide. Let this

Barnardine be this morning executed, and his

head borne to Angelo.

Prov. Angelo hath seen them both, and will

discover the favour.¹

Duke. O, death's a great disguiser; and you

may add to it. Shave the head, and tie the beard;

and say it was the desire of the penitent to be so

bared before his death: you know the course is

common. If any thing fall to you upon this, more

than thanks and good fortune, by the saint whom

I profess, I will plead against it with my life.

Prov. Pardon me, good father; it is against

my oath.

Duke. Were you sworn to the duke, or to the

deputy?

Prov. To him, and to his substitutes.

Duke. You will think you have made no offence, if the duke avouch the justice of your dealing?

Prov. But what likelihood is in that?

Duke. Not a resemblance, but a certainty. Yet since I see you fearful, that neither my coat, integrity, nor my persuasion, can with ease attempt you, I will go further than I meant, to pluck all fears out of you. Look you, sir, here is the hand and seal of the duke. You know the character, I doubt not; and the signet is not strange to you.

Prov. I know them both.

Duke. The contents of this is the return of the duke; you shall anon over-read it at your pleasure; where you shall find, within these two days he will be here. This is a thing that Angelo knows not: for he this very day receives letters of strange tenor; perchance, of the duke's death; perchance, entering into some monastery; but, by chance, nothing of what is writ. Look, the unfolding star calls up the shepherd: put not yourself into amazement, how these things should be: all difficulties are but easy when they are known. Call your executioner, and off with Barnardine's head: I will give him a present shrift, and advise him for a better place. Yet you are amazed; but this shall absolutely resolve you. Come away, it is almost clear dawn. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Clown.

Clo. I am as well acquainted here as I was in mistress Overdone's own house, for here be many of her old customers.

Enter Abhorson.

Abhor. Sirrah, bring Barnardine hither.

Clo. Master Barnardine! you must rise and be hang'd, master Barnardine!

Abhor. What, ho, Barnardine!

Barnar. [Within.] A plague o' your throats! Who makes that noise there? What are you?

Clo. Your friends, sir—the hangmen: You must be so good, sir, to rise, and be put to death.

Barnar. [Within.] Away, you rogue, away; I am sleepy.

Abhor. Tell him, he must awake, and that quickly too.

Clo. Pray, master Barnardine, awake till you are executed, and sleep afterwards.

Abhor. Go in to him, and fetch him out.

Clo. He is coming, sir, he is coming; I hear his straw rustle.

Enter Barnardine.

Abhor. Is the axe upon the block, sirrah?

Clo. Very ready, sir.

Barnar. How now, Abhorson? what's the news with you?

Ab. Truly, sir, I would desire you to clap into your prayers: for, look you, the warrant's come.

Barnar. You rogue, I have been drinking all night; I am not fitted for't.

Clo. O, the better, sir; for he that drinks all night, and is hang'd betimes in the morning, may sleep the sounder all the next day.

Enter Duke.

Abhor. Look you, sir, here comes your ghostly father: Do we jest now, think you?

Duke. Sir, induced by my charity, and hearing how hastily you are to depart, I am come to advise you, comfort you, and pray with you.

Barnar. Friar, not I; I have been drinking hard all night, and I will have more time to prepare me, or they shall beat out my brains with billets: I will not consent to die this day, that's certain.

D. O, sir, you must: and therefore I beseech Look forward on the journey you shall go. [you,

Barnar. I swear I will not die to-day for any man's persuasion.

Duke. But hear you—

Barnar. Not a word; if you have anything to say to me, come to my ward; for thence will not I to-day. [Exit.]

Enter Provost.

Duke. Unfit to live, or die: O, gravel heart!—After him, fellows; bring him to the block.

[Exeunt Abhorson and Clown.]

Prov. Now, sir, how do you find the prisoner?

D. A creature unprepar'd, unmeet for death; And, to transport him in the mind he is, Were horrible.

Prov. Here, in the prison, father, There died this morning of a cruel fever One Ragozine, a most notorious pirate, A man of Claudio's years; his beard and head Just of his colour: What if we do omit This reprobate, till he were well inclined; And satisfy the deputy with the visage Of Ragozine, more like to Claudio?

Duke. O, 'tis an accident that heaven provides! Despatch it presently; the hour draws on Prefix'd by Angelo: See this be done, And sent according to command; whiles I Persuade this rude wretch willingly to die.

Prov. This shall be done, good father, presently. But Barnardine must die this afternoon: And how shall we continue Claudio, To save me from the danger that might come, If he were known alive?

D. Let this be done: put them in secret holds, Both Barnardine and Claudio: Ere twice The sun hath made his journal greeting to The under generation,¹ you shall find Your safety manifested.

Prov. I am your free dependant.

Duke. Quick, despatch, And send the head to Angelo. [Exit Provost.] Now will I write letters to Angelo,—

The provost, he shall bear them, whose contents Shall witness to him, I am near at home; And that by great injunctions I am bound To enter publicly: him I'll desire To meet me at the consecrated fount, A league below the city; and from thence, By cold gradation and weal-balanced form, We shall proceed with Angelo.

Re-enter Provost.

Prov. Here is the head; I'll carry it myself.

Duke. Convenient is it: Make a swift return;

¹ The antipodes.

For I would commune with you of such things,
That want no ear but yours.

Pro. I'll make all speed. [*Exit.*

Isab. [*Within.*] Peace, ho, be here!

D. The tongue of Isabel:—She's come to know
If yet her brother's pardon be come hither:
But I will keep her ignorant of her good,
To make her heavenly comforts of despair,
When it is least expected.

Enter Isabella.

Isab. Ho, by your leave.

Duke. Good morning to you, fair and gracious
daughter.

Isab. The better, given me by so holy a man.
Hath yet the deputy sent my brother's pardon?

Duke. He hath releas'd him, Isabel, from the
His head is off, and sent to Angelo. [*world;*

Isab. Nay, but it is not so.

Duke. It is no other: [*tience.*
Show your wisdom, daughter, in your close pa-

Isab. Unhappy Claudio! Wretched Isabel!
Injurious world! Accursed Angelo!

D. This nor hurts him, nor profits you a jot;
Forbear it, therefore; give your cause to heaven.
Mark what I say; which you shall find
By every syllable, a faithful verity:

The duke comes home to-morrow;—nay, dry
your eyes;

One of our convent, and his confessor,
Gives me this instance: Already he hath carried
Notice to Escalus and Angelo;

Who do prepare to meet him at the gates,
There to give up their power. If you can, pace
your wisdom

In that good path that I would wish it go;
And you shall have your bosom^r on this wretch,
Grace of the duke, revenges to your heart,
And general honour.

Isab. I am directed by you.

Duke. This letter then to Friar Peter give;
'Tis that he sent me of the duke's return:
Say, by this token, I desire his company
At Mariana's house to-night. Her cause, and
yours,

I'll perfect him withal; and he shall bring you
Before the duke; and to the head of Angelo
Accuse him home, and home. For my poor self,
I am combined by a sacred vow,
And shall be absent. Wend² you with this letter:
Command these fretting waters from your eyes
With a light heart; trust not my holy order,
If I pervert your course.—Who's here?

Enter Lucio.

Lucio. Good even!
Friar, where is the provost?

Duke. Not within, sir.

Lucio. O, pretty Isabella, I am pale at mine
heart, to see thine eyes so red; thou must be
patient: But they say the duke will be here to-
morrow. By my troth, Isabel, I lov'd thy
brother: if the old fantastical duke of dark
corners had been at home, he had lived.

[*Exit Isabella.*

D. Sir, the duke is marvellous little beholden
to your reports; but the best is, he lives not in
them.

1 Desire.

2 Go.

Lucio. Friar, thou knowest not the duke so well
as I do: he's a better woodman than thou takest
him for.

Duke. Well, you'll answer this one day. Fare
ye well.

Lucio. Nay, tarry; I'll go along with thee:
I can tell thee pretty tales of the duke.

Duke. You have told me too many of him
already, sir, if they be true; if not true, none
were enough; but, sir, your company is fairer
than honest: Rest you well.

Lucio. By my troth, I'll go with thee to the
lane's end: Nay, friar, I am a kind of burr, I
shall stick. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN ANGELO'S HOUSE.

Enter Angelo and Escalus.

Escal. Every letter he hath writ hath dis-
vouch'd other.

Ang. In most uneven and distracted manner.
His actions show much like to madness; pray,
heaven, his wisdom be not tainted! And why
meet him at the gates, and re-deliver our autho-
rities there?

Escal. I guess not.

Ang. And why should we proclaim it in an hour
before his entering, that, if any crave redress of
injustice, they should exhibit their petitions in
the street?

Escal. He shows his reason for that: to have
a despatch of complaints; and to deliver us from
devices hereafter, which shall then have no
power to stand against us.

Ang. Well, I beseech you, let it be proclaim'd:
Betimes i^r the morn, I'll call at your house:
Give notice to such men of sort and suit¹
As are to meet him.

Escal. I shall, sir; fare you well.

[*Exit.*

Ang. Good night.— [*pregnant,*
This deed unshapes me quite, makes me un-
And dull to all proceedings. A deflower'd maid!
And by an eminent body, that enforc'd
The law against it!—But that her tender shame
Will not proclaim against her maiden loss,
How might she tongue me? Yet reason dares
her?—no:

For my authority bears a credent bulk,
That no particular scandal once can touch,
But it confounds the breather. He should have
liv'd [*sense,*
Save that his riotous youth, with dangerous
Might, in the times to come, have ta'en revenge,
By so receiving a dishonour'd life, [*liv'd,*
With ransom of such shame. 'Would yet he had
Alack, when once our grace we have forgot,
Nothing goes right; we would, and we would not.
[*Exit.*

SCENE V.—FIELDS WITHOUT THE TOWN.

Enter Duke in his own habit, and Friar Peter.

Duke. These letters at fit time deliver me.
[*Giving letters.*

The provost knows our purpose, and our plot.
The matter being afoot, keep your instruction,

1 Rank.

And hold you ever to our special drift; [that, Though sometimes you do blench¹ from this to Ascause doth minister. Go, call at Flavius' house, And tell him where I stay: give the like notice To Valentinus, Rowland, and to Crassus, And bid them bring the trumpets to the gate; But send me Flavius first.

F. Peter. It shall be speeded well.
[Exit Friar.]

Enter Varrius.

Duke. I thank thee, Varrius; thou hast made good haste:
Come, we will walk: There's other of our friends Will greet us here anon, my gentle Varrius.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.—STREET NEAR THE CITY GATE.

Enter Isabella and Mariana.

Isab. To speak so indirectly, I am loath;
I would say the truth; but to accuse him so, That is your part; yet I am advis'd to do it; He says, to veil full purpose.

Mari. Be rul'd by him.

Isab. Besides, he tells me, that if peradventure He speak against me on the adverse side, I should not think it strange; for 'tis a physick That's bitter to sweet end.

Mari. I would, friar Peter—

Isab. O, peace; the friar is come.

Enter Friar Peter.

F. Peter. Come, I have found you out a stand most fit,

Where you may have such vantage on the duke, He shall not pass you; Twice have the trumpets The generous² and gravest citizens [sounded; Have hent³ the gates, and very near upon The duke is entering; therefore hence, away.
[Exeunt.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

A PUBLIC PLACE NEAR THE CITY GATE.

Mariana (veil'd), Isabella, and Peter, at a distance. Enter at opposite doors, Duke, Varrius, Lords; Angelo, Escalus, Lucio, Provost, Officers, and Citizens.

Duke. My very worthy cousin, fairly met:— Our old and faithful friend, we are glad to see you.

Ang. and Escal. Happy return be to your royal grace!

Duke. Many and hearty thanks to you both. We have made inquiry of you; and we hear Such goodness of your justice, that our soul Cannot but yield you forth to public thanks, Forerunning more requital.

Ang. You make my bonds still greater.

Duke. O, your desert speaks loud; and I should wrong it
To lock it in the wards of covert bosom, When it deserves with characters of brass
A fortified residence, 'gainst the tooth of time, And rasure of oblivion: Give me your hand, And let the subject see, to make them know

1 Start. 2 Noble. 3 Crowded.

That outward courtesies would fain proclaim Favours that keep within.—Come, Escalus; You must walk by us on our other hand;— And good supporters are you.

Peter and Isabella come forward.

F. Peter. Now, is your time; speak loud, and kneel before him.

Isa. Justice, O royal duke! Vail¹ your regard Upon a wrong'd, I'd fain have said, a maid! O worthy prince, dishonour not your eye By throwing it on any other object, Till you have heard me in my true complaint, And given me justice, justice, justice, justice!

Duke. Relate your wrongs: In what? By whom! Be brief:

Here is lord Angelo shall give you justice; Reveal yourself to him.

Isab. O, worthy duke, You bid me seek redemption of the devil: Hear me yourself; for that which I must speak Must either punish me, not being believ'd, [here, Or wring redress from you: hear me, O hear me,

A. My lord, her wits, I fear me, are not firm: She hath been a suitor to me for her brother, Cut off by course of justice!

Isab. By course of justice!

Ang. And she will speak most bitterly and strange. [speak:]

Isab. Most strange, but yet most truly will I That Angelo's forsworn, is it not strange!

That Angelo's a murderer, is't not strange?

That Angelo is an adulterous thief,

An hypocrite, a virgin-violator;

Is it not strange, and strange?

Duke. Nay, ten times strange!

Isab. It is not truer he is Angelo,

Than this is all as true as it is strange:

Nay, it is ten times truer: for truth is truth To the end of reckoning.

Duke. Away with her: Poor soul, She speaks this in the infirmity of sense.

Isab. O prince, I conjure thee, as thou believ'st There is another comfort than this world, That thou neglect me not, with that opinion That I am touch'd with madness: make not impossible

That which but seems unlike: 'tis not impossible, But one the wicked'st cattiff on the ground, May seem as shy, as grave, as just, as absolute, As Angelo; even so may Angelo, In all his dressings,² characters, titles, forms, Be an arch-villain: believe it, royal prince, If he be less, he's nothing; but he's more, Had I more name for badness.

Duke. By mine honesty, If she be mad (as I believe no other), Her madness hath the oddest frame of sense, Such a dependency of thing on thing, As e'er I heard in madness.

Isab. O, gracious duke, Harp not on that, nor do not banish reason For inequality: but let your reason serve To make the truth appear, where it seems hid; And hide the false, seems true.

Duke. Many that are not mad, [say:] Have sure more lack of reason. What would you

1 Lower. 2 Habits and characters of office.

Isab. I am the sister of one Claudio,
Condemn'd upon the law of fornication,
To lose his head; condemn'd by Angelo!
I, in probation of a sisterhood,
Was sent to by my brother: one Lucio
Was then the messenger;—

Lucio. That's I, an't like your grace:
I came to her from Claudio, and desir'd her
To try her gracious fortune with lord Angelo,
For her poor brother's pardon.

Isab. That's he indeed.

Duke. You were not bid to speak.

Lucio. No, my good lord;
Nor wish'd to hold my peace.

Duke. I wish you now then;
Pray you, take note of it; and when you have
A business for yourself, pray heaven you then
Be perfect.

Lucio. I warrant your honour.

D. The warrant's for yourself; take heed to it.

I. This gentleman told somewhat of my tale.

Lucio. Right.

D. It may be right; but you are in the wrong
To speak before your time.—Proceed.

Isab. I went
To this pernicious catiff deputy.

Duke. That's somewhat madly spoken.

Isab. Pardon it;
The phrase is to the matter.

Duke. Mended again: the matter?—Proceed.

Isab. In brief,—to set the needless process by,
How I persuaded, how I pray'd and kneel'd.
How he refus'd me, and how I reply'd;
(For this was of much length,) the vile conclusion
I now begin with grief and shame to utter;
He would not but by gift of my chaste person
Release my brother; and after much debate
My sisterly remorse² confutes mine honour.
And I did yield to him: But the next morn
betimes

His purpose surfeiting, he sends a warrant
For my poor brother's head.

Duke. This is most likely.

Isab. O, that it were as like as it is true!

Duke. By heaven, fond³ wretch, thou know'st
not what thou speak'st;

Or else thou art suborn'd against his honour,
In hateful practice: First, his integrity [reason,
Stands without blemish;—next, it imports not
That with such vehemency he should pursue
Faults proper to himself: if he had so offended,
He would have weigh'd thy brother by himself,
And not have cut him off: Some one hath set you
Confess the truth, and say by whose advice [oh:
Thou can'st here to complain.

Isab. And is this all?
Then, oh, you blessed ministers above,
Keep me in patience; and, with ripen'd time,
Unfold the evil which is here wrapt up [woe,
In countenance!—Heaven shield your grace from
As I, thus wrong'd, hence unbelieved go.

Duke. I know you'd fain be gone:—An officer!
To prison with her:—Shall we thus permit
A blasting and a scandalous breath to fall
On him so near us? This needs must be a practice.
—Who knew of your intent, and coming hither?

I. One that I would were here, friar Lodowick.

Duke. A ghostly father, belike.—Who knows
that Lodowick?

L. My lord, I know him; 'tis a meddling friar;
I do not like the man: had he been lay,¹ my lord,
For certain words he spake against your grace
In your retirement, I had swing'd² him soundly.

D. Words against me? This a good friar, be-
And to set on this wretched woman here—[like!
Against our substitute!—Let this friar be found.

L. But yesternight, my lord, she and that friar
I saw them at the prison: a saucy friar,
A very scurvy fellow.

F. Peter. Blessed be your royal grace!
I have stood by, my lord, and I have heard
Your royal ear abus'd: First, hath this woman
Most wrongfully accus'd your substitute:
Who is as free from touch or guilt with her
As she from one unborn.

Duke. We did believe no less.
Know you that friar Lodowick that she speaks of?

F. Pet. I know him for a man divine and holy:
Not scurvy, nor a temporary³ meddler,
As he's reported by this gentleman;
And, on my trust, a man that never yet,
Did, as he vouches, misreport your grace.

Lucio. My lord, most villainously! believe it.

F. Peter. Well, he in time may come to clear
But at this instant he is sick, my lord, [himself;
Of a strange fever: Upon his mere request
(Being come to knowledge that there was com-
plaint

Intended 'gainst lord Angelo), came I hither,
To speak, as from his mouth, what he doth know
Is true, and false; and what he with his oath,
And all probation, will make up full clear,
Whensoe'er he's convented.⁴ First, for this
(To justify this worthy nobleman, [woman;
So vulgarly⁵ and personally accus'd,) Her
shall you hear disproved to her eyes,
Till she herself confess it.

Duke. Good friar, let's hear it.

[*Isabella is carried off, guarded; and
Mariana comes forward.*

Do you not smile at this, lord Angelo?—
O heaven! the vanity of wretched fools!
Give us some seats.—Come, cousin Angelo,
In this I'll be impartial; be you judge
Of your own cause.—Is this the witness, friar?

First, let her show her face; and, after, speak.

Mari. Pardon, my lord; I will not show my
Until my husband bid me. [face

Duke. What, are you married?

Mari. No, my lord.

Duke. Are you a maid?

Mari. No, my lord.

Duke. A widow then?

Mari. Neither, my lord.

Duke. Why, you [wife?
Are nothing then!—Neither maid, widow, nor

Mar. My lord, I do confess I ne'er was married;
And I confess, besides, I am no maid:

I have known my husband; yet my husband
That ever he knew me. [knows not

Lucio. He was drunk, then, my lord; it can
be no better. [wert so too!

Duke. For the benefit of silence, 'would thou

1 Refuted.

2 Pity.

3 Foolish.

1 Layman.

3 Temporal.

5 Publicly.

2 Chastised.

4 Summoned.

Lucio. Well, my lord.

Duke. This is no witness for lord Angelo.

Mari. Now I come to't, my lord:

She that accuses him of fornication,
In self-same manner doth accuse my husband,
And charges him, my lord, with such a time,
When I'll depose I had him in mine arms.

Ang. Charges she more than me?

Mari. Not that I know.

Duke. No? you say your husband?

Mari. Why, just my lord, and that is Angelo.

A. This is a strange abuse!—Let's see thy face.

Mar. My husband bids me; now I will unmask.

[Unveiling.]

This is that face, thou cruel Angelo, [on:
Which once thou swor'st was worth the looking
This is the hand, which, with a vow'd contract,
Was fast belock'd in thine; and this is she
That took away the match from Isabel,
And did supply thee at thy garden-house,
In her imagin'd person.

Duke. Know you this woman?

A. My lord, I must confess, I know this woman;
And, five years since, there was some speech of
marriage

Betwixt myself and her; which was broke off,
Partly, for that her promised proportions
Came short of composition; but in chief,
For that her reputation was disvalued
In levity: since which time, of five years, [her:
I never spake with her, saw her, nor heard from
Upon my faith and honour.

Mari. Noble prince, [breath,
As there comes light from heaven, and words from
As there is sense in truth, and truth in virtue,
I am affianc'd this man's wife, asstronly [lord,
As words could make up vows; and, my good
But Tuesday night last gone, in his garden-house,
He knew me as a wife: As this is true
Let me in safety raise me from my knees,
Or else for ever be confix'd here,
A marble monument!

Ang. I did but smile till now:
Now, good my lord, give me the scope of justice;
My patience here is touch'd: I do perceive,
These poor informal women are no more
But instruments of some more mightier member,
That sets them on: Let me have way, my lord,
To find this practice's out.

Duke. Ay, with my heart;
And punish them unto your height of pleasure.—
Thou foolish friar; and thou pernicious woman,
Compact with her that's gone! think'st thou thy
oaths, [saint,

Though they would swear down each particular
Were testimonies against his worth and credit,
That's seal'd in approbation?—You, lord Escalus,
Sit with my cousin; lend him your kind pains
To find out this abuse, whence 'tis derived.—
There is another friar that set them on;
Let him be sent for. [indeed,

F. Peter. Would he were here, my lord; for he,
Hath set the women on to this complaint;
Your provost knows the place where he abides,
And he may fetch him.

Duke. Go do it instantly.— [Exit Provost.
And you, my noble, and well-warranted cousin,

1 Deception. 2 Crazy. 3 Conspiracy.

Whom it concerns to hear this matter forth,
Do with your injuries as seems you best,
In any chastisement: I for a while [well
Will leave you; but stir not you, till you have
Determined upon these slanderers.

Escal. My lord, we'll do it thoroughly.—[Exit
Duke.] Signior Lucio, did not you say, you knew
that friar Lodowick to be a dishonest person?

Lucio. *Cucullus non facit monachum*: honest
in nothing but in his clothes; and one that hath
spoke most villainous speeches of the duke.

Escal. We shall entreat you to abide here till
he come, and enforce them against him: we
shall find this friar a notable fellow.

Lucio. As any in Vienna, on my word.

Escal. Call that same Isabel here once again;
[To an Attendant.] I would speak with her:
Pray you, my lord, give me leave to question:
you shall see how I'll handle her.

*Re-enter Officers, with Isabella; the Duke in
the Friar's habit, and Provost.*

Escal. Come on, mistress: [To Isabella.] here's
a gentlewoman denies all that you have said.

Lucio. My lord, here comes the rascal I spoke
of; here, with the provost.

Escal. In very good time;—speak not you to
him, till we call upon you.

Lucio. Mum.

Escal. Come, sir: did you set these women
on to slander lord Angelo? they have confess'd
you did.

Duke. 'Tis false.

Escal. How! know you where you are?

Duke. Where is the duke? 'tis he should hear
me speak. [speak:

Escal. The duke's in us; and we will hear you
Look, you speak justly.

Duke. Boldly, at least:—But, O, poor souls,
Come you to seek the lamb here of the fox?
Good night to your redress. Is the duke gone?
Then is your cause gone too. The duke's unjust,
Thus to retort your manifest appeal,
And put your trial in the villain's mouth,
Which here you come to accuse.

Lucio. This is the rascal; this is he I spoke of.
Escal. Why, thou unreverend and unhallow'd
friar? [women,

Is't not enough that thou hast suborn'd these
To accuse this worthy man; but in foul mouth,
And in the witness of his proper ear,
To call him villain?

And then to glance from him to the duke himself;
To tax him with injustice?—Take him hence;
To the rack with him:—We'll touze you joint
by joint,

But we will know this purpose:—What! unjust?

Duke. Be not so hot; the duke
Dare no more stretch this finger of mine, than he
Dare rack his own: his subject am I not,
Nor here provincial: My business in this state,
Made me a looker-on here in Vienna,
Where I have seen corruption boil and bubble,
Till it o'er-run the stew: laws for all faults;
But faults so countenanc'd, that the strong
statutes

Stand like the forfeits in a barber's shop,
As much in mock as mark.

Escal. Slander to the state ! Away with him to prison.

A. What can you vouch against him, signior ? Is this the man that you did tell us of ? [*Lucio?*]

Lucio. 'Tis he, my lord. Come hither, good-man bald-pate : Do you know me ?

Duke. I remember you, sir, by the sound of your voice : I met you at the prison in the absence of the duke.

Lucio. O, did you so ? And do you remember what you said of the duke ?

Duke. Most notably, sir.

Lucio. Do you so, sir ? And was the duke a fleshmonger, a fool, and a coward, as you then reported him to be ?

Duke. You must, sir, change persons with me, ere you make that my report ; you, indeed, spoke so of him ; and much more, much worse.

Lucio. Thou fellow ! Did not I pluck thee by the nose for thy speeches ?

D. I protest I love the duke as I love myself.

Ang. Hark ! how the villain would close now, after his treasonable abuses.

Escal. Such a fellow is not to be talked withal :—Away with him to prison. Where is the provost ?—Away with him to prison ; lay bolts enough upon him : let him speak no more. Away with those giglots,¹ too, and with the other confederate companion.

[*The Provost lays hands on the Duke.*]

Duke. Stay, sir ; stay awhile.

Ang. What ! resists he ? Help him, Lucio.

Lucio. Come, sir ; come, sir ; come, sir ; foh, sir : Why, you bald-pated, lying rascal ! you must be hooded, must you ? Show your knave's visage ! Show your sheep-biting face, and be hang'd an hour ! Will't not off ?

[*Pulls off the Friar's hood & discovers the Duke.*]

Duke. Thou art the first knave that e'er made a duke.—

First, provost, let me bail these gentle three :—Sneak not away, sir ; [*To Lucio.*] for the friar and you

Must have a word anon :—Lay hold on him.

Lucio. This may prove worse than hanging.

Duke. What you have spoke, I pardon ; sit you down.—[*To Escalus.*]

We'll borrow place of him :—Sir, by your leave : [*To Angelo.*]

Hast thou or word, or wit, or impudence, That yet can do thee office ? If thou hast, Rely upon it till my tale be heard, And hold no longer out.

Ang. O my dread lord, I should be guiltier than my guiltiness, To think I can be undiscernible, When I perceive your grace, like power divine, Hath look'd upon my passes :² Then good prince, No longer session hold upon my shame, But let my trial be mine own confession ; Immediate sentence then, and sequent death, Is all the grace I beg.

Duke. Come hither, Mariana ?—Say, wast thou e'er contracted to this woman ?

Ang. I was, my lord.

Duke. Go, take her hence, and marry her instantly.—

1 Wantons.

2 Practices.

Do you the office, friar ; which consummate, Return him here again :—Go with him, provost. [*Exeunt Angelo, Mariana, Peter, and Provost.*]

Escal. My lord, I am more amazed at his Than at the strangeness of it. [*Exit*] [dishonour,

Duke. Come hither, Isabel : Your friar is now your prince : As I was then Advertising,¹ and holy to your business, Not changing heart with habit, I am still Attorney'd at your service.

Isab. O give me pardon, That I, your vassal, have employ'd and pain'd Your unknown sovereignty.

Duke. You are pardon'd, Isabel : And now, dear maid, be you as free to us.

Your brother's death, I know, sits at your heart ; And you may marvel why I obscur'd myself, Labouring to save his life ; and would not rather Make rash remonstrance of my hidden power, Than let him be so lost : O, most kind maid, It was the swift celerity of his death, Which I did think with slower foot came on, That brain'd my purpose : But peace be with That life is better life, past fearing death, [him !] Than that which lives to fear : make it your So happy is your brother, [comfort,

Re-enter Angelo, Mariana, Peter, and Provost.

Isab. I do, my lord.

Duke. For this new-married man, approaching here,

Whose foul imagination yet hath wrong'd Your well-defended honour, you must pardon For Mariana's sake : but as he adjudged your [Being criminal, in double violation [brother, Of sacred chastity and of promise-breach, Thereon dependent for your brother's life),

The very mercy of the law cries out Most audible, even from his proper tongue, "An Angelo for Claudio, death for death."

Haste still pays haste, and leisure answers leisure ;

Like doth quit like, and "Measure still for Then, Angelo, thy fault's thus manifested ; Which though thou would'st deny, denies thee vantage :

We do condemn thee to the very block Where Claudio stoop'd to death, and with like Away with him. [*Haste:—*

Mariana. O my most gracious lord, I hope you will not mock me with a husband !

Duke. It is your husband mock'd you with a husband :

Consenting to the safeguard of your honour, I thought your marriage fit ; else imputation, For that he knew you, might reproach your life, And choke your good to come : for his possession, Although by confiscation they are ours, [sions, We do instate and widow you withal, To buy you a better husband.

Mari. O, my dear lord, I crave no other nor no better man.

Duke. Never crave him : we are definitive.

Mari. Gentle, my liege,— [*Kneeling.*

Duke. You do but lose your labour ; Away with him to death.—[*To Lucio.*] Now, sir, to you.

1 Attentive.

H

M. O, my good lord!—Sweet Isabel, take my part;

Lend me your knees, and all my life to come I'll lend you all my life to do you service.

Duke. Against all sense you do importune her: Should she kneel down, in mercy of this fact, Her brother's ghost his paved bed would break, And take her hence in horror.

Mari. *Enter I, and kneel down.* Sweet Isabel, do yet but kneel by me; Hold up your hands; say nothing; I'll speak all. They say, best men are moulded out of faults; And, for the most, become much more the better

For being a little bad: so may my husband. O, Isabel! will you not lend a knee?

Duke. He dies for Claudio's death.

Isabel. Most bounteous sir, [*Kneeling.*] Look if it please you, on this man condemn'd, As if my brother liv'd: I partly think, A due sincerity govern'd his deeds, Till he did look on me; since it is so, Let him not die: My brother had but justice, In that he did the thing for which he died:

For Angelo, His act did not o'ertake his bad intent, And must be buried but as an intent That perish'd by the way: thoughts are no subjects;

Intent but merely thoughts.

Mari. Merely, my lord.

D. Your suit's unprofitable; stand up, I say.— I have bethought me of another fault:— Provost, how came it, Claudio was beheaded At an unusual hour?

Prov. It was commanded so.

Duke. Had you a special warrant for the deed?

P. No, my good lord; it was by private message.

D. For which I do discharge you of your office: Give up your keys.

Prov. Pardon me, noble lord: I thought it was a fault, but knew it not; Yet did repent me after more advice:¹ For testimony whereof, one in the prison, That should by private order else have died, I have reserv'd alive.

Duke. What's he?

Prov. His name is Barnardine.

D. I would thou hadst done so by Claudio.— Go, fetch him hither; let me look upon him.

[*Exit Provost.*]

Escal. I am sorry one so learned and so wise As you, lord Angelo, have still appear'd, Should slip so grossly, both in the heat of blood, And lack of temper'd judgment afterward.

Ang. I am sorry, that such sorrow I procure: And so deep sticks it in my penitent heart, That I crave death more willingly than mercy; 'Tis my deserving, and I do entreat it.

Re-enter Provost, Barnardine, Claudio, and Juliet.

Duke. Which is that Barnardine?

Prov. This, my lord.

Duke. There was a friar told me of this man. Sirrah, thou art said to have a stubborn soul, That apprehends no further than this world,

1 Consideration.

And squar'st thy life according. Thou'rt condemn'd;

But, for those earthly faults I quit them all; And pray thee, take this mercy to provide For better times to come:—Friar, advise him; I leave him to your hand.—What muffled fellow's that?

Prov. This is another prisoner that I sav'd, That should have died when Claudio lost his head;

As like almost to Claudio as himself.

[*Unmuffles Claudio.*]

Duke. If he belike your brother, [*To Isabella.*] for his sake

Is he pardon'd; and for your lovely sake, Give me your hand, and say you will be mine, He is my brother too: But fitter time for that. By this lord Angelo perceives he's safe; Methinks, I see a quick'ning in his eye:— Well, Angelo, your evil quits¹ you well: Look that you love your wife; her worth, worth I find an apt remission in myself: [yours.— And yet here's one in place I cannot pardon: You, sirrah, [*To Lucio.*] that knew me for a fool, a coward,

One all of luxury, an ass, a madman;

Wherein have I so deserved of you,

That you extol me thus?

Lucio. Faith, my lord, I spoke it but according to the trick:² If you will hang me for it, you may, but I had rather it would please you, I might be whipp'd.

Duke. Whipp'd first, sir, and hang'd after.— Proclaim it, provost, round about the city; If any woman's wrong'd by this lewd fellow, (As I have heard him swear himself, there's none), Let her appear, and he shall marry her: The nuptial finish'd, let him be whipp'd and hang'd.

Lucio. I beseech your highness, do not marry me so. Your highness said even now, I made you a duke; good my lord, do not recompense me so.

Duke. Upon mine honour, thou shalt marry her. Thy slanders I forgive; and therewithal Remit thy other forfeits:—Take him to prison: And see our pleasure herein executed.

Lucio. Marrying me so, my lord, is pressing to death, whipping, and hanging.

Duke. Slandring a prince deserves it.— She, Claudio, that you wrong'd, look you restore. Joy to you, Mariana!—love her, Angelo; I have confess'd her, and I know her virtue.— Thanks, good friend Escalus, for thy much goodness:

There's more behind, that is more gratefully, Thanks, provost, for thy care and secrecy; We shall employ thee in a worthier place:— Forgive him, Angelo, that brought you home The head of Ragozine for Claudio's; The offence pardons itself.—Dear Isabel, I have a motion much imports your good; Whereto if you'll a willing ear incline, What's mine is yours, and what is yours is mine: So bring us to our palace; where we'll show What's yet behind, that's meet you all should know.

[*Exeunt.*]

1 Requite.

2 Thoughtless practice.

Much Ado About Nothing.

Persons Represented.

DON PEDRO, *Prince of Arragon.*
 DON JOHN, *his Bastard Brother.*
 CLAUDIO, *a young Lord of Florence, Favourite to Don Pedro.*
 BENEDICK, *a young Lord of Padua, Favourite likewise of Don Pedro.*
 LEONATO, *Governor of Messina.*
 ANTONIO, *his Brother.*
 BALTHAZAR, *Servant to Don Pedro.*
 BORACHIO, } *Followers of Don John.*
 CONRADE, }

DOGBERRY, } *Two foolish Officers.*
 VERGES, }
 A Sexton.
 A Friar.
 A Boy.

HERO, *Daughter to Leonato.*
 BEATRICE, *Niece to Leonato.*
 MARGARET, } *Gentlewomen attending on Hero.*
 URSULA, }

Messengers, Watch, and Attendants.

SCENE.—*Messina.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—BEFORE LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato, Hero, Beatrice, and others, with a Messenger.

Leon. I learn in this letter, that Don Pedro of Arragon comes this night to Messina.

Mess. He is very near by this; he was not three leagues off when I left him.

Leon. How many gentlemen have you lost in this action?

Mess. But few of any sort, and none of name.

Leon. A victory is twice itself, when the achiever brings home full numbers. I find here, that Don Pedro hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine, called Claudio.

Mess. Much deserved on his part, and equally remembered by Don Pedro: He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age; doing, in the figure of a lamb, the feats of a lion: he hath, indeed, better bettered expectation, than you must expect of me to tell you how.

Leon. He hath an uncle here in Messina will be very much glad of it.

Mess. I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy in him; even so much, that joy could not show itself modest enough, without a badge of bitterness.

Leon. Did he break out into tears?

Mess. In great measure.¹

Leon. A kind overflow of kindness: There are no faces truer than those that are so washed. How much better is it to weep at joy, than to joy at weeping.

Beat. I pray you, is signior Montanto returned from the wars, or no?

Mess. I know none of that name, lady; there was none such in the army of any sort.

Leon. What is he that you ask for, niece?

H. My cousin means signior Benedick of Padua.

Mess. O, he is returned; and as pleasant as ever he was.

Beat. He set up his bills here in Messina, and

¹ Abundance.

challenged Cupid at the flight: and my uncle's fool, reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid, and challenged him at the bird-bolt.—I pray you, how many hath he killed and eaten in these wars? But how many hath he killed? for, indeed, I promised to eat all of his killing.

L. Faith, niece, you tax signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.

Mess. He hath done good service, lady, in these wars.

Beat. You had musty victual, and he hath holp to eat it: he is a very valiant trencher-man, he hath an excellent stomach.

Mess. And a good soldier too, lady.

Beat. And a good soldier to a lady.—But what is he to a lord?

Mess. A lord to a lord, a man to a man, stuffed with all honourable virtues.

Beat. It is so, indeed, he is no less than a stuffed man but for the stuffing.—Well, we are all mortal.

Leon. You must not, sir, mistake my niece: there is a kind of merry war betwixt signior Benedick and her: they never meet, but there is a skirmish of wit between them.

Beat. Alas, he gets nothing by that. In our last conflict, four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one: so that if he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him bear it for a difference between himself and his horse: for it is all the wealth that he hath left, to be known a reasonable creature.—Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworn brother.

Mess. Is it possible?

Beat. Very easily possible: he wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat; it ever changes with the next block.

Mess. I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books.

Beat. No: an he were, I would burn my study. But, I pray you, who is his companion? Is there no young squarer¹ now, that will make a voyage with him to the devil?

¹ Quarreller.

Mess. He is most in the company of the right noble Claudio.

Beat. He will hang upon him like a disease: he is sooner caught than the pestilence, and the taker runs presently mad. Heaven help the noble Claudio! if he have caught the Benedick, it will cost him a thousand pound ere he be cured.

Mess. I will hold friends with you, lady.

Beat. Do, good friend.

Leon. You will never run mad, niece.

Beat. No, not till a hot January.

Mess. Don Pedro is approached.

Enter Don Pedro, attended by Balthazar and others, Don John, Claudio, and Benedick.

D. Pedro. Good signior Leonato, you are come to meet your trouble: the fashion of the world is to avoid cost, and you encounter it.

Leon. Never came trouble to my house in the likeness of your grace: for trouble being gone, comfort should remain: but, when you depart from me, sorrow abides, and happiness takes his leave.

D. Pedro. You embrace your charge too willingly.—I think this is your daughter.

Leon. Her mother hath many times told me so.

Be. Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her?

Leon. Signior Benedick, no; for then were you a child.

D. Pedro. You have it full, Benedick: we may guess by this what you are, being a man. Truly, the lady fathers herself: Be happy, lady! for you are like an honourable father.

Bene. If signior Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina, as like him as she is.

Beat. I wonder that you will still be talking, signior Benedick; nobody marks you.

Bene. What, my dear lady Disdain! are you yet living?

Beat. Is it possible, disdain should die, while she hath such meet food to feed it as signior Benedick? Courtesy itself must convert to disdain, if you come in her presence.

Bene. Then is courtesy a turncoat:—But it is certain, I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted: and I would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart; for, truly, I love none.

Beat. A dear happiness to women; they would else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I am of your humour for that; I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow, than a man swear he loves me.

Bene. Heaven keep your ladyship still in that mind! so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face.

Beat. Scratching could not make it worse, an 'twere such a face as yours were.

Bene. Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

Beat. A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.

Bene. I would my horse had the speed of your tongue; and so good a continuer: But keep your way; I have done.

Beat. You always end with a jade's trick; I know you of old.

D. Pedro. This is the sum of all: Don John,—signior Claudio, and signior Benedick,—my dear

friend Leonato hath invited you all. I tell him, we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily prays some occasion may detain us longer: I dare swear he is no hypocrite, but prays from his heart.

Leon. If you swear, my lord, you shall not be forsworn.—Let me bid you welcome, my lord; being reconciled to the prince your brother, I owe you all duty.

D. John. I thank you: I am not of many words, but I thank you.

Leon. Please it your grace lead on?

D. Pedro. Your hand, Leonato; we will go together. [*Exeunt all but Benedick and Claudio.*]

Claud. Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of signior Leonato?

Bene. I noted her not; but I looked on her.

Claud. Is she not a modest young lady?

Bene. Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment; or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex?

Cla. No, I pray thee, speak in sober judgment.

Bene. Why, i' faith, methinks she is too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise: only this commendation I can afford her; that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome; and being no other but as she is, I do not like her.

Claud. Thou thinkest I am in sport; I pray thee, tell me truly how thou likest her.

Bene. Would you buy her, that you inquire after her?

Claud. Can the world buy such a jewel?

Bene. Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow? or do you play the flouting Jack; to tell us Cupid is a good hare-finder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a man take you, to go in the song?

Claud. In mine eye, she is the sweetest lady that ever I look'd on.

Bene. I can see yet without spectacles, and I see no such matter: there's her cousin, an she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?

Cla. I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

Bene. Is it come to this? Hath not the world one man, but he will wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of three-score again? Go to; and thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it, and sigh away Sundays. Look, Don Pedro is returned to seek you.

Re-enter Don Pedro.

D. Pedro. What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's?

Bene. I would, your grace would constrain me to tell.

D. Pedro. I charge thee, on thy allegiance.

Bene. You hear, Count Claudio: I can be secret as a dumb man, I would have you think so; but on my allegiance,—mark you this, on my allegiance:—He is in love. With who?—now that is your grace's part.—Mark, how short

his answer is:—With Hero, Leonato's short daughter.

Claud. If this were so, so were it uttered.

Bene. Like the old tale, my lord: it is not so, nor 'twas not so; but, indeed, heaven forbid it should be so.

Claud. If my passion change not shortly, heaven forbid it should be otherwise.

D. Pedro. Amen, if you love her; for the lady is very well worthy.

Claud. You speak this to fetch me in, my lord.

D. Pedro. By my troth, I speak my thought.

Claud. And, in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.

Bene. And, by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine.

Claud. That I love her, I feel.

D. Pedro. That she is worthy, I know.

Bene. That I never feel how she should be loved, nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me; I will die in it at the stake.

D. Pedro. Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.

Claud. And never could maintain his part, but in the force of his will.

Bene. That a woman brought me up, I give her most humble thanks: but that I will have a recheat¹ winded in my forehead, all women shall pardon me. Because I will not do them the wrong to mistrust any, I will do myself the right to trust none; and the fine is (for the which I may go the finer), I will live a bachelor.

D. Pedro. I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love.

Bene. With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my lord! not with love: prove, that ever I lose more blood with love, than I will get again with drinking, pick out mine eyes with a ballad-maker's pen, and hang me up for the sign of blind Cupid.

D. Pedro. Well, if ever thou dost fall from this faith, thou wilt prove a notable argument.

Bene. If I do, hang me in a bottle like a cat, and shoot at me; and he that hits me, let him be clapped on the shoulder, and called Adam.²

D. Pedro. Well, as time shall try:
In time the savage bull doth bear the yoke.

Bene. The savage bull may; but if ever the sensible Benedick bear it, pluck off the bull's horns, and set them in my forehead: and let me be vilely painted; and in such great letters as they write, *Here is good horse to hire*, let them signify under my sign, — *Here you may see Benedick, the married man.*

Claud. If this should ever happen, thou wouldst be horn-mad.

D. Pedro. Nay, if Cupid have not spent all his quiver in Venice, thou wilt quake for this shortly.

Bene. I look for an earthquake too then.

D. Pedro. Well, you will temporise with the hours. In the meantime, good signior Benedick, repair to Leonato's; commend me to him, and tell him, I will not fail him at supper; for, indeed, he hath made great preparation.

Bene. I have almost matter enough in me for such an embassy; and so I commit you—

¹ The note sounded to recall the dogs.

² A famous archer.

Claud. To the tuition of heaven: From my house (if I had it),—

D. Pedro. The sixth of July: Your loving friend Benedick.

Bene. Nay, mock not, mock not: The body of your discourse is sometime guarded with fragments, and the guards are but slightly basted on neither; ere you flout old ends any further, examine your conscience; and so I leave you.

[*Exit Benedick.*]

C. Myliege, your highness now may do me good.

D. Ped. My love is thine to teach; teach it but. And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn [how, Any hard lesson that may do thee good.

Claud. Hath Leonato any son, my lord?

D. Ped. No child but Hero, she's his only heir: Dost thou affect her, Claudio?

Claud. O my lord, When you went onward on this ended action, I look'd upon her with a soldier's eye, That lik'd, but had a rougher task in hand Than to drive liking to the name of love: But now I am return'd, and that war-thoughts Have left their places vacant, in their rooms Come thronging soft and delicate desires, All prompting me how fair young Hero is, Saying, I lik'd her ere I went to wars.

D. Pedro. Thou wilt be like a lover presently, And tire the hearer with a book of words:

If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it; And I will break with her, and with her father, And thou shalt have her: Was't not to this end That thou began'st to twist so fine a story?

Claud. How sweetly do you minister to love, That know love's grief by his complexion! But lest my liking might too sudden seem I would have sav'd it with a longer treatise.

D. Pedro. What need the bridge much broader than the flood?

The fairest grant is the necessity: Look, what will serve, is fit: 'tis once,¹ thou And I will fit thee with the remedy. [*flout*]; I know we shall have revelling to-night; I will assume thy part in some disguise, And tell fair Hero I am Claudio; And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart, And take her hearing prisoner with the force And strong encounter of my amorous tale: Then, after, to her father will I break; And the conclusion is, she shall be thine: In practice let us put it presently. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato and Antonio.

Leon. How now, brother? Where is my cousin, your son? Hath he provided this musick?

Ant. He is very busy about it. But, brother, I can tell you strange news that you yet dreamed not of.

Leon. Are they good?

Ant. As the event stamps them; but they have a good cover, they show well outward. The prince and Count Claudio, walking in a thick-pleached² alley in my orchard, were thus much overheard by a man of mine: The prince discovered to Claudio that he loved my niece your daughter,

¹ Once for all.

² Thickly interwoven.

and meant to acknowledge it this night in a dance; and, if he found her accordant, he meant to take the present time by the top, and instantly break with you of it.

L. Hath the fellow any wit that told you this?

Ant. A good sharp fellow: I will send for him, and question him yourself.

Leon. No, no; we will hold it as a dream, till it appear itself:—but I will acquaint my daughter withal, that she may be the better prepared for an answer, if peradventure this be true. Go you, and tell her of it. [*Several persons cross the stage.*] Cousins, you know what you have to do.—O, I cry you mercy, friend; you go with me, and I will use your skill:—Good cousins, have a care this busy time. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

ANOTHER ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Don John and Conrade.

Con. My lord! why are you thus out of measure sad?

D. John. There is no measure in the occasion that breeds it, therefore the sadness is without limit.

Con. You should hear reason.

D. John. And when I have heard it, what blessing bringeth it?

Con. If not a present remedy, yet a patient sufferance.

D. John. I wonder, that thou being (as thou say'st thou art) born under Saturn, goest about to apply a moral medicine to a mortifying mischief. I cannot hide what I am: I must be sad when I have cause, and smile at no man's jests; eat when I have stomach, and wait for no man's leisure; sleep when I am drowsy, and tend to no man's business; laugh when I am merry, and claw¹ no man in his humour.

Con. Yea, but you must not make the full show of this, till you may do it without controlment. You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is impossible you should take true root, but by the fair weather that you make yourself; it is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest.

D. John. I had rather be a cauger in a hedge, than a rose in his grace; and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all, than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any: in this, though I cannot be said to be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied that I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with a muzzle, and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I have decreed not to sing in my cage: If I had my mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do my liking; in the mean time, let me be that I am, and seek not to alter me.

C. Can you make no use of your discontent?

D. John. I make all use of it, for I use it only. Who comes here? What news, Borachio?

Enter Borachio.

Bor. I came yonder from a great supper; the prince, your brother, is royally entertained by
1 Flatter.

Leonato; and I can give you intelligence of an intended marriage.

D. John. Will it serve for any model to build mischief on? What is he for a fool, that betroths himself to unquietness?

Bora. Marry, it is your brother's right hand.

D. John. Who? the most exquisite Claudio?

Bora. Even he.

D. John. A proper squire! And who, and who? which way looks he?

Bora. Marry, on Hero, the daughter and heir of Leonato.

D. John. A very forward March-chick! How came you to this?

Bora. Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was smoking a musty room, comes me the prince and Claudio, hand in hand, in sad conference: I whipt me behind the arras; and there heard it agreed upon, that the prince should woo Hero for himself, and having obtained her, give her to Count Claudio.

D. John. Come, come, let us thither; this may prove food to my displeasure; that young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow; if I can cross him any way, I bless myself every way: You are both sure, and will assist me?

Con. To the death, my lord.

D. John. Let us to the great supper; their cheer is the greater, that I am subdued: Would the cook were of my mind!—Shall we go prove what's to be done?

Bora. We'll wait upon your lordship.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A HALL IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato, Antonio, Hero, Beatrice, and others.

Leon. Was not Count John here at supper?

Ant. I saw him not.

Beat. How tartly that gentleman looks! I never can see him, but I am heart-burned an hour after.

Hero. He is of a very melancholy disposition.

Beat. He were an excellent man, that were made just in the mid-way between him and Benedick: the one is too like an image, and says nothing; and the other too like my lady's eldest son, evermore tattling.

Leon. Then half signior Benedick's tongue in Count John's mouth, and half Count John's melancholy in signior Benedick's face,—

Beat. With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and money enough in his purse, such a man would win any woman in the world,—if he could get her good will.

Leon. By my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.

Ant. Well, niece [*To Hero.*] I trust you will be ruled by your father.

Beat. Yes, it is my cousin's duty to make courtesy, and say, *Father, as it please you;*—but yet for all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or else make another courtesy, and say, *Father, as it please me.*

Leon. Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.

Beat. Not till men are made of some other metal than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be overmaster'd with a piece of valiant dust? to make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl? No, uncle, I'll none: Adam's sons are my brethren; and truly, I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.

Leon. Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer.

Beat. The fault will be in the musick, cousin, if you be not woo'd in good time: if the prince be too important¹ tell him, there is measure in every thing, and so dance out the answer. For hear me, Hero; Wooing, wedding, and repenting, is as a Scotch jig, a measure, and a cinque-pace²; the first suit is hot and hasty, like a Scotch jig, and full as fantastical; the wedding, mannerly-modest, as a measure full of state and ancientry; and then comes repentance, and, with his bad legs, falls into the cinque-pace faster and faster, till he sink into his grave.

L. Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly.

Beat. I have a good eye, uncle; I can see a church by daylight.

Leon. The revellers are entering; brother, make good room.

Enter Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Balthazar; Don John, Borachio, Margaret, Ursula, and others, masked.

D. Pedro. Lady, will you walk about with your friend?

Hero. So you walk softly, and look sweetly, and say nothing, I am yours for the walk; and, especially, when I walk away.

D. Pedro. With me in your company?

Hero. I may say so, when I please.

D. Pedro. And when please you to say so?

Hero. When I like your favour; for heaven forbid the lute should be like the case!

D. Pedro. My visor is Philemon's roof; within the house is Jove.

Hero. Why, then your visor should be thatch'd.

D. Pedro. Speak low, if you speak love.

[Takes her aside.]

Urs. I know you well enough; you are signior Antonio.

Ant. At a word, I am not.

Urs. I know you by the wagging of your head.

Ant. To tell you true, I counterfeit him.

Urs. You could never do him so ill-well, unless you were the very man: Here's his dry hand up and down; you are he, you are he.

Ant. At a word, I am not.

Urs. Come, come; do you think I do not know you by your excellent wit? Can virtue hide itself? Go to, mum, you are he; graces will appear, and there's an end.

Beat. Will you not tell me who told you so?

Bene. No, you shall pardon me.

Beat. Nor will you not tell me who you are?

Bene. Not now.

Beat. That I was disdainful,—and that I had

¹ Important.

² A slow dance.

my good wit out of the *Hundred Merry Tales*:

—Well, this was Signior Benedick that said so.

Bene. What's he?

Beat. I am sure, you know him well enough.

Bene. Not I, believe me.

Beat. Did he never make you laugh?

Bene. I pray you, what is he?

Beat. Why, he is the prince's jester; a very dull fool; only his gift is in devising impossible slanders; few delight in him; and the commendation is not in his wit, but in his villany; for he both pleaseth men and angers them, and then they laugh at him and beat him.

Bene. When I know the gentleman, I'll tell him what you say.

Beat. Do, do; he'll but break a comparison or two on me; which, peradventure, not marked, or not laughed at, strikes him into melancholy; and then there's a partridge wing saved, for the fool will eat no supper that night. *[Musick within.]* We must follow the leaders.

Bene. In every good thing.

Beat. Nay, if they lead to any ill, I will leave them at the next turning.

[Dance. Then exeunt all but Don John, Borachio, and Claudio.]

D. John. Sure, my brother is amorous on Hero, and hath withdrawn her father to break with him about it: The ladies follow her, and but one visor remains.

Bora. And that is Claudio; I know him by his bearing.

D. John. Are you not signior Benedick?

Claud. You know me well; I am he.

D. John. Signior, you are very near my brother in his love; he is enamoured on Hero; I pray you, dissuade him from her, she is no equal for his birth; you may do the part of an honest man in it.

Claud. How know you he loves her?

D. John. I heard him swear his affection.

Bora. So did I too; and he swore he would marry her to-night.

D. John. Come, let us to the banquet.

[Exeunt Don John and Borachio.]

Claud. Thus answer I in name of Benedick, But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio,—

'Tis certain so;—the prince woos for himself.

Friendship is constant in all other things, Save in the office and affairs of love: Therefore, all hearts in love use their own tongues;

Let every eye negotiate for itself, And trust no agent; for beauty is a witch, Against whose charms faith melteth into blood.¹ This is an accident of hourly proof, Which I mistrusted not; Farewell, therefore, Hero!

Re-enter Benedick.

Bene. Count Claudio?

Claud. Yea, the same.

Bene. Come, will you go with me?

Claud. Whither?

Bene. Even to the next willow, about your own business, count. What fashion will you

¹ Passion.

wear the garland of? About your neck, like an usurer's chain? or under your arm, like a lieutenant's scarf? You must wear it one way, for the prince hath got your Hero.

Claud. I wish him joy of her.

Bene. Why, that's spoken like an honest drover, so they sell bullocks. But did you think, the prince would have served you thus?

Claud. I pray you, leave me.

Bene. Ho! now you strike like the blind man; 'twas the boy that stole your meat, and you'll beat the post.

C. If it will not be, I'll leave you. *[Exit.*

Bene. Alas, poor hurt fowl! Now will he creep into sedges.—But, that my lady Beatrice should know me, and not know me! The prince's fool!—Ha, it may be, I go under that title, because I am merry.—Yea; but so; I am apt to do myself wrong: I am not so reputed: it is the base, the bitter disposition of Beatrice, that puts the world into her person, and so gives me out. Well, I'll be revenged as I may.

Re-enter Don Pedro.

D. Pedro. Now, signior, where's the count? Did you see him?

Bene. Troth, my lord, I have played the part of lady Fame. I found him here as melancholy as a lodge in a warren; I told him, and, I think, I told him true, that your grace had got the good will of this young lady; and I offered him my company to a willow-tree, either to make him a garland, as being forsaken, or to bind him up a rod, as being worthy to be whipped.

D. Pedro. To be whipped! What's his fault?

Bene. The flat transgression of a school-boy; who, being overjoyed with finding a bird's nest, shows it his companion, and he steals it.

D. Pedro. Wilt thou make a trust a transgression? The transgression is in the stealer.

Bene. Yet it had not been amiss, the rod had been made, and the garland too; for the garland he might have worn himself; and the rod he might have bestow'd on you, who, as I take it, have stol'n his bird's nest.

D. Pedro. I will but teach them to sing, and restore them to the owner.

Bene. If their singing answer your saying, by my faith, you say honestly.

D. Pedro. The lady Beatrice hath a quarrel to you; the gentleman that danced with her, told her, she is much wronged by you.

Bene. O, she misused me past the endurance of a block; an oak, but with one green leaf on it, would have answered her; my very visor began to assume life, and scold with her. She told me, not thinking I had been myself, that I was the prince's jester; that I was duller than a great thaw; huddling jest upon jest, with such impossible conveyance, upon me, that I stood like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at me: She speaks poniards, and every word stabs; she would have made Hercules have turned spit; yea, and have cleft his club to make the fire too. Come, talk not of her; you will find her Até in good apparel. Come, talk not of her.

Re-enter Claudio, Beatrice, Leonato, and Hero.

D. Pedro. Look, here she comes.

Bene. Will your grace command me any service to the world's end? I will go on the slightest errand now to the Antipodes, that you can devise to send me on; I will fetch you a toothpicker now, from the farthest inch of Asia; bring you the length of Prester John's foot; fetch you a hair off the great Cham's beard; do you any embassy to the Pigmies, rather than hold three words' conference with this harpy: You have no employment for me? *[company.*

D. Pedro. None, but to desire your good.

Bene. O, sir, here's a dish I love not; I cannot endure my lady Tongue. *[Exit.*

D. Pedro. Come, lady, come; you have lost the heart of signior Benedick.

Beat. Indeed, my lord, he lent it me a while; and I gave him use¹ for it, a double heart for his single one: marry, once before, he won it of me with false dice, therefore your grace may well say I have lost it. I have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seek.

D. Pedro. Why, how now, count? wherefore are you sad?

Claud. Not sad, my lord.

D. Pedro. How then? Sick?

Claud. Neither, my lord.

B. The count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry, nor well: but civil, count; civil as an orange, and something of that jealous complexion.

D. Pedro. I'faith, lady, I think your blazon to be true; though, I'll be sworn, if he be so, his conceit is false. Here, Claudio, I have wooed in thy name, and fair Hero is won; I have broke with her father, and his good will obtained; name the day of marriage, and God give thee joy!

Leon. Count, take of me my daughter, and with her my fortunes: his grace hath made the match, and all grace say Amen to it!

Beat. Speak, count, 'tis your cue.

C. Silence is the perfectest herald of joy: I were but little happy, if I could say how much.—Lady, as you are mine, I am yours; I give away myself for you, and dote upon the exchange.

Beat. Speak, cousin; or, if you cannot, stop his mouth with a kiss, and let him not speak neither.

D. P. In faith, lady, you have a merry heart.

Beat. Yea, my lord, I thank it, poor fool, it keeps on the windy side of care:—My cousin tells him in his ear that he is in her heart.

Claud. And so she doth, cousin.

Beat. Good lord, for alliance!—Thus goes every one to the world but I, and I am sunburned; I may sit in a corner, and cry, heigh ho! for a husband.

D. Pedro. Lady Beatrice, I will get you one.

B. Hath your grace ne'er a brother like you?

D. Pedro. Will you have me, lady?

Beat. No, my lord, unless I might have another for working days; your grace is too costly to wear every day.—But, I beseech your grace, pardon me: I was born to speak all mirth and no matter.

D. Pedro. Your silence most offends me, and to be merry best becomes you; for out of question, you were born in a merry hour.

Beat. No, sure, my lord; but there was a star danced, and under that was I born.—Cousins, God give you joy!

¹ Interest.

Leon. Niece, will you look to those things I told you of?

Beat. I cry you mercy, uncle.—By your grace's pardon. *(Exit Beatrice.)*

D. Ped. By my troth, a pleasant-spirited lady.

Leon. There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord: she is never sad, but when she sleeps; and not ever sad then; for I have heard my daughter say, she hath often dreamed of unhappiness, and waked herself with laughing.

D. Pedro. She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband.

Leon. O, by no means; she mocks all her wooers out of suit.

D. P. She were an excellent wife for Benedick.

Leon. O, my lord, if they were but a week married, they would talk themselves mad.

D. Pedro. Count Claudio, when mean you to go to church?

Claud. To-morrow, my lord: Time goes on crutches, till love have all his rites.

Leon. Not till Monday, my dear son, which is hence a just seven-night; and a time too brief too, to have all things answer my mind.

D. Pedro. Come, you shake the head at so long a breathing; but, I warrant thee, Claudio, the time shall not go dully by us; I will, in the interim, undertake one of Hercules' labours; which is, to bring signior Benedick and the lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection, the one with the other. I would fain have it a match; and I doubt not but to fashion it, if you three will but minister such assistance as I shall give you direction.

Leon. My lord, I am for you, though it cost me ten nights' watchings.

Claud. And I, my lord.

D. Pedro. And you too, gentle Hero?

Hero. I will do any modest office, my lord, to help my cousin to a good husband.

D. Pedro. And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband that I know: thus far can I praise him; he is of a noble strain¹ of approved valour and confirmed honesty. I will teach you how to humour your cousin, that she shall fall in love with Benedick;—and I, with your two helps, will so practise on Benedick, that, in despite of his quick wit and his queasy² stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice. If we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer; his glory shall be ours, for we are the only love-gods. Go in with me, and I will tell you my drift. *(Exeunt.)*

SCENE II.

ANOTHER ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Don John and Borachio.

D. John. It is so; the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato.

Bora. Yea, my lord; but I can cross it.

D. John. Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be medicinable to me: I am sick in displeasure to him; and whatsoever comes athwart his affection, ranges evenly with mine. How canst thou cross this marriage?

Bora. Not honestly, my lord; but so covertly that no dishonestly shall appear in me.

1 Lineage.

2 Fastidious.

D. John. Show me briefly how.

Bora. I think, I told your lordship, a year since, how much I am in the favour of Margaret, the waiting-gentlewoman to Hero.

D. John. I remember.

Bora. I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window.

D. John. What life is in that to be the death of this marriage?

Bora. The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go you to the prince your brother; spare not to tell him, that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the renowned Claudio (whose estimation do you mightily hold up) to a contaminated person, such a one as Hero.

D. John. What proof shall I make of that?

Bora. Proof enough to misuse the prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero, and kill Leonato: Look you for any other issue?

D. John. Only to despise them, I will endeavour any thing.

Bora. Go, then, find me a meet hour to draw Don Pedro and the Count Claudio, alone: tell them, that you know that Hero loves me; intend¹ a kind of zeal both to the prince and Claudio, as—in love of your brother's honour who hath made this match; and his friend's reputation, who is thus like to be cozened with the semblance of a maid,—that you have discovered thus. They will scarcely believe this without trial: offer them instances; which shall bear no less likelihood, than to see me at her chamber-window; hear me call Margaret, Hero; hear Margaret term me Borachio; and bring them to see this, the very night before the intended wedding: for, in the mean time, I will so fashion the matter, that Hero shall be absent; and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero's disloyalty, that jealousy shall be call'd assurance, and all the preparation overthrown.

D. John. Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practice: Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats.

Bora. Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not shame me.

D. John. I will presently go learn their day of marriage. *(Exit.)* *(Exeunt.)*

SCENE III.—LEONATO'S GARDEN.

Enter Benedick and a Boy.

Bene. Boy,—

Boy. Signior.

Bene. In my chamber-window lies a book; bring it hither to me in the orchard.

Boy. I am here already, sir.

Bene. I know that;—but I would have thee hence, and here again. *(Exit Boy.)*—I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviours to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn, by falling in love: And such a man is Claudio. I have known, when there was no musick with him but the drum and fife; and now had he rather hear the tabor and the pipe:

1 Pretend.

I have known, when he would have walked ten mile afoot, to see a good armour; and now will he lie ten nights awake, carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont to speak plain, and to the purpose, like an honest man, and a soldier; now is he turned orthographer; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted, and see with these eyes? I cannot tell; I think not: I will not be sworn, but love may transform me to an oyster; but I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me, he shall never make me such a fool. One woman is fair; yet I am well: another is wise; yet I am well: another virtuous; yet I am well; but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not near; noble, or not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be of what colour it pleases. Ha! the prince and monsieur love! I will hide me in the arbour. [Withdraws.]

Enter Don Pedro, Leonato, and Claudio.

D. Pedro. Come, shall we hear this musick?

C. Yea, my good lord:—How still the evening As hush'd on purpose to grace harmony! [Is,

D. Pedro. See you where Benedick hath hid himself?

C. O, very well, my lord: the musick ended, We'll fit the kid-fox with a peanyworth.

Enter Balthazar with musick.

D. Pedro. Come, Balthazar, we'll hear that song again.

Balth. O good my lord, tax not so bad a voice To slander musick any more than once.

D. Pedro. It is the witness still of excellency, To put a strange face on his own perfection:—I pray thee sing, and let me woo no more.

Balth. Because you talk of wooing, I will sing: Since many a wooer doth commence his suit To her he thinks not worthy; yet he woos; Yet will he swear he loves.

D. Pedro. Nay, pray thee, come; Or, if thou wilt hold longer argument, Do it in notes.

Balth. Note this before my notes, There's not a note of mine that's worth the noting.

D. Pedro. Why these are very crotchets that he speaks;

Notes, notes, forsooth, and noting? [Musick.

Be. Now, *Divine air!* now is his soul ravish'd!—Is it not strange, that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies?—Well, a horn for my money, when all's done.

Balthazar sings.

I.

BALTH. *Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,*

Men were deceivers ever;

One foot on sea, and one on shore;

To one thing constant never:

Then sigh not so,

But let them go,

And be you blithe and bonny:

Converting all your sounds of woe

Into, Hey nonny, nonny.

II.

*Sing no more ditties, sing no mo¹
Of dumps so dull and heavy;
The fraud of men was ever so,
Since summer first was leavy.
Then sigh not so, &c.*

D. Pedro. By my troth, a good song.

Balth. And an ill singer, my lord.

D. Pedro. Ha? no; no, faith; thou singest well enough for a shift.

Bene. [Aside.] An he had been a dog, that should have howled thus, they would have hanged him; and, I pray heaven, his bad voice bode no mischief! I had as lief² have heard the night-raven, come what plague could have come after it.

D. Pedro. Yea, marry; [To Claudio.]—Dost thou hear, Balthazar? I pray thee, get us some excellent musick; for to-morrow night we would have it at the lady Hero's chamber window.

Balth. The best I can, my lord.

D. Pedro. Do so: farewell. [Exit Balthazar and musick.] Come hither, Leonato. What was it you told me of to-day? that your niece Beatrice was in love with signior Benedick?

Claudio. O, ay:—Stalk on, stalk on; the fowl sits. [Aside to Pedro.] I did never think that lady would have loved any man.

Leon. No, nor I neither; but most wonderful, that she should so dote on signior Benedick, whom she hath in all outward behaviours seemed ever to abhor.

Bene. Is't possible? Sits the wind in that corner?

Leon. By my troth, my lord, I cannot tell what to think of it; but that she loves him with an enraged affection—it is past the infinite of thought.

D. Pedro. May be, she doth but counterfeit.

Claudio. Faith, like enough.

Leon. Counterfeit! There never was counterfeit of passion came so near the life of passion, as she discovers it.

D. Ped. Why, what effects of passion shows she?

Claudio. Bait the hook well; this fish will bite.

Leon. What effects, my lord! She will sit you.—You heard my daughter tell you how.

Claudio. She did, indeed.

D. Pedro. How, how, I pray you? You amaze me: I would have thought her spirit had been invincible against all assaults of affection.

Leon. I would have sworn it had, my lord; especially against Benedick.

Bene. [Aside.] I should think this a gull, but that the white-bearded fellow speaks it; knavery cannot, sure, hide itself in such reverence.

Claudio. He hath ta'en the infection; hold it up.

D. Pedro. Hath she made her affection known to Benedick?

Leon. No; and swears she never will: that's her torment.

Cla. 'Tis true, indeed; so your daughter says; Shall I, says she, that have so oft encounter'd him with scorn, write to him that I love him?

Leon. This says she now when she is beginning to write to him: for she'll be up twenty times a

1 More.

2 Willingly.

night; and there will she sit till she have writ a sheet of paper:—my daughter tells us all. O, she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence; railed at herself, that she should be so immodest to write to one that she knew would flout her: *I measure him*, says she, *by my own spirit; for I should flout him if he writ to me; yea, though I love him, I should.*

Leon. Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps, sobs, beats her heart, tears her hair, and cries, *O sweet Benedick!*

Leon. Shedoth, indeed; my daughter says so: and the ecstasy hath so much overborne her, that my daughter is sometime afraid she will do a desperate outrage to herself: It is very true.

D. Pedro. It were good that Benedick knew of it by some other, if she will not discover it.

Claud. To what end? He would but make a sport of it, and torment the poor lady worse.

D. Pedro. An he should it were an alms to hang him. She's an excellent sweet lady; and, out of all suspicion, she is virtuous.

Claud. And she is exceeding wise.

D. Ped. In everything, but in loving Benedick.

Leon. I am sorry for her, as I have just cause, being her uncle and her guardian.

D. Pedro. I would she had bestowed this dotage on me; I would have daff'd all other respects, and made her half myself: I pray you, tell Benedick of it, and hear what he will say.

Leon. Were it good, think you?

Claud. Hero thinks surely, she will die; for she says, she will die if he love her not; and she will die ere she makes her love known; and she will die if he woo her, rather than she will bate one breath of her accustomed crossness.

D. Pedro. She doth well: if she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it; for the man, as you know all, hath a contemptuous spirit.

Claud. He is a very proper man.

D. Pedro. He hath, indeed, a good outward happiness.

Claud. And in my mind, very wise.

D. Pedro. He doth, indeed, show some sparks that are like wit.

Leon. And I take him to be valiant.

D. Pedro. As Hector, I assure you: and in the managing of quarrels you may say he is wise; for either he avoids them with great discretion, or undertakes them with a most Christian-like fear.

Leon. If he do fear God, he must necessarily keep peace; if he break the peace, he ought to enter into a quarrel with fear and trembling.

D. Pedro. And so will he do; for the man doth fear God. Well, I am sorry for your niece: Shall we go see Benedick, and tell him of her love?

Claud. Never tell him, my lord; let her wear it out with good counsel.

Leon. Nay, that's impossible; she may wear her heart out first.

D. Pedro. Well, we'll hear further of it by your daughter; let it cool the while. I love Benedick well; and I could wish he would modestly examine himself, to see how much he is unworthy so good a lady.

Leon. My lord, will you walk? dinner is ready.

1 Tossed aside.

Claud. If he do not dote on her upon this, I will never trust my expectation. [Aside, *D. Pedro.* Let there be the same net spread for her; and that must your daughter and her gentlewoman carry. The sport will be when they hold one an opinion of another's dotage, and no such matter: that's the scene that I would see, which will be merely a dumb show. Let us send her to call him into dinner. [Exit.] [Aside, [Exit] Don Pedro, Claudio, and Leonato.

Benedick advances from the Arbour.

Bene. This can be no trick. The conference was sadly¹ borne. They have the truth of this from Hero. They seem to pity the lady; it seems her affections have their full bent. Love me! why, it must be requited. I hear how I am censured: they say I will bear myself proudly, if I perceive the love come from her; they say too, that she will rather die than give any sign of affection. I did never think to marry:—I must not seem proud:—Happy are they that hear their detractions, and can put them to mending. They say the lady is fair; 'tis a truth I can bear them witness: and virtuous:—'tis so, I cannot reprove it; and wise, but for loving me:—By my troth, it is no addition to her wit:—nor no great argument of her folly, for I will be horribly in love with her! I may chance have some odd quirks and remnants of wit broken on me, because I have rail'd so long against marriage. But doth not the appetite alter? A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age. Shall quips, and sentences, and these paper bullets of the brain, awe a man from the career of his humour? No; the world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married. Here comes Beatrice. By this day, she's a fair lady: I do spy some marks of love in her.

Enter Beatrice.

Beat. Against my will, I am sent to bid you come to dinner.

Bene. Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

Beat. I took no more pains for those thanks than you take pains to thank me; if it had been painful I would not have come.

Bene. You take pleasure in the message?

Beat. Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point, and choke a daw withal. You have no stomach, signior; fare you well. [Exit.]

Bene. Ha! Against my will, I am sent to bid you come to dinner—there's a double meaning in that: I took no more pains for those thanks than you took pains to thank me—that's as much as to say, Any pains that I take for you is as easy as thanks. If I do not take pity of her, I am a villain; if I do not love her, I am a Jew. I will go get her picture. [Exit.]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—LEONATO'S GARDEN.

Enter Hero, Margaret, and Ursula.

H. Good Margaret, run thee into the parlour; There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice.

1 Seriously.

Proposing¹ with the prince and Claudio:
 Whisper her ear, and tell her I and Ursula
 Walk in the orchard, and our whole discourse
 Is all of her; say that thou overheard'st us,
 And bid her steal into the pleached² bower,
 Where honeysuckles, ripened by the sun,
 Forbid the sun to enter—like favourites,
 Made proud by princes, that advance their pride
 Against that power that bred it: there will she
 hide her,

To listen our propose. This is thy office,
 Bear thee well in it, and leave us alone.

Marg. I'll make her come, I warrant you,
 presently. *[Exit.]*

Hero. Now, Ursula, when Beatrice doth come,
 As we do trace this alley up and down,
 Our talk must only be of Benedick:
 When I do name him, let it be thy part
 To praise him more than ever man did merit:
 My talk to thee must be, how Benedick
 Is sick in love with Beatrice: Of this matter
 Is little Cupid's crafty arrow made,
 That only wounds by hearsay. Now begin;

Enter Beatrice, behind.

For look where Beatrice, like a lapwing, runs
 Close by the ground, to hear our conference.

Urs. The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish
 Cut with her golden oars the silver stream,
 And greedily devour the treacherous bait:
 So angle we for Beatrice; who, even now
 Is couch'd in the woodbine overturo:

Fear you not my part of the dialogue. *[nothing]*

Hero. Then go we near her, that her ear lose
 Of the false sweet bait that we lay for it.—

[They advance to the bower.]

No, truly, Ursula, she is too disdainful;
 I know, her spirits are as coy and wild
 As haggards³ of the rock.

Urs. But are you sure,
 That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely? *[lord.]*

Hero. So says the prince, and my new-trothed
 U. And did they bid you tell her of it, madam?

H. They did entreat me to acquaint her of it:
 But I persuaded them, if they loved Benedick,
 To wish him wrestle with affection,
 And never to let Beatrice know of it.

Ur. Why did you so? Doth not the gentleman
 Deserve as full, as fortunate a bed,
 As ever Beatrice shall couch upon?

Hero. O god of love! I know, he doth deserve
 As much as may be yielded to a man:
 But nature never framed a woman's heart
 Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice:
 Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes,
 Misprising⁴ what they look on; and her wit
 Values itself so highly, that to her
 All matter else seems weak: she cannot love,
 Nor take no shape nor project of affection,
 She is so self-endear'd.

Urs. Sure, I think so;
 And therefore, certainly, it were not good
 She knew his love, lest she make sport at it.

H. Why, you speak truth: I never yet saw man,
 How wise, how noble, young, how rarely featur'd,
 But she would spell him backward: if fair-faced,
 She'd swear, the gentleman should be her sister;

If black, why, nature, drawing of an antic,
 Made a foul blot: if tall, a lance ill-headed;
 If low, an agate very vilely cut:
 If speaking, why, a vane blown with all wind;
 If silent, why, a block moved with none.
 So turns she every man the wrong side out;
 And never gives to truth and virtue, that
 Which simpleness and merit purchaseth.

U. Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable.

H. No: not to be so odd, and from all fashions,
 As Beatrice is, cannot be commendable:
 But who dare tell her so? If I should speak,
 She'd mock me into air; O, she would laugh me
 Out of myself, press me to death with wit.
 Therefore let Benedick, like cover'd fire,
 Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly:
 It were a better death than die with mocks.

U. Yet tell her of it; hear what she will say.

Hero. No; rather I will go to Benedick,
 And counsel him to fight against his passion:
 And, truly, I'll devise some honest slanders
 To stain my cousin with: One doth not know,
 How much an ill word may empoison liking.

Urs. O, do not do your cousin such a wrong.
 She cannot be so much without true judgment,
(Having so swift and excellent a wit,
As she is priz'd¹ to have), as to refuse
 So rare a gentleman as signior Benedick.

Hero. He is the only man of Italy,
 Always excepted my dear Claudio.

Ur. I pray you, be not angry with me, madam,
 Speaking my fancy; signior Benedick,
 For shape, for bearing, argument, and valour,
 Goes foremost in report through Italy.

Hero. Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.

Urs. His excellence did earn it, ere he had it.—
 When are you married, madam?

H. Why, every day;—to-morrow: Come go in;
 I'll show thee some attires; and have thy counsel,
 Which is the best to furnish me to-morrow.

Urs. She's lim'd, I warrant you; we have
 caught her, madam.

Hero. If it prove so, then loving goes by haps:
 Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.

[Exeunt Hero and Ursula.]

Beatrice advances.

B. What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?
 Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much?
 Contempt, farewell! and maiden pride, adieu!
 No glory lives behind the back of such.

And, Benedick, love on, I will requite thee;
 Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand;

If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee
 To bind our loves up in a holy band;

For others say, thou dost deserve; and I
 Believe it better than reportingly. *[Exit.]*

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

*Enter Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, and
 Leonato.*

D. Pedro. I do but stay till your marriage be
 consummate, and then I go toward Arragon.

Claud. I'll bring you thither, my lord, if
 you'll vouchsafe me.

D. Pedro. Nay, that would be as great a soil

1 Esteemed.

1 Conversing.

3 A species of hawk.

2 Interwoven.

4 Slighting.

in the new gloss of your marriage, as to show a child his new coat, and forbid him to wear it. I will only be bold with Benedick for his company; for, from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, he is all mirth; he hath twice or thrice cut Cupid's bow-string, and the little hangman dare not shoot at him: he hath a heart as sound as a bell, and his tongue is the clapper; for what his heart thinks, his tongue speaks.

Bene. Gallants, I am not as I have been.

Leon. So say I; methinks you are sadder.

Claud. I hope, he be in love.

D. Pedro. Hang him, truant; there's no true drop of blood in him, to be truly touched with love: if he be sad, he wants money.

Bene. I have the tooth-ache.

D. Pedro. Draw it.

Bene. Hang it!

Claud. You must hang it first, and draw it afterwards.

D. Pedro. What? sigh for the tooth-ache?

Leon. Where is but a humour, or a worm!

Bene. Well, every one can master a grief, but he that has it.

Claud. Yet say I, he is in love.

D. Pedro. There is no appearance of fancy in him, unless it be a fancy that he hath to strange disguises; as, to be a Dutchman to-day; a Frenchman to-morrow; or in the shape of two countries at once. Unless he have a fancy to this foolery, as it appears he hath, he is no fool for fancy, as you would have it appear he is.

Claud. If he be not in love with some woman, there is no believing old signs: he brushes his hat o' mornings; What should that bode?

D. P. Hath any man seen him at the barber's?

Claud. No, but the barber's man hath been seen with him; and the old ornament of his cheek hath already stuffed tennis-balls.

Leon. Indeed, he looks younger than he did by the loss of a beard.

D. Pedro. Nay, he rubs himself with civet: Can you smell him out by that?

Claud. That's as much as to say, The sweet youth's in love.

D. P. The greatest note of it is his melancholy.

C. And when was he wont to wash his face?

D. Pedro. Yea; or to paint himself? for the which, I hear what they say of him.

C. Nay, but his jesting spirit; which is now crept into a lute-string, and now governed by stops.

D. Pedro. Indeed, that tells a heavy tale for him: Conclude, conclude, he is in love.

Claud. Nay, but I know who loves him.

D. Pedro. That would I know too; I warrant, one that knows him not.

Claud. Yes, and his ill conditions; and in despite of all, dies for him.

Bene. Yet is this no charm for the tooth-ache.—Old signior, walk aside with me: I have studied eight or nine wise words to speak to you, which these hobby-horses must not hear.

[*Exeunt Benedick and Leonato.*]

D. Pedro. For my life, to break with him about Beatrice.

Claud. 'Tis even so: Hero and Margaret

1 A substance with an odour like musk.

have by this played their parts with Beatrice and then the two bears will not bite one another, when they meet.

Enter Don John.

D. John. My lord and brother, God save you.

D. Pedro. Good den, brother.

D. John. If your leisure served, I would speak with you.

D. Pedro. In private?

D. J. If it please you;—yet Count Claudio may hear; for what I would speak of, concerns him.

D. Pedro. What's the matter?

D. John. Means your lordship to be married to-morrow? [*To Claudio.*]

D. Pedro. You know, he does.

D. John. I know not that, when he knows what I know.

Claud. If there be any impediment, I pray you, discover it.

D. John. You may think I love you not; let that appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I now will manifest: For my brother, I think he holds you well; and in dearthness of heart hath help to effect your ensuing marriage: surely suit ill spent, and labour ill bestowed!

D. Pedro. Why, what's the matter?

D. John. I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances shortened (for she hath been too long a talking of), the lady is disloyal.

Claud. Who? Hero?

D. John. Even she; Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every man's Hero.

Claud. Disloyal!

D. John. The word is too good to paint out her wickedness; I could say, she were worse; think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not till further warrant: go but with me to-night, you shall see her chamber-window entered; even the night before her wedding-day: if you love her then, to-morrow wed her; but it would better fit your honour to change your mind.

Claud. May this be so?

D. Pedro. I will not think it.

D. John. If you dare not trust that you see; confess not that you know: if you will follow me, I will show you enough; and when you have seen more and heard more, proceed accordingly.

Claud. If I see anything to-night why I should not marry her to-morrow: in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her.

D. Pedro. And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to disgrace her.

D. John. I will disparage her no farther, till you are my witnesses; bear it coldly but till midnight, and let the issue show itself.

D. Pedro. O day untowardly turned!

Claud. O mischief strangely thwarting!

D. John. O plague right well prevented!

So will you say, when you have seen the sequel.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A STREET.

Enter Dogberry and Verges, with the Watch.

Dogb. Are you good men, and true?

Verg. Yea, or else it were a pity but they should suffer salvation.

Dogb. Nay, that were a punishment too good

for them, if they should have any allegiance in them, being chosen for the prince's watch.

Verg. Well, give them their charge, neighbour Dogberry.

Dogb. First, who think you the most disheartless man to be constable?

1 *Watch.* Hugh Oatcake, sir, or George Seacoal; for they can write and read.

D. Come hither, neighbour Seacoal. Heaven hath blessed you with a good name: to be a well favoured man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature.

2 *Watch.* Both which, master constable,——

Dogb. You have; I knew it would be your answer. Well, for your favour, sir, make no boast of it; and for your writing and reading, let that appear when there is no need of such vanity. You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore bear you the lantern: This is your charge; You shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the prince's name.

2 *Watch.* How, if he will not stand?

Dogb. Why, then, take no note of him, but let him go; and presently call the rest of the watch together, and thank heaven you are rid of a knave.

Verg. If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is none of the prince's subjects.

Dogb. True, and they are to meddle with none but the prince's subjects;—You shall also make no noise in the streets; for, for the watch to babble and talk is most tolerable and not to be endured.

2 *Watch.* We will rather sleep than talk; we know what belongs to a watch.

Dogb. Why, you speak like an ancient and most quiet watchman; for I cannot see how sleeping should offend; only, have a care that your bills¹ be not stolen:—Well, you are to call at all the ale-houses, and bid those that are drunk get them to bed.

2 *Watch.* How, if they will not?

Dogb. Why then, let them alone till they are sober; if they make you not then the better answer, you may say, they are not the men you took them for.

2 *Watch.* Well, sir.

Dogb. If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by virtue of your office, to be no true man; and, for such kind of men, the less you meddle or make with them, why, the more is for your honesty.

2 *Watch.* If we know him to be a thief, shall we not lay hands on him?

Dogb. Truly, by your office, you may; but, I think, they that touch pitch will be defiled; the most peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is, to let him show himself what he is, and steal out of your company.

Verg. You have been always called a merciful man, partner.

D. Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will; much more a man who hath any honesty in him.

Verg. If you hear a child cry in the night, you must call to the nurse, and bid her still it.

2 *Watch.* How, if the nurse be asleep, and will not hear us?

Dogb. Why, then depart in peace, and let the child wake her with crying; for the ewe that will not hear her lamb when it baes, will never answer a calf when he bleats.

Verg. 'Tis very true.

Dogb. This is the end of the charge. You, constable, are to present the prince's own person; if you meet the prince in the night, you may stay him.

Verg. Nay, by 'r lady, that, I think, he cannot.

Dogb. Five shillings to one on 't, with any man that knows the statutes, he may stay him: marry, not without the prince be willing: for, indeed, the watch ought to offend no man; and it is an offence to stay a man against his will.

Verg. By 'r lady, I think it be so.

Dogb. Ha, ha, ha! Well, masters, good night: an there be any matter of weight chances, call up me: keep your fellows' counsels and your own, and good night.—Come, neighbour.

2 *Watch.* Well, masters, we hear our charge: let us go sit here upon the church-bench till two, and then all to bed.

Dogb. One word more, honest neighbours: I pray you, watch about signior Leonato's door; for the wedding being there to-morrow, there is a great coil¹ to-night: Adieu, be vigilant, I beseech you. [Exeunt Dogberry and Verges.]

Enter Borachio and Conrade.

Bora. What! Conrade.—

Watch. Peace, stir not. [Aside.]

Bora. Conrade, I say!

Con. Here, man, I am at thy elbow.

Bora. Stand thee close then under this pent-house, for it drizzles rain; and I will, like a true drunkard, utter all to thee.

Watch. [Aside.] Some treason, masters; yet stand close.

Bora. Therefore know, I have earned of Don John a thousand ducats.

Con. Is it possible that any villainy should be so dear?

Bora. Thou shouldst rather ask, if it were possible any villainy should be so rich; for when rich villains have need of poor ones, poor ones may make what price they will.

Con. I wonder at it.

Bora. That shows thou art unconfirmed:² Thou knowest that the fashion of a doublet, or a hat, or a cloak, is nothing to a man.

Con. Yes, it is apparel.

Bora. I mean the fashion.

Con. Yes, the fashion is the fashion.

Bora. Tush! I may as well say, the fool's the fool. But see'st thou not what a deformed thief this fashion is?

Watch. [Aside.] I know that Deformed; he has been a vile thief this seven year; he goes up and down like a gentleman: I remember his name.

Bora. Didst thou not hear somebody?

Con. No; 'twas the vane on the house.

Bora. Seest thou not I say, what a deformed thief this fashion is! how giddily he turns about all the hot bloods, between fourteen and five-and-thirty?

Con. All this I see: and see that the fashion wears out more apparel than the man: But are

1 Battle-axes.

1 Battle. 2 Unsophisticated.

not thou thyself giddy with the fashion too, that thou hast shifted out of thy tale into telling me of the fashion?

Bora. Not so, neither: but know, that I have to-night wooed Margaret, the lady Hero's gentlewoman, by the name of Hero; she leans me out at her mistress' chamber-window, bids me a thousand times good-night,—I tell this tale vilely:—I should first tell thee, how the prince, Claudio, and my master, planted, and placed, and possessed by my master Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable encounter.

Con. And thought they Margaret was Hero?

Bora. Two of them did, the prince and Claudio; but the devil my master knew she was Margaret; and partly by his oaths, which first possessed them, partly by the dark night, which did deceive them, but chiefly by my villainy, which did confirm any slander that Don John had made, away went Claudio enraged; swore he would meet her as he was appointed, next morning at the temple, and there, before the whole congregation, shame her with what he saw over-night, and send her home again without a husband.

1 Watch. We charge you in the prince's name stand.

2 Watch. Call up the right master constable: We have here recovered the most dangerous piece of lechery that ever was known in the commonwealth.

1 Watch. And one Deformed is one of them; I know him, he wears a lock.

Con. Masters, masters.

2 Watch. You'll be made bring Deformed forth, I warrant you.

Con. Masters,—

1 Watch. Never speak; we charge you, let us obey you to go with us.

Bora. We are like to prove a goodly commodity, being taken up of these men's bills.

Con. A commodity in question, I warrant you. Come, we'll obey you. *[Exit.]*

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Hero, Margaret, and Ursula.

Hero. Good Ursula, wake my cousin Beatrice, and desire her to rise.

Urs. I will, lady.

Hero. And bid her come hither.

Urs. Well. *[Exit Ursula.]*

Marg. Troth, I think, your other rabato were better.

Hero. No, pray thee, good Meg, I'll wear this.

Marg. By my troth, it's not so good; and I warrant, your cousin will say so.

Hero. My cousin's a fool, and thou art another; I'll wear none but this.

Marg. I like the new tire within excellently, if the hair were a thought browner; and your gown's a most rare fashion. I saw the Duchess of Milan's gown, that they praise so.

Hero. O that exceeds, they say.

Marg. By my troth, it's but a night-gown in respect of yours: Cloth of gold, and cuts, and laced with silver; set with pearls, down sleeves, side-sleeves, and skirts round, underborne with

1 Ruf.

a bluish tinsel; but for a fine, quaint, graceful, and excellent fashion, yours is worth ten on't.

Hero. God give me joy to wear it, for my heart is exceeding heavy.

Enter Beatrice.

Hero. Good morrow, coz.

Beat. Good morrow, sweet Hero. 'Tis almost five o'clock, cousin; 'tis time you were ready. By my troth, I am exceeding ill:—hey ho!

Marg. For a hawk, a horse, or a husband!

Beat. By my troth, I am sick.

Marg. Get you some of this distilled Carduus! Benedictus, and lay it to your heart; it is the only thing for a qualm.

Hero. There thou prick'st her with a thistle.

Beat. Benedictus! why Benedictus? you have some moral in this Benedictus.

Marg. Moral! no, by my troth, I have no moral meaning; I meant, plain holy-thistle. You may think, perchance, that I think you are in love: nay, by'r lady, I am not such a fool to think what I list; nor I list not to think what I can: nor, indeed, I cannot think, if I would think my heart out of thinking, that you are in love, or that you will be in love, or that you can be in love; yet Benedick was such another, and now is he become a man; he swore he would never marry; and yet now, in despite of his heart, he eats his meat without grudging; and how you may be converted, I know not; but, methinks, you look with your eyes as other women do.

Beat. What pace is this that thy tongue keeps?

Marg. Not a false gallop.

Re-enter Ursula.

Urs. Madam, withdraw; the prince, the count, signior Benedick, Don John, and all the gallants of the town, are come to fetch you to church.

Hero. Help to dress me, good coz, good Meg, good Ursula. *[Exit.]*

SCENE V.

ANOTHER ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato, with Dogberry and Verges.

L. What would you with me, honest neighbour?

Dogb. Marry, sir, I would have some confidence with you, that concerns you nearly.

Leon. Brief, I pray you; for you see, 'tis a busy time with me.

Dogb. Marry, this it is, sir.

Verg. Yes, in truth, it is, sir.

Leon. What is it, my good friends?

Dogb. Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the matter; an old man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt, as I would desire they were; but, in faith, honest, as the skin between his brows.

Verg. Yes, I thank God, I am as honest as any man living, that is an old man, and no honestier than I.

Dogb. Comparisons are odorous; *palabras*, neighbour Verges.

Leon. Neighbours, you are tedious.

Dogb. It pleases your worship to say so, but we are the poor duke's officers; but truly, for mine

1 A plant of the thistle kind.

own part, if I were as tedious as a king, I could find in my heart to bestow it all of your worship.

Leon. All thy tediousness on me! ha!

Dogb. Yea, and 'twere a thousand times more than 'tis: for I hear as good exclamation on your worship, as of any man in the city; and though I be but a poor man, I am glad to hear it.

Verg. And so am I.

Leon. I would fain know what you have to say.

Verg. Marry, sir, our watch to-night, excepting your worship's presence, have ta'en a couple of as arrant knaves as any in Messina.

Dogb. A good old man, sir; he will be talking; as they say, When the age is in, the wit is out: it is a world to see!—Well said, if faith, neighbour Verges:—well, an two men ride of a horse, one must ride behind:—An honest soul, if faith, sir; by my troth he is, as ever broke bread: but, all men are not alike; alas, good neighbour!

Leon. Indeed, neighbour, he comes too short of you; but I must leave you.

Dogb. One word, sir; our watch, sir, have, indeed, comprehended two aspicuous persons, and we would have them this morning examined before your worship.

Leon. Take their examination yourself, and bring it me; I am now in great haste, as it may appear unto you.

Dogb. It shall be suffigance.

L. Drink some wine ere you go; fare you well.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, they stay for you to give your daughter to her husband.

Leon. I will wait upon them; I am ready.

[Exeunt Leonato and Messenger.]

Dogb. Go, good partner, go, get you to Francis Seacoal, bid him bring his pen and inkhorn to the gaol; we are now to examination these men.

Verg. And we must do it wisely.

Dogb. We will spare for no wit, I warrant you; here's that [*Touching his forehead.*] shall drive some of them to a non com: only get the learned writer to set down our excommunication, and meet me at the gaol. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE INSIDE OF A CHURCH.

Enter Don Pedro, Don John, Leonato, Friar, Claudio, Benedick, Hero, and Beatrice, &c.

Leon. Come, friar Francis, be brief; only to the plain form of marriage, and you shall recount their particular duties afterwards.

Fr. You come hither, my lord, to marry this *Claud.* No.

Leon. To be married to her, friar; you come to marry her.

Friar. Lady, you come hither to be married to this count?

Hero. I do.

Friar. If either of you know any inward impediment why you should not be conjoined, I charge you, on your souls, to utter it.

Claud. Know you any, Hero?

Hero. None, my lord.

Friar. Know you any, count?

Leon. I dare make his answer, none.

Cl. O, what men dare do! what men may do! what men daily do! not knowing what they do!

Bene. How now! Interjections? Why, then some be of laughing, as, ha! ha! he!

C. Stand thee by, friar:—Father, by your leave! Will you with free and unconstrained soul Give me this maid, your daughter?

Leon. As freely, son, as God did give her me.

Claud. And what have I to give you back, whose worth

May counterpoise this rich and precious gift?

D. Ped. Nothing, unless you render her again.

Claud. Sweet prince, you learn me noble thankfulness.—

There, Leonato, take her back again; Give not this rotten orange to your friend; She's but the sign and semblance of her honour: Behold, how like a maid she blushes here:

O, what authority and show of truth Can cunning sin cover itself withal!

Comes not that blood, as modest evidence, To witness simple virtue? Would you not swear,

All you that see her, that she were a maid, By these exterior shows? But she is none:

Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty.

Leon. What do you mean, my lord?

Claud. Not to be married, Not knit my soul to an approved wanton.

Leon. Dear my lord, if you in your own proof Have vanquish'd the resistance of her youth, And made defeat—

Claud. I know what you would say; if I have known her,

You'll say, she did embrace me as a husband, And so extenuate the 'forehand sin:

No, Leonato, I never tempted her with word too large; But, as a brother to his sister, show'd

Bashful sincerity, and comely love.

Hero. And seem'd I ever otherwise to you?

C. Out on thy seeming! I will write against it: You seem to me as Dian in her orb;

As chaste as is the bud ere it be blown; But you are more intemperate in your blood

Than Venus, or those pamper'd animals That rage in savage sensuality.

H. Is my lord well, that he doth speak so wide?

Leon. Sweet prince, why speak not you?

D. Pedro. What should I speak? I stand dishonour'd, that have gone about

To link my dear friend to a common stale.

L. Are these things spoken? or do I but dream?

D. John. Sir, they are spoken, and these things are true.

Bene. This looks not like a nuptial.

Hero. True? O Heaven!

Claud. Leonato, stand I here? Is this the prince? Is this the prince's brother?

Is this face Hero's? Are our eyes our own?

Leon. All this is so; But what of this, my lord?

Claud. Let me but move one question to your daughter:

And, by that fatherly and kindly power That you have in her, bid her answer truly.

L. I charge thee do so, as thou art my child.

Hero. O God defend me! how am I beset!

What kind of catechising call you this?

Cla. To make you answer truly to your name.

Hero. Is it not Hero? Who can blot that name
With any just reproach?

Claud. Marry, that can Hero;
Hero itself can blot out Hero's virtue.

What man was he talk'd with you yesternight
Out at your window, betwixt twelve and one?

Now, if you are a maid, answer to this.

H. I talk'd with no man at that hour, my lord.

D. P. Why, then are you no maiden.—Leonato,
I am sorry you must hear; Upon mine honour,
Myself, my brother, and this grieved count,
Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night,
Talk with a ruffian at her chamber-window;
Who hath, indeed, most like a liberal¹ villain,
Confess'd the vile encounters they have had
A thousand times in secret.

D. John. Fye, fye! they are
Not to be nam'd, my lord, not to be spoke of;
There is not chastity enough in language,
Without offence to utter them: Thus, pretty lady,
I am sorry for thy much misgovernment.

Claud. O, Hero! what a Hero hadst thou been,
If half thy outward graces had been placed
About thy thoughts, and counsels of thy heart!
But, fare thee well, most foul, most fair! farewell,
Thou pure impiety, and impious purity!
For thee I'll lock up all the gates of love,
And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang,
To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm,
And never shall it more be gracious.

L. Hath no man's dagger here a point for me?

[*Hero swoons.*]

Beat. Why, how now, cousin? wherefore sink
you down?

D. John. Come, let us go; these things come
thus to light,
Smother her spirits up.

[*Exeunt Don Pedro, Don John, and Claudio.*]

Bene. How doth the lady?

Beat. Dead, I think;—help, uncle;—
Hero! why, Hero!—Uncle!—Signior Benedick!

Leon. O fate, take not away thy heavy hand!
Death is the fairest cover for her shame,
That may be wish'd for.

Beat. How now, cousin Hero?

Friar. Have comfort, lady.

Leon. Dost thou look up?

Friar. Yea; wherefore should she not?

Leon. Wherefore? Why, doth not every earthly
thing

Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny
The story that is printed in her blood?

Do not live, Hero: do not ope thine eyes:

For did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,
Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy
shames,

Myself would, on the rearward of reproaches,
Strike at thy life. Grieved I, I had but one?

Child I for that at frugal nature's frame,²

O, one too much by thee! Why had I one?

Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?

Why had I not, with charitable hand,

Took up a beggar's issue at my gates;

Who smirch'd³ thus, and mix'd with infamy,

1 Free of tongue. 2 Disposition. 3 Sullied.

I might have said, No part of it is mine,
This shame derives itself from unknown loins?
But mine, and mine I lov'd, and mine I prais'd,
And mine that I was proud on; mine so much,
That I myself was to myself not mine,
Valuing of her; why, she—O, she is fallen
Into a pit of ink! that the wide sea
Hath drops too few to wash her clean again.

Bene. Sir, sir, be patient:

For my part, I am so attir'd in wonder,
I know not what to say.

Beat. O, on my soul, my cousin is belied!

Bene. Lady, were you her bedfellow last night?

Beat. No, truly, not; although, until last night,
I have this twelvemonth been her bedfellow.

Leon. Confirm'd, confirm'd! O, that is stronger
made,

Which was before barr'd up with ribs of iron!
Would the two princes lie? and Claudio lie?
Whom lov'd her so, that, speaking of her foulness,
Wash'd it with tears? Hence from her; let her

Friar. Hear me a little;—
For I have only been silent so long,

And given way unto this course of fortune,
By noting of the lady; I have mark'd
A thousand blushing apparitions start

Into her face; a thousand innocent shames
In angel whiteness bear away those blushes,

And in her eye there hath appear'd a fire,
To burn the errors that these princes hold

Against her maiden truth:—Call me a fool;
Trust not my reading, nor my observations,

Which with experimental seal doth warrant
The tenour of my book; trust not my age,

My reverence, calling, nor divinity,
If this sweet lady lie not guiltless here
Under some biting error.

Leon. Friar, it cannot be:
Thou seest, that all the grace that she hath left,
Is, that she will not add unto her guilt
A sin of perjury; she not denies it:

Why seek'st thou then to cover with excuse
That which appears in proper nakedness?

Friar. Lady, what man is he you are accus'd of?

Hero. They know, that do accuse me; I know
If I know more of any man alive, [none:]

Than that which maiden modesty doth warrant,
Let all my sins lack mercy!—O my father,

Prove you that any man with me convers'd
At hours unmeet, or that I yesternight [ture,

Maintain'd the change of words with any crea-
Refuse me, hate me, torture me to death.

Friar. There is some strange misprision¹ in
the princes.

Ben. Two of them have the very bent of honour;
And if their wisdoms be misled in this,

The practice of it lives in John the bastard,
Whose spirits toil in frame of villainies.

Leon. I know not; If they speak but truth
of her, [honour,

These hands shall tear her; if they wrong her
The proudest of them shall well hear of it.

Time hath not yet so dried this blood of mine,
Nor age so eat up my invention,

Nor fortune made such havock of my means,
Nor my bad life reft me so much of friends,

But they shall find, awak'd in such a kind,

1 Misconception.

Both strength of limb, and policy of mind,
Ability in means, and choice of friends,
To quit me of them thoroughly.

Friar. Pause a while,
And let my counsel sway you in this case.
Your daughter here the princes left for dead;
Let her a while be secretly kept in,
And publish it, that she is dead indeed:
Maintain a mourning ostentation:
And on your family's old monument
Hang mournful epitaphs, and do all rites
That appertain unto a burial.

Leon. What shall become of this? What will
this do? [behalf

Friar. Marry, this, well carried, shall on her
Change slander to remorse; that is some good:
But not for that, dream I on this strange course,
But on this travail look for greater birth.
She dying, as it must be so maintain'd,
Upon the instant that she was accus'd,
Shall be lamented, pitied, and excus'd,
Of every hearer: For it so falls out,
That what we have we prize not to the worth,
Whiles we enjoy it; but being lack'd and lost,
Why, then we rack¹ the value; then we find
The virtue, that possession would not show us
Whiles it was ours:—So will it fare with Claudio:
When he shall hear she died upon his words,
The idea of her life shall sweetly creep
Into his study of imagination;
And every lovely organ of her life
Shall come apparell'd in more precious habit,
More moving-delicate, and full of life,
Into the eye and prospect of his soul,
Than when she liv'd indeed:—then shall he mourn,
And wish he had not so accus'd her;
No, though he thought his accusation true.

Let this be so, and doubt not but success
Will fashion the event in better shape
Than I can lay it down in likelihood.
But if all aim but this be levell'd false,
The supposition of the lady's death
Will quench the wonder of her infamy:
And, if it sort not well, you may conceal her
(As best befits her wounded reputation)
In some reclusive and religious life,
Out of all eyes, tongues, minds, and injuries.

Ben. Signior Leonato, let the friar advise you:
And though, you know, my inwardness² and love
Is very much unto the prince and Claudio,
Yet, by mine honour, I will deal in this
As secretly, and justly, as your soul
Should wish with your body.

Leon. Being that I flow in grief,
The smallest twine may lead me.

Friar. 'Tis well consented; presently away;
For to strange sores strangely they strain the
cure:—

Come, lady, die to live: this wedding day,
Perhaps, is but prolong'd; have patience, and
endure.

[*Exeunt Friar, Hero, and Leonato.*

Ben. Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this
while?

Beat. Yea, and I will weep a while longer.

Ben. I will not desire that.

Beat. You have no reason, I do it freely.

1 Over-rate. 2 Intimacy.

Ben. Surely, I do believe your fair cousin is
wrong'd.

Beat. Ah, how much might the man deserve
of me, that would right her!

Ben. Is there any way to show such friendship?

Beat. A very even way, but no such friend.

Ben. May a man do it?

Beat. It is a man's office, but not yours.

Ben. I do love nothing in the world so well
as you: Is not that strange?

Beat. As strange as the thing I know not: It
were as possible for me to say, I loved nothing
so well as you: but believe me not; and yet I
lie not; I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing:—
I am sorry for my cousin.

Ben. By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.

Beat. Do not swear by it, and eat it.

Ben. I will swear by it, that you love me;
and I will make him eat it, that says I love
not you.

Beat. Will you not eat your word?

Ben. With no sauce that can be devised to
it: I protest, I love thee.

Beat. Why then, heaven forgive me!

Ben. What offence, sweet Beatrice.

Beat. You have staid me in a happy hour; I
was about to protest, I loved you.

Ben. And do it with all thy heart.

Beat. I love you with so much of my heart,
that none is left to protest.

Ben. Come, bid me do any thing for thee.

Beat. Kill Claudio.

Ben. Ha! not for the wide world.

Beat. You kill me to deny it! Farewell.

Ben. Tarry, sweet Beatrice.

Beat. I am gone, though I am here:—There is
no love in you:—Nay, I pray you, let me go.

Ben. Beatrice,—

Beat. In faith, I will go.

Ben. We'll be friends first.

Beat. You dare easier be friends with me,
than fight with mine enemy.

Ben. Is Claudio thine enemy?

Beat. Is he not approved in the height a villain,
that hath slandered, scorned, dishonoured my
kinswoman?—O, that I were a man!—What!
bear her in hand until they come to take hands;
and then with public accusation, uncovered
slander, unmitigated rancour,—O, that I were a
man! I would eat his heart in the market-place.

Ben. Hear me, Beatrice;—

Beat. Talk with a man out at a window?—a
proper saying!

Ben. Nay, but, Beatrice;—

Beat. Sweet Hero!—she is wronged, she is
slandered, she is undone.

Ben. Beat—

Beat. Princes and counties!¹ Surely a princely
testimony, a goodly count-confect;² a sweet gal-
lant, surely! O, that I were a man for his sake!
or that I had any friend would be a man for my
sake! But manhood is melted into courtesies,
valour into compliment, and men are only turned
into tongue, and trim ones too: he is now as
valiant as Hercules, that only tells a lie, and
swears it:—I cannot be a man with wishing,
therefore I will die a woman with grieving.

1 Noblemen. 2 A sugar nobleman.

Bene. Tarry, good Beatrice: By this hand, I love thee.

Beat. Use it for my love some other way than swearing by it.

Bene. Think you in your soul the Count Claudio hath wrong'd Hero?

Beat. Yea, as sure as I have a thought, or a soul.

Bene. Enough, I am engaged, I will challenge him; I will kiss your hand, and so leave you: By this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear account: As you hear of me, so think of me. Go, comfort your cousin: I must say, she is dead; and so, farewell. *[Exit.]*

SCENE II.—A PRISON.

Enter Dogberry, Verges, and Sexton, in gowns; and the Watch, with Conrade and Borachio.

Dogb. Is our whole dissembly appeared?

Verg. O, a stool and a cushion for the sexton!

Sexton. Which be the malefactors?

Dogb. Marry, that am I and my partner.

Verg. Nay, that's certain; we have the exhibition to examine.

Sexton. But which are the offenders that are to be examined? let them come before master constable.

Dogb. Yea, marry, let them come before me.—What is your name, friend?

Bora. Borachio.

Dogb. Pray write down—Borachio.—Yours, sirrah?

Con. I am a gentleman, sir, and my name is Conrade.

D. Write down—master gentleman Conrade.—Masters, it is proved already that you are little better than false knaves; and it will go near to be thought so shortly. How answer you for yourselves?

Con. Marry, sir, we say we are none.

Dogb. A marvellous witty fellow, I assure you; but I will go about with him.—Come you hither, sirrah: a word in your ear, sir; I say to you, it is thought you are false knaves.

Bora. Sir, I say to you, we are none.

Dogb. Well, stand aside.—They are both in a tale. Have you writ down that they are none?

Sexton. Master constable, you go not the way to examine: you must call forth the watch that are their accusers.

Dogb. Yea, marry, that's the efstest way:—Let the watch come forth.—Masters, I charge you, in the prince's name, accuse these men.

1 Watch. This man said, sir, that Don John, the prince's brother, was a villain.

Dogb. Write down—Prince John a villain:—Why this is flat perjury to call a prince's brother—villain.

Bora. Master constable,—

Dogb. Pray thee, fellow, peace; I do not like thy look, I promise thee.

Sexton. What heard you him say else?

2 Watch. Marry, that he had received a thousand ducats of Don John, for accusing the lady Hero wrongfully.

Dogb. Flat burglary as ever was committed.

1 Quickest.

Verg. Yea, by the mass, that it is.

Sexton. What else, fellow?

1 Watch. And that Count Claudio did mean upon his words, to disgrace Hero before the whole assembly, and not marry her.

Dogb. O villain! thou wilt be condemned into everlasting redemption for this.

Sexton. What else?

2 Watch. This is all.

Sexton. And this is more, masters, than you can deny. Prince John is this morning secretly stolen away; Hero was in this manner accused, in this very manner refused, and upon the grief of this suddenly died.—Master constable, let these men be bound, and brought to Leonato's; I will go before, and show him their examination. *[Exit.]*

Dogb. Come, let them be opinioned.

Verg. Let them be in band.

Con. Off, coxcomb.

Dogb. Where's the sexton; let him write down—the prince's officer, coxcomb. Come, bind them:—Thou naughty varlet!

Con. Away! you are an ass, you are an ass.

Dogb. Dost thou not suspect my place? Dost thou not suspect my years?—O that he were here to write me down—an ass—but, masters, remember that I am an ass; though it be not written down, yet forget not that I am an ass.—No, thou villain, thou art full of piety, as shall be proved upon thee by good witness. I am a wise fellow; and, which is more, an officer; and, which is more, a householder; and, which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in Messina; and one that knows the law, go to; and a rich fellow enough, go to; and a fellow that hath had losses; and one that hath two gowns, and every thing handsome about him:—Bring him away. O, that I had been writ down—an ass. *[Exit.]*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato and Antonio.

Ant. If you go on thus, you will kill yourself; And 'tis not wisdom, thus to second grief Against yourself.

Leon. I pray thee, cease thy counsel, Which falls into mine ears as profitless As water in a sieve; give not me counsel; Nor let no comforter delight mine ear, But such a one whose wrongs do suit with mine. Bring me a father, that so lov'd his child, Whose joy of her is overwhelm'd like mine, And bid him speak of patience; Measure his woe the length and breadth of mine, And let it answer every strain for strain; As thus for thus, and such a grief for such, In every lineament, branch, shape, and form: If such a one will smile, and stroke his beard: Cry—sorrow, wag! and hem, when he should groan; *[drunk]*

Patch grief with proverbs, make misfortune With candle-wasters; bring him yet to me, And I of him will gather patience.

But there is no such man: For, brother, men
Can counsel, and speak comfort to that grief
Which they themselves not feel; but tasting it,
Their counsel turns to passion, which before
Would give preceptual medicine to rage,
Fetter strong madness in a silken thread,
Charm ache with air, and agony with words:
No, no: 'tis all men's office to speak patience
To those that wring under the load of sorrow,
But no man's virtue, nor sufficiency,
To be so moral, when he shall endure
The like himself: therefore give me no counsel:
My griefs cry louder than advertisement.¹

Ant. Therein do men from children nothing
differ. [blood:]

Leon. I pray thee, peace: I will be flesh and
For there was never yet philosopher,
That could endure the tooth-ache patiently;
However they have writ the style of gods,
And made a pish at chance and sufferance.

Ant. Yet bend not all the harm upon yourself;
Make those, that do offend you, suffer too.

Leon. There thou speak'st reason: nay, I
will do so:

My soul doth tell me, Hero is belied;
And that shall Claudio know, so shall the prince,
And all of them that thus dishonour her.

Enter Don Pedro and Claudio.

Ant. Here comes the prince, and Claudio,

D. Pedro. Good den, good den. [hastily.]

Claud. Good day to both of you.

Leon. Hear you, my lords,—

D. Pedro. We have some haste, Leonato.

Leon. Some haste, my lord!—well, fare you
well, my lord:

Are you so hasty now?—well, all is one.

D. Pedro. Nay, do not quarrel with us, good
old man.

Ant. If he could right himself with quarrel-
Some of us would lie low. [ling,

Claud. Who wrongs him?

Leon. Marry,

Thou, thou dost wrong me: thou dissembler,
thou:—

Nay never lay thy hand upon thy sword,
I fear thee not.

Claud. Marry, beshrew my hand,
If it should give your age such cause of fear:
In faith, my hand meant nothing to my sword.

L. Tush, tush, man, never fleer and jest at me:
I speak not like a dotard, nor a fool;
As, under privilege of age, to brag
What I have done being young, or what would do
Were I not old: Know, Claudio, to thy head,
Thou hast so wrong'd mine innocent child and
That I am forc'd to lay my reverence by; [me,
And, with grey hairs, and bruise of many days,
Do challenge thee to trial of a man.

I say, thou hast belied mine innocent child;
Thy slander hath gone through and through
her heart,

And she lies buried with her ancestors:
O! in a tomb where never scandal slept,
Save this of hers fram'd by thy villainy!

Claud. My villainy!

Leon. Thine, Claudio; thine I say.

1 Admonition.

D. Pedro. You say not right, old man.

Leon. My lord, my lord,
I'll prove it on his body, if he dare;
Despite his nice fence, and his active practice,
His May of youth, and bloom of lustyhood.

Claud. Away, I will not have to do with you.

Leon. Canst thou so daff¹ me? Thou hast
kill'd my child;

If thou kill'st me, boy, thou shalt kill a man.

Ant. He shall kill two of us, and men indeed:
But that's no matter; let him kill one first;—

Win me and wear me,—let him answer me,—
Come, follow me, boy; come, boy, follow me:

Sir boy, I'll whip you from your foining² fence;
Nay, as I am a gentleman, I will.

Leon. Brother,—

Ant. Content yourself: Heaven knows, I
lov'd my niece;

And she is dead, slander'd to death by villains;
That dare as well answer a man, indeed,

As I dare take a serpent by the tongue?
Boys, apes, braggarts, Jacks, milksops!—

Leon. Brother Antony,—

Ant. Hold you content; What, man! I know
them, yea, [scruple:

And what they weigh, even to the utmost
Scrambling,³ out-facing, fashion-mong'ring
boys, [slander,

That lie and cog,⁴ and flout,⁵ deprave and
Go antickly, and show outward hideousness,

And speak of half a dozen dangerous words,
How they might hurt their enemies, if they

And this is all. [durst,

Leon. But, brother Antony,—

Ant. Come, 'tis no matter;
Do not you meddle, let me deal in this.

D. Pedro. Gentlemen both, we will not wake
your patience.

My heart is sorry for your daughter's death;
But, on my honour, she was charg'd with nothing

But what was true, and very full of proof.

Leon. My lord, my lord,—

D. Pedro. I will not hear you.

Leon. No?

Brother, away:—I will be heard;—

Ant. And shall,

Or some of us will smart for it.

[*Exeunt Leonato and Antonio.*

Enter Benedick.

D. P. See, see; here comes the man we went
Claud. Now, signior! what news? [to seek.

Bene. Good day, my lord.

D. Pedro. Welcome, signior: You are almost
come to part almost a fray.

Claud. We had like to have had our two noses
snapped off with two old men without teeth.

D. Pedro. Leonato and his brother: What
think'st thou? Had we fought, I doubt we
should have been too young for them.

Bene. In a false quarrel there is no true
valour. I came to seek you both.

Claud. We have been up and down to seek
thee; for we are high-proof melancholy, and
would fain have it beaten away: Wilt thou use
thy wit?

1 Put me aside.

2 Thrusting.

3 Turbulent.

4 Cheat.

5 Mock.

Bene. It is in my scabbard ; shall I draw it ?

D. Pedro. Dost thou wear thy wit at thy side ?

Claud. Never any did so, though very many have been beside their wit. — I will bid thee draw, as we do the minstrels ; draw, to pleasure us.

D. Pedro. As I am an honest man, he looks pale : — Art thou sick, or angry ?

Claud. What ! courage, man ! What though care killed a cat, thou hast mettle enough in thee to kill care.

Bene. Sir, I shall meet your wit in the career, an you charge it against me : — I pray you, choose another subject.

Claud. Nay, then give him another staff ; this last was broke cross.

D. Pedro. By this light, he changes more and more ; I think, he be angry indeed.

Claud. If he be, he knows how to turn his girdle.

Bene. Shall I speak a word in your ear ?

Claud. Heaven bless me from a challenge !

Bene. You are a villain ; — I jest not : — I will make it good how you dare, with what you dare, and when you dare : — Do me right, or I will protest your cowardice. You have killed a sweet lady, and her death shall fall heavy on you : Let me hear from you.

Claud. Well, I will meet you, so I may have good cheer.

D. Pedro. What, a feast ? a feast ?

Claud. I faith, I thank him ; he hath bid me to a calf's head and a capon ; the which if I do not carve most curiously, say, my knife's naught. — Shall I not find a woodcock too ?

Bene. Sir, your wit ambles well ; it goes easily.

D. Pedro. I'll tell thee how Beatrice praised thy wit the other day : I said, thou hadst a fine wit : True, says she, a fine little one : No, said I, a great wit ; Right, says she, a great gross one : No, said I, a good wit ; Just, says she, it hurts nobody : Nay, said I, the gentleman is wise ; Certain, said she, a wise gentleman : Nay, said I, he hath the tongues ; That I believe, said she, for he swore a thing to me on Monday night, which he forswore on Tuesday morning ; there's a double tongue, there's two tongues. Thus did she, an hour together, trans-shape thy particular virtues ; yet, at last, she concluded with a sigh, thou wast the properest man in Italy.

Claud. For the which she wept heartily, and said, she cared not.

D. Pedro. Yea, that she did ; but yet for all that, an if she did not hate him deadly, she would love him dearly : the old man's daughter told us all.

Claud. All, all.

D. Pedro. But when shall we set the savage bull's horns on the sensible Benedick's head ?

Claud. Yea, and text underneath, *Here dwells Benedick the married man ?*

Bene. Fare you well, boy ; you know my mind ; I will leave you now to your gossip-like humour : you break jests as braggarts do their blades, which hurt not. — My lord, for your many courtesies, I thank you : I must discontinue your company : your brother, the bastard, is fled from Messina : you have, among you, killed a sweet and innocent lady : For my lord lack-beard, there, he and I shall meet ; and till then, peace be with him.

[Exit Benedick.]

D. Pedro. He is in earnest.

Claud. In most profound earnest ; and, I'll warrant you, for the love of Beatrice.

D. Pedro. And hath challenged thee.

Claud. Most sincerely.

D. Pedro. What a pretty thing man is, when he goes in his doublet and hose, and leaves off his wit !

Enter Dogberry, Verges, and the Watch, with Conrade and Borachio.

Claud. He is then a giant to an ape ; but then is an ape a doctor to such a man.

D. Pedro. But, soft you, let be ; pluck up, my heart, and be sad.¹ Did he not say, my brother was fled ?

Dogb. Come, you, sir ; if justice cannot tame you, she shall ne'er weigh more reasons in her balance ; nay, an you be cursing hypocrite once, you must be looked to.

D. Pedro. How now, two of my brother's men bound ! Borachio, one !

Claud. Hearken after their offence, my lord !

D. Pedro. Officers, what offence have these men done ?

Dogb. Marry, sir, they have committed false report ; moreover, they have spoken untruths ; secondarily, they are slanders ; sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady ; thirdly, they have verified unjust things ; and, to conclude, they are lying knaves.

D. Pedro. First, I ask thee what they have done ; thirdly, I ask thee what's their offence ; sixth and lastly, why they are committed ; and, to conclude, what you lay to their charge ?

Cl. Rightly reasoned, and in his own division ; and, by my troth, there's one meaning well suited.

D. Pedro. Whom have you offended, masters, that you are thus bound to your answer ? this learned constable is too cunning to be understood : What's your offence ?

Bora. Sweet prince, let me go no further to mine answer ; do you hear me, and let this count kill me. I have deceived even your very eyes ; what your wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools have brought to light ; who, in the night, overheard me confessing to this man, how Don John your brother incensed² me to slander the lady Hero : how you were brought into the orchard, and saw me court Margaret in Hero's garment ; how you disgraced her, when you should marry her : my villainy they have upon record ; which I had rather seal with my death, than repeat over to my shame : the lady is dead upon mine and my master's false accusation ; and, briefly, I desire nothing but the reward of a villain.

D. Pedro. Runs not this speech like iron through your blood ?

Cl. I have drunk poison, whiles he utter'd it.

D. Pedro. But did my brother set thee on to this ? [Tice of it.]

Bora. Yea, and paid me richly for the practice. *D. Pedro.* He is compos'd and fram'd of treachery : And fled he is upon this villainy. [Chery : —

Cl. Sweet Hero ! now thy image doth appear in the rare semblance that I loved it first.

Dogb. Come, bring away the plaintiffs ; by this

time our sexton hath reformed signior Leonato of the matter: And, masters, do not forget to specify, when time and place shall serve, that I am an ass.

Verg. Here, here comes master signior Leonato, and the sexton too.

Re-enter Leonato and Antonio, with the Sexton.

Leon. Which is the villain? Let me see his eyes;

That when I note another man like him,
I may avoid him: Which of these is he?

Bora. If you would know your wronger, look on me.

Leon. Art thou the slave, that with thy breath
Mine innocent child? [hast kill'd]

Bora. Yea, even I alone.

Leon. No, not so, villain; thou bely'st thyself;
Here stand a pair of honourable men.

A third is fled, that had a hand in it:—
I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death;
Record it with your high and worthy deeds;
'Twas bravely done, if you bethink you of it.

Claud. I know not how to pray your patience,
Yet I must speak: Choose your revenge yourself;
Impose me to what penance your invention
Can lay upon my sin: yet sinn'd I not,
But in mistaking.

D. Pedro. By my soul, nor I;
And yet, to satisfy this good old man,
I would bend under any heavy weight
That he'll enjoin me to.

Leon. I cannot bid you bid my daughter live,
That were impossible: but, I pray you both,
Possess¹ the people in Messina here
How innocent she died: and, if your love
Can labour aught in sad invention,
Hang her an epitaph upon her tomb,
And sing it to her bones; sing it to-night:—
To-morrow morning come you to my house;
And since you could not be my son-in-law,
Be yet my nephew: my brother hath a daughter,
Almost the copy of my child that's dead,
And she alone is heir to both of us;
Give her the right you should have given her
And so dies my revenge. [cousin,

Claud. O, noble sir,
Your over-kindness doth wring tears from me!
I do embrace your offer; and dispose
For henceforth of poor Claudio.

L. To-morrow then I will expect your coming;
To-night I take my leave.—This naughty man
Shall face to face be brought to Margaret,
Who, I believe, was pack'd² in all this wrong,
Hir'd to it by your brother.

Bora. No, by my soul, she was not;
Nor knew not what she did, when she spoke
to me;

But always hath been just and virtuous,
In any thing that I do know by her.

Dogb. Moreover, sir (which, indeed, is not
under white and black), this plaintiff here, the
offender, did call me ass: I beseech you, let it
be remembered in his punishment: And also the
watch heard them talk of one Deformed: they
say, he wears a key in his ear, and a lock hang-
ing by it; and borrows money; the which he

1 Acquaint.

2 Confederate.

hath used so long, and never paid, that now men
grow hard-hearted, and will lend nothing: Pray
you, examine him upon that point.

Leon. I thank thee for thy care and honest
pains.

Dogb. Your worship speaks like a most thank-
ful and reverend youth.

Leon. There's for thy pains. Go, I discharge
thee of thy prisoner, and I thank thee.

Dogb. I leave an arrant knave with your wor-
ship; which, I beseech your worship, to correct
yourself, for the example of others. I wish your
worship well: I humbly give you leave to de-
part.—Come, neighbour.

[*Exeunt Dogberry, Verges, and Watch.*

L. Until to-morrow morning, lords, farewell.

Ant. Farewell, my lords; we look for you to-
day. *Pedro.* We will not fail. [tomorrow.

Claud. To-night I'll mourn with Hero.

[*Exeunt Don Pedro and Claudio.*

Leon. Bring you these fellows on; we'll talk
with Margaret,
How her acquaintance grew with this lewd¹
fellow. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—LEONATO'S GARDEN.

Enter Benedick and Margaret, meeting.

Bene. Pray thee, sweet mistress Margaret, de-
serve well at my hands, by helping me to the
speech of Beatrice.

Marg. Will you then write me a sonnet in
praise of my beauty?

Bene. In so high a style, Margaret, that no
man living shall come over it; for in most comely
truth, thou deservest it.

Marg. Well, I will call Beatrice to you.

[*Exit Margaret.*

Bene. [Singing.]

The God of love,

That sits above,

And knows me, and knows me,

How pitiful I deserve,—

I mean, in singing; but in loving.—Leander the
good swimmer, Troilus the first employer of
pandars, and a whole book full of these quon-
dam carpet-mongers, whose names yet run
smoothly in the even road of a blank verse, why,
they were never so truly turned over and over as
my poor self, in love: Marry, I cannot show it
in rhyme; I have tried; I can find out no rhyme
to *lady* but *baby*, an innocent rhyme; for *scorn*,
horn, a hard rhyme; for *school*, *fool*, a babbling
rhyme; very ominous endings: No, I was not
born under a rhyming planet, nor I cannot woo
in festival terms.

Enter Beatrice.

Sweet Beatrice, wouldst thou come when I called
thee?

Beat. Yea, signior, and depart when you bid
Bene. O, stay but till then! [me.

Beat. Then, is spoken; fare you well now:—
and yet, ere I go, let me go with that I came for,
which is, with knowing what hath passed be-
tween you and Claudio.

1 Wicked.

Bene. Only foul words; and thereupon I will kiss thee.

Beat. Foul words are but foul breath, and foul breath is noisome; therefore I will depart un-kissed.

Bene. Thou hast frighted the word out of his right sense, so forcible is thy wit: But I must tell thee plainly, Claudio undergoes my challenge; and either I must shortly hear from him, or I will subscribe him a coward. And I pray thee now, tell me, for which of my bad parts didst thou first fall in love with me?

Beat. For them altogether; which maintained so politick a state of evil, that they will not admit any good part to intermingle with them. But for which of my good parts did you first suffer love for me?

Bene. *Suffer love*; a good epithet! I do suffer love, indeed, for I love thee against my will.

Beat. In spite of your heart, I think; alas! poor heart! If you spite it for my sake, I will spite it for yours; for I will never love that which my friend hates.

Bene. Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably.

Beat. It appears not in this confession: there's not one wise man among twenty that will praise himself.

Bene. An old, an old instance, Beatrice, that lived in the time of good neighbours: if a man do not erect in this age his own tomb ere he dies, he shall live no longer in monument than the bell rings, and the widow weeps.

Beat. And how long is that, think you?

Bene. Question?—Why, an hour in clamour, and a quarter in rheum: Therefore it is most expedient for the wise, (if Don Worm his conscience find no impediment to the contrary), to be the trumpet of his own virtues, as I am to myself: So much for praising myself, (who, I myself will bear witness, is praise-worthy), and now tell me, How doth your cousin?

Beat. Very ill.

Bene. And how do you?

Beat. Very ill too.

Bene. Serve God, love me, and mend; there will I leave you too, for here comes one in haste.

Enter Ursula.

Urs. Madam, you must come to your uncle; yonder's old coil² at home: it is proved, my lady Hero hath been falsely accused, the prince and Claudio mightily abused: and Don John is the author of all, who is fled and gone: will you come presently?

Beat. Will you go hear this news, signior?

Bene. I will live in thy heart, be buried in thy eyes, and will go with thee to thy uncle's.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE INSIDE OF A CHURCH.

Enter Don Pedro, Claudio, and Attendants, with musick and tapers.

Claud. Is this the monument of Leonato?

Atten. It is, my lord.

Claud. [*Reads from a scroll.*]

1 Tears.

2 Stir.

Done to death by slanderous tongues,

Was the Hero that here lies:

Death in guerdon¹ of her wrongs,

Gives her fame which never dies:

So the life, that died with shame,

Lives in death with glorious fame.

Hang thou there upon the tomb, [Affixing it.

Praising her when I am dumb.—

Now, musick, sound, and sing your solemn hymn.

SONG.

Pardon, goddess of the night,

Those that slew thy virgin knight,

For the which, with songs of woe,

Round about her tomb they go.

Midnight, assist our moan;

Help us to sigh and groan,

Heavily, heavily:

Graves yawn, and yield your dead,

Till death be uttered,

Heavily, heavily.

Claud. Now, unto thy bones good night!

Yearly will I do this rite.

D. Pedro. Good morrow, masters, put your torches out: [day,

The wolves have prey'd; and, look! the gentle Before the wheels of Phebus, round about

Dapples the drowsy east with spots of grey:

Thanks to you all, and leave us; fare you well.

C. Good morrow, masters, each his several way;

D. Pedro. Come, let us hence, and put on other weeds;

And then to Leonato's we will go. [speeds,

Claud. And, Hymen, now with luckier issue Than this, for whom we rendered up this woe!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

Enter Leonato, Antonio, Benedick, Beatrice, Ursula, Friar, and Hero.

Friar. Did I not tell you she was innocent?

L. So are the prince and Claudio, who accus'd Upon the error that you heard debated: [her, But Margaret was in some fault for this; Although against her will, as it appears In the true course of all the question.

Ant. Well, I am glad that all things sort so well.

Bene. And so am I, being else by faith enforc'd To call young Claudio to a reckoning for it.

L. Well, daughter, and you gentlemen all, Withdraw into a chamber by yourselves;

And, when I send for you, come hither mask'd; The prince and Claudio promis'd by this hour To visit me:—You know your office, brother; You must be father to your brother's daughter,

And give her to young Claudio. [*Exeunt Ladies.*

A. Which I will do with confirm'd countenance.

Bene. Friar, I must entreat your pains, I think.

Friar. To do what, signior?

Bene. To bind me, or undo me, one of them.— Signior Leonato, truth it is, good signior,

Your niece regards me with an eye of favour.

Leon. That eye my daughter lent her: 'Tis most true,

1 Recompense.

Bene. And I do with an eye of love requite her.

Leon. The sight whereof, I think, you had from me, [will?

From Claudio and the prince; But what's your

Bene. Your answer, sir, is enigmatical:

But, for my will, my will is, your good will

May stand with ours, this day to be conjoin'd

In the estate of honourable marriage;—

In which, good friar, I shall desire your help.

Leon. My heart is with your liking.

Friar. And my help.

Here comes the prince, and Claudio.

Enter Don Pedro and Claudio, with Attendants.

D. Pedro. Good morrow to this fair assembly.

Leon. Good morrow, prince: good morrow, Claudio:

We here attend you; are you yet determin'd

To-day to marry with my brother's daughter?

Claud. I'll hold my mind, were she an Ethiopian.

Leon. Call her forth, brother, here's the friar ready. [*Exit Antonio.*

D. Pedro. Good morrow, Benedick: Why, what's the matter,

That you have such a February face,

So full of frost, of storm, and cloudiness.

Re-enter Antonio, with the Ladies masked.

Claud. For this I owe you: here come other reckonings.

Which is the lady I must seize upon?

Ant. This same is she, and I do give you her.

Claud. Why, then, she's mine: Sweet, let me see your face. [her hand,

Leon. No, that you shall not, till you take Before this friar, and swear to marry her.

Cl. Give me your hand before this holy friar; I am your husband, if you like of me.

Hero. And when I lived, I was your other wife: [*Unmasking.*

And when you loved, you were my other hus-

Claud. Another Hero? [band.

Hero. Nothing certainer:

One Hero died defam'd; but I do live,

And, surely as I live, I am a maid.

D. Pedro. The former Hero! Hero that is dead.

Leon. She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived.

Friar. All this amazement can I qualify;

When, after that the holy rites are ended,

I'll tell you largely of fair Hero's death:

Mean time, let wonder seem familiar,

And to the chapel let us presently.

Bene. Soft and fair, friar.—Which is Beatrice?

Beat. I answer to that name; [*Unmasking.*

What is your will?

Bene. Do not you love me?

Beat. No, no more than reason.

Bene. Why, then your uncle, and the prince, and Claudio,

Have been deceived; for they swore you did.

Beat. Do you not love me?

Bene. No, no more than reason.

Beat. Why, then my cousin, Margaret, and Ursula,

Are much deceiv'd; for they did swear you did.

Bene. They swore that you were almost sick for me.

Beat. They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me.

Bene. 'Tis no such matter:—Then you do not love me?

Beat. No, truly, but in friendly recompense.

Leon. Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

Cl. And I'll be sworn upon't, that he loves her;

For here's a paper, written in his hand,

A halting sonnet of his own pure brain,

Fashion'd to Beatrice.

Hero. And here's another, Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket, Containing her affection unto Benedick.

Bene. A miracle! here's our own hands against our hearts!—Come, I will have thee; but, by this light, I take thee for pity.

Beat. I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great persuasion; and, partly to save your life; for I was told you were in a consumption.

Bene. Peace, I will stop your mouth.—

[*Kissing her.*

D. Pedro. How dost thou, Benedick the married man?

Bene. I'll tell thee what, prince; a college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour: Dost thou think, I care for a satire, or an epigram? No: If a man will be beaten with brains, he shall wear nothing handsome about him: In brief, since I do propose to marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say against it; and therefore never flout at me for what I have said against it; for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion.—For thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee; but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin.

Claud. I had well hoped, thou would'st have denied Beatrice, that I might have cudgelled thee out of thy single life, to make thee a double dealer; which, out of question, thou wilt be, if my cousin do not look exceeding narrowly to thee.

Bene. Come, come, we are friends:—let's have a dance, ere we are married, that we might lighten our own hearts, and our wives' heels.

Leon. We'll have dancing afterwards.

B. First, o' my word; therefore, play, musick. —Prince, thou art sad; get thee a wife, get thee a wife: there is no staff more reverend than one tipped with horn.

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight,

And brought with armed men back to Messina.

Bene. Think not on him till to-morrow; I'll devise thee brave punishments for him.—Strike up, pipers. [*Dance.—Exit.*

Midsummer-Night's Dream.

Persons Represented.

THESEUS, *Duke of Athens.*
 EGEUS, *Father to Hermia.*
 LYSANDER, } *in love with Hermia.*
 DEMETRIUS, }
 PHILOSTRATE, *Master of the Revels to Theseus.*
 QUINCE, *the Carpenter.*
 SNUG, *the Joiner.*
 BOTTOM, *the Weaver.*
 FLUTE, *the Bellows-mender.*
 SNOUT, *the Tinker.*
 STARVELING, *the Tailor.*

HIPPOLYTA, *Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.*
 HERMIA, *Daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander.*
 HELENA, *in love with Demetrius.*

OBERON, *King of the Fairies.*
 TITANIA, *Queen of the Fairies.*
 PUCK, or ROBIN-GOODFELLOW, *a Fairy.*

PEAS-BLOSSOM, }
 COBWEB, } *Fairies.*
 MOTHP, }
 MUSTARD SEED, }

Pyramus, }
 Thisbe, } *Characters in the Interlude*
 Wall, } *performed by the Clowns.*
 Moonshine, }
 Lion, }

*Other Fairies attending their King and Queen,
 Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta.*

SCENE.—*Athens; and a Wood not far from it.*

Act First.

SCENE I.

ATHENS. A ROOM IN THE PALACE OF THESEUS.

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate, and Attendants.

Thes. Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour
 Draws on apace: four happy days bring in
 Another moon: but, oh, methinks, how slow
 This old moon wanes! she lingers my desires,
 Like to a step-dame, or a dowager,
 Long withering out a young man's revenue.

Hip. Four days will quickly steep themselves
 in nights;

Four nights will quickly dream away the time;
 And then the moon, like to a silver bow
 New bent in heaven, shall behold the night
 Of our solemnities.

The. Go, Philostrate,
 Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments;
 Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth;
 Turn melancholy forth to funerals,
 The pale companion is not for our pomp.

[Exit Philostrate.]
 Hippolyta, I woo'd thee with my sword,
 And won thy love, doing thee injuries;
 But I will wed thee in another key,
 With pomp, with triumph, and with revelling.

Enter Egeus, Hermia, Lysander, and Demetrius.

Ege. Happy be Theseus, our renowned duke!
The. Thanks, good Egeus: What's the news
 with thee?

Ege. Full of vexation come I, with complaint
 Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—
 Stand forth, Demetrius; My noble lord,
 This man hath my consent to marry her:—
 Stand forth, Lysander;—and, my gracious duke,

This hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child:
 Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her
 rhymes,

And interchang'd love-tokens with my child:
 Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung,
 With feigning voice, verses of feigning love;
 And stol'n the impression of her fantasy [ceits,
 With bracelets of thy hair, rings, gauds,¹ con-
 Knacks, trifles, nosegays, sweet-meats; mes-
 sengers

Of strong prevailment in unhardened youth:
 With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughter's
 heart;

Turn'd her obedience, which is due to me,
 To stubborn harshness:—And, my gracious duke,
 Be it so she will not here before your grace
 Consent to marry with Demetrius,
 I beg the ancient privilege of Athens;
 As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
 Which shall be, either to this gentleman,
 Or to her death; according to our law,
 Immediately provided in that case. [maid:

T. What say you, Hermia? be advis'd, fair
 To you your father should be as a god;
 One that compos'd your beauties; yea, and one
 To whom you are but as a form in wax,
 By him imprinted, and within his power
 To leave the figure, or disfigure it.
 Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

Her. So is Lysander.

The. In himself he is:
 But, in this kind, wanting your father's voice,
 The other must be held the worthier. [eyes.

H. I would, my father look'd but with my
T. Rather your eyes must with his judgment

H. I do entreat your grace to pardon me. [look.
 I know not by what power I am made bold;
 Nor how it may concern my modesty,
 In such a presence here, to plead my thoughts;

¹ Trinkets.

But I beseech your grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

The. Either to die the death, or to abjure
For ever the society of men.
Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires,
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,
Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,
You can endure the livery of a nun;
For aye to be in shady cloister mew'd,
To live a barren sister all your life,
Chanting faint hymns to the cold fruitless moon.
Thrice blessed they, that master so their blood,
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage:
But earthlier happy is the rose distill'd,
Than that, which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

Her. So will I grow, so live, so die, my lord,
Ere I will yield my virgin patent up
Unto his lordship, whose unwished yoke
My soul consents not to give sovereignty.

The. Take time to pause; and, by the next
new moon,

(The sealing-day betwixt my love and me,
For everlasting bond of fellowship),
Upon that day either prepare to die,
For disobedience to your father's will;
Or else, to wed Demetrius, as he would;
Or on Diana's altar to protest,
For aye, austerity and single life.

Dem. Relent, sweet Hermia;—And, Lysander,
yield

Thy crazed title to my certain right.

Lys. You have her father's love, Demetrius:
Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him.

E. Scornful Lysander! true, he hath my love;
And what is mine my love shall render him:
And she is mine; and all my right of her
I do estate unto Demetrius.

Lys. I am, my lord, as well deriv'd as he,
As well possess'd; my love is more than his;
My fortunes every way as fairly rank'd,
If not with vantage, as Demetrius';
And, which is more than all these boasts can be,
I am belov'd of beauteous Hermia:
Why should not I then prosecute my right?
Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,
Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,
And won her soul; and she, sweet lady, dotes,
Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,
Upon this spotted¹ and inconstant man.

The. I must confess, that I have heard so much,
And with Demetrius thought to have spoke
But, being over-full of self-affairs, [thereof;
My mind did lose it.—But, Demetrius, come;
And come, Egeus; you shall go with me;
I have some private schooling for you both.—
For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself
To fit your fancies to your father's will;
Or else the law of Athens yields you up
(Which by no means we may extenuate,
To death, or to a vow of single life.—
Come, my Hippolyta; What cheer, my love?—
Demetrius, and Egeus, go along:
I must employ you in some business
Against our nuptial; and confer with you
Of something nearly that concerns yourselves.

1 Wicked.

Ege. With duty, and desire, we follow you.
[*Exeunt Thea., Hip., Ege., Dem., and train.*]

Lys. How now, my love? Why is your cheek
so pale?

How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

H. Belike,¹ for want of rain; which I could well
Beteem² them from the tempest of mine eyes.

Lys. Ah me! for aught that ever I could read,
Could ever hear by tale or history,
The course of true love never did run smooth:
But, either it was different in blood;
Or else mis-grafted, in respect of years;
Or else it stood upon the choice of friends:
Or, if there were a sympathy in choice,
War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it;
Making it momentary³ as a sound,
Swift as a shadow, short as any dream;
Brief as the lightning in the collied⁴ night,
That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and earth,
And ere a man hath power to say,—Behold!
The jaws of darkness do devour it up;
So quick bright things come to confusion.

Her. If then true lovers have been ever cross'd,
It stands as an edict in destiny:

Then let us teach our trial patience,
Because it is a customary cross;
As due to love, as thoughts, and dreams, and
Wishes, and tears, poor fancy's⁵ followers.

Lys. A good persuasion; therefore, hear me,
I have a widow aunt, a dowager [Hermia,
Of great revenue, and she hath no child:
From Athens is her house remote seven leagues;
And she respects me as her only son.

There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
And to that place the sharp Athenian law
Cannot pursue us: If thou lov'st me then,
Steal forth thy father's house to-morrow night;
And in the wood, a league without the town,
Where I did meet thee once with Helena,
To do observance to a morn of May,
There will I stay for thee.

Her. My good Lysander!
I swear to thee by Cupid's strongest bow;
By his best arrow with the golden head;
By the simplicity of Venus' doves;
By that which knitteth souls, and prospers loves;
And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage queen,
When the false Trojan under sail was seen;
By all the vows that ever men have broke,
In number more than ever women spoke;
—In that same place thou hast appointed me,
To-morrow truly will I meet with thee.

Lys. Keep promise, love: Look, here comes
Helena.

Enter Helena.

Her. God speed fair Helena! Whither away?

Hel. Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.
Demetrius loves you fair: O happy fair!
Your eyes are lode-stars,⁶ and your tongue's
sweet air

More tuneable than lark to shepherd's ear,
When wheat is green, when hawthorn buds ap-
Sickness is catching; O, were favour⁷ so! [pear.
Yours would I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go;
My ear should catch your voice, my eye your eye,

1 Perhaps.

2 Bestow.

3 Momentary.

4 Black.

5 Love's.

6 Pole stars.

7 Kind regard.

My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.

Were the world mine, Demetrius being bated,
The rest I'll give to be to you translated.

O, teach me how you look; and with what art
You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart.

Her. I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

Hel. O, that your frowns would teach my
smiles such skill!

Her. I give him curses, yet he gives me love.

Hel. O that my prayers could such affection
move.

Her. The more I hate, the more he follows me.

Hel. The more I love, the more he hateth me.

Her. His folly, Helena, is no fault of mine.

Hel. None but your beauty; 'Would that fault
were mine!

Her. Take comfort; he no more shall see my

Lysander and myself will fly this place.—

Before the time I did Lysander see,
Seem'd Athens as a paradise to me;

O then, what graces in my love do dwell,
That he hath turned a heaven into hell!

Lys. Helen, to you our minds we will unfold:
To-morrow night when Phoebe doth behold

Her silver visage in the wat'ry glass,
Decking with liquid pearl the bladed grass,

(A time that lovers' flights doth still conceal),
Through Athens' gates have we devis'd to steal.

Her. And in the wood, where often you and I
Upon faint primrose-beds were wont to lie,

Emptying our bosoms of their counsel sweet;
There my Lysander and myself shall meet:

And thence, from Athens, turn away our eyes,
To seek new friends and stranger companies.

Farewell, sweet play-fellow; pray thou for us,
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!

Keep word, Lysander: we must starve our sight
From lovers' food, till morrow deep midnight.

[*Exit Herm.*]

Lys. I will, my Hermia.—Helena, adieu:
As you on him, Demetrius dote on you!

[*Exit Lys.*]

Hel. How happy some, o'er other some can be!
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.

But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
He will not know what all but he do know.

And as he errs, doting on Hermia's eyes,
So I, admiring of his qualities.

Things base and vile, holding no quantity,
Love can transpoise to form and dignity.

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind.

Nor hath love's mind of any judgment taste;
Wings, and no eyes, figure unheedy haste:

And therefore is love said to be a child,
Because in choice he is so oft beguild.

As waggish boys in game¹ themselves forswear,
So the boy love is perjur'd everywhere:

For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,²
He hail'd down oaths, that he was only mine;

And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,
So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.

I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:
Then to the wood will he to-morrow night,

Pursue her; and for this intelligence
If I have thanks, it is a dear expence:

¹ Sport.

² Eyes.

But herein mean I to enrich my pain,
To have his sight thither, and back again.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME. A ROOM IN A COTTAGE.

*Enter Snug, Bottom, Flute, Snout, Quince,
and Starveling.*

Quin. Is all our company here?

Bot. You were best to call them generally,
man by man, according to the scrip.¹

Quin. Here is the scroll of every man's name,
which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play
in our interlude before the duke and duchess,
on his wedding-day at night.

Bot. First, good Peter Quince, say what the
play treats on; then read the names of the
actors, and so grow to a point.

Quin. Marry, our play is—The most lamentable
comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus
and Thisby.

Bot. A very good piece of work, I assure you,
and a merry.—Now, good Peter Quince, call
forth your actors by the scroll: Masters, spread
yourselves.

Quin. Answer, as I call you.—Nick Bottom,
the weaver.

Bot. Ready: Name what part I am for, and
proceed.

Quin. You, Nick Bottom, are set down for
Pyramus.

Bot. What is Pyramus? a lover, or a tyrant?

Quin. A lover, that kills himself most gal-

lantly for love.

Bot. That will ask some tears in the true per-

forming of it: If I do it, let the audience look to
their eyes; I will move storms, I will condole in
some measure. To the rest:—Yet my chief hu-

mour is for a tyrant: I could play *Ercles* rarely,
or a part to tear a cat in, to make all split.

“The raging rocks,
“With shivering shocks,
“Shall break the locks
“Of prison gates:
“And Phibbus' car
“Shall shine from far,
“And make and mar
“The foolish fates.”

This was lofty!—Now name the rest of the
players—This is *Ercles' vein*, a tyrant's vein:
a lover is more condoling.

Quin. Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.

Flu. Here, Peter Quince.

Quin. You must take Thisby on you.

Flu. What is Thisby? a wandering knight?

Quin. It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

Flu. Nay, faith, let me not play a woman;
I have a beard coming.

Quin. That's all one; you shall play it in a
mask, and you may speak as small as you will.

Bot. An I may hide my face, let me play
Thisby too: I'll speak in a monstrous little voice;

—*Thisme, Thisme,—Ah, Pyramus, my lover
dear; thy Thisby dear: and lady dear!*

Quin. No, no; you must play Pyramus, and
Flute, you Thisby.

¹ Written list.

Bot. Well, proceed.

Quin. Robin Starveling, the tailor.

Starr. Here, Peter Quince.

Quin. Robin Starveling, you must play Thisby's mother.—Tom Snout, the tinker.

Snout. Here, Peter Quince.

Quin. You, Pyramus's father; myself Thisby's father;—Snug, the joiner, you, the lion's part;—and, I hope, here is a play fitted.

Snug. Have you the lion's part written? pray you, if it be, give it me, for I am slow of study.

Quin. You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring.

Bot. Let me play the lion too: I will roar, that I will do any man's heart good to hear me: I will roar, that I will make the duke say, *Let him roar again, Let him roar again.*

Quin. An you should do it too terribly, you would fright the duchess and the ladies, that they would shriek: and that were enough to hang us all.

All. That would hang us every mother's son.

Bot. I grant you, friends, if that you should fright the ladies out of their wits, they would have no more discretion but to hang us: but I will aggravate my voice so, that I will roar you as gently as any sucking dove; I will roar you and 'twere any nightingale.

Quin. You can play no part but Pyramus; for Pyramus is a sweet-faced man; a proper man, as one shall see in a summer's day: a most lovely, gentleman-like man; therefore you must needs play Pyramus.

Bot. Well, I will undertake it. What beard were I best to play it in?

Quin. Why, what you will.

Bot. I will discharge it in either your straw-coloured beard, your orange-tawny beard, your purple-in-grain beard, or your perfect yellow.

Quin. Masters, here are your parts: and I am to entreat you, request you, and desire you, to con them by to-morrow night; and meet me in the palace wood, a mile without the town, by moon-light; there will we rehearse: for if we meet in the city, we shall be dog'd with company, and our devices known. In the mean time, I will draw a bill of properties² such as our play wants. I pray you, fail me not.

Bot. We will meet; and there we may rehearse courageously. Take pains; be perfect; adieu.

Quin. At the duke's oak we meet.

Bot. Enough: Hold or cut bowstrings.³

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A WOOD NEAR ATHENS.

Enter a Fairy at one door, and Puck at another.

Puck. How now, spirit! whither wander you?

Fairy. Over hill, over dale,

Thorough bush, thorough briar,

Over park, over pale,

Thorough flood, thorough fire,

I do wander everywhere,

Swifter than the moon's sphere;

¹ As if.

³ Go at all events.

² Requirements.

And I serve the fairy queen,

To dew her orbs¹ upon the green:

The cowslips tall her pensioners be;

In their gold coats spots you see;

Those be rubies, fairy favours,

In those freckles live their savours:

I must go seek some dew-drops here,

And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

Farewell, thou lob² of spirits, I'll be gone;

Our queen and all her elves come here anon.

P. The king doth keep his revels here to-night;

Take heed, the queen come not within his sight,

For Oberon is passing fell³ and wrath,

Because that she, as her attendant, hath

A lovely boy, stol'n from an Indian king;

She never had so sweet a changeling:

And jealous Oberon would have the child

Knight of his train, to trace the forests wild:

But she perforce, withholds the loved boy, [joy

Crowns him with flowers, and makes him all her

And now they never meet in grove, or green,

By fountain clear, or spangled star-light sheen,⁴

But they do square⁵ that all their elves, for fear,

Creep into acorn cups, and hide them there.

Fai. Either I mistake your shape and making quite,

Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite,

Call'd Robin Goodfellow: are you not he,

That fright the maidens of the villagery;

Skim milk; and sometimes labour in the quern,⁶

And bootless make the breathless housewife churn;

And sometimes make the drink to bear no barm;⁷

Mislead night-wanderers, laughing at their harm?

Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Puck, You do their work, and they shall have good Are not you he? [luck:

Puck. Thou speak'st aright;

I am that merry wanderer of the night.

I jest to Oberon, and make him smile,

When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile,

Neighing in likeness of a silly foal:

And sometime lurk I in a gossip's bowl,

In very likeness of a roasted crab,⁸

And, when she drinks, against her lips I bob,

And on her wither'd dew-lap pour the ale.

The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,

Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me;

Then slip I from her, and down topples she,

And taylor cries, and falls into a cough; [loffe:⁹

And then the whole quire hold their hips, and

And waxen in their mirth, and neeze¹⁰ and swear

A merrier hour was never wasted there.—

But room, Fairy, here comes Oberon.

Fairy. And here my mistress:—'Would that he were gone?

SCENE II.

Enter Oberon, at one door, with his train, and Titania, at another, with hers.

Obe. Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

Tit. What, jealous Oberon? Fairy, skip; hente; I have forsworn his bed and company.

¹ Circles.

² A term of contempt.

³ Fierce.

⁴ Splendour.

⁵ Quarrel.

⁶ Handmill.

⁷ Yeast.

⁸ Laugh.

⁹ Wild apple.

¹⁰ Sneeze.

Obe. Tarry, rash wanton: Am not I thy lord?

Tita. Then I must be thy lady: But I know
When thou hast stol'n away from fairy land,
And in the shape of Corin sat all day,
Playing on pipes of corn, and versing love
To amorous Phillida. Why art thou here,
Come from the farthest steep of India?
But that, forsooth, the bouncing Amazon,
Your buskin'd mistress, and your warrior love,
To Theseus must be wedded; and you come
To give their bed joy and prosperity.

Obe. How canst thou thus, forshame, Titania,
Glance at my credit with Hippolyta,
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?
Didst thou not lead him through the glimmering night,

And make him with fair *Ægle* break his faith,
With *Ariadne*, and *Antiope*?

Tita. These are the forgeries of jealousy:
And never since the middle summer's spring,
Met we on hill, in dale, forest, or mead,
By paved fountain, or by rushy brook,
Or on the beached margin of the sea,
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,
But with thy brawls thou hast disturb'd our sport.
Therefore the winds, piping to us in vain,
As in revenge, have suck'd up from the sea
Contagious fogs; which falling in the land,
Have every pelting¹ river made so proud,
That they have overborne their continents:²
The ox hath therefore stretch'd his yoke in vain,
The ploughman lost his sweat; and the green corn
Hath rotted ere his youth attain'd a beard:
The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
And crows are fatted with the murrain flock;
The nine men's morris³ is fill'd up with mud;
And the quaint mazes in the wanton green,
For lack of tread, are undistinguishable:
The human mortals want their winter here;
No night is now with hymn or carol blest:—
Therefore the moon, the governess of floods,
Pale in her anger, washes all the air,
That rheumatic diseases do abound;
And thorough this distemperature, we see
The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts
Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose;
And on old Hyem's chin, and icy crown,
An odorous chaplet of sweet summer buds
Is, as in mockery, set: The spring, the summer,
The childing⁴ autumn, angry winter, change
Their wonted liveries; and the 'mazed world,
By their increase, now knows not which is which:
And this same progeny of evils comes
From our debate, from our dissension;
We are their parents and original.

Obe. Do you amend it then; it lies in you:
Why should Titania cross her Oberon?
I do but beg a little changeling boy,
To be my henchman.⁵

Tita. Set your heart at rest,
The fairy land buys not the child of me.
His mother was a votress of my order:
And, in the spiced Indian air, by night,
Full often hath she gossip'd by my side;
And sat with me on Neptune's yellow sands,

Marking the embarked traders on the flood;
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;
And, for her sake, I do rear up her boy;
And, for her sake, I will not part with him.

O. How long within this wood intend you stay?

T. Perchance, till after Theseus' wedding-day.
If you will patiently dance in our round,
And see our moonlight revels, go with us;
If not, shun me, and I will spare your haunts.

Obe. Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

Tita. Not for thy kingdom.—Fairies, away:
We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

[*Exeunt Titania and her train.*]

Obe. Well, go thy way: thou shalt not from
this grove,

Till I torment thee for this injury.—
My gentle Puck, come hither: Thou remember'st
Since once I sat upon a promontory,
And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back,
Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
That the rude sea grew civil at her song;
And certain stars shot madly from their spheres,
To hear the sea-maid's music.

Puck. I remember.

O. That very time I saw, but thou could'st not,
Flying between the cold moon and the earth,
Cupid all arm'd: A certain aim he took
At a fair vestal, throned by the west;
And loos'd his love-shaft smartly from his bow,
As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts:
But I might see young Cupid's fiery shaft
Quench'd in the chaste beams of the wat'ry
moon;

And the imperial votress passed on,
In maiden meditation, fancy-free.
Yet mark'd I where the bolt of Cupid fell:
It fell upon a little western flower,—
Before, milk-white; now purple with love's
wound—

And maidens call it love-in-idleness.
Fetch me that flower; the herb I show'd thee once:
The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid,
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb; and be thou here again,
Ere the Leviathan can swim a league.

Puck. I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes. [Exit Puck.]

Obe. Having once this juice,
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes:
The next thing then she waking looks upon,
(Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,
On meddling monkey, or on busy ape,)
She shall pursue it with the soul of love.
And ere I take this charm off from her sight,
(As I can take it with another herb,)
I'll make her render up her page to me.
But who comes here? I am invisible;
And I will overhear their conference.

[Enter Demetrius, Helena following him.]

Dem. I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander, and fair Hermia?
The one I'll slay, the other slayeth me.
Thou told'st me they were stolen into this wood,
And here am I, and wood¹ within this wood.

¹ Petty. ⁴ Producing flowers unusually.

² Banks. ⁵ Page.

³ A boy's game with nine holes in the ground.

¹ Mad.

Because I cannot meet with Hermia.

Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

H. You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;
But yet you draw not iron, for my heart
Is true as steel: Leave you your power to draw,
And I shall have no power to follow you.

Dem. Do I entice you? Do I speak you fair?
Or rather, do I not in plainest truth
Tell you—I do not, nor I cannot love you?

Hel. And even for that do I love you the more.
I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you;
Use me but as your spaniel, spurn me, strike
me,

Neglect me, lose me: only give me leave,
Unworthy as I am, to follow you.

What worse place can I beg in your love,
(And yet a place of high respect with me,)
Than to be used as you use your dog?

Dem. Tempt not too much the hatred of my
spirit;

For I am sick, when I do look on thee.

Hel. And I am sick, when I look not on you.
D. You do impeach¹ your modesty too much,
To leave the city, and commit yourself
Into the hands of one that loves you not.

Hel. Your virtue is my privilege for that.
It is not night, when I do see your face,
Therefore I think I am not in the night:
Nor doth this wood lack worlds of company;
For you, in my respect, are all the world:
Then how can it be said, I am alone,
When all the world is here to look on me?

Dem. I'll run from thee, and hide me in the
brakes,
And leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.

H. The wildest hath not such a heart as you.
Run when you will, the story shall be chang'd;
Apollo flies, and Daphne holds the chase;
The dove pursues the griffin; the mild hind
Makes speed to catch the tiger: Bootless speed!
When cowardice pursues, and valour flies.

Dem. I will not stay thy questions: let me go;
Or, if thou follow me, do not believe
But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

Hel. Ay, in the temple, in the town, the field,
You do me mischief. Fye, Demetrius!
Your wrongs do set a scandal on my sex!
We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
We should be woo'd, and were not made to woo.
I'll follow thee, and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

[*Exeunt Dem. and Hel.*]

Obe. Fare thee well, nymph: ere he do leave
this grove,
Thou shalt fly him, and he shall seek thy love.—

Re-enter Puck.

Hast thou the flower there? Welcome wanderer.
Puck. Ay, there it is.

Obe. I pray thee, give it me.
I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows,
Where ox-lips² and the nodding violet grows:
Quite over-canopied with lush³ woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses, and with eglantine:
There sleeps Titania, some time of the night,
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;

1 Call in question. 2 The cowslip. 3 Rich colour.

And there the snake throws her enamell'd skin,
Weed wide enough to wrap a fairy in:
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.

Take thou some of it, and seek through this
A sweet Athenian lady is in love [grove:
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;
But do it, when the next thing he espies
May be the lady: Thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.
Effect it with some care; that he may prove
More fond on her, than she upon her love;
And look thou meet me ere the first cock crow.

Puck. Fear not, my lord, your servant shall
do so. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE WOOD.

Enter Titania, with her train.

Tita. Come, now a roundel,¹ and a fairy song;
Then, for the third part of a minute, hence;
Some, to kill cankers in the musk-rose buds;
Some, war with rear-mice² for their leather
wings, [back
To make my small elves coats; and some, keep
The clamorous owl, that nightly hoots, and
wonders

At our quaint spirits³: Sing me now asleep;
Then to your offices, and let me rest.

SONG.

1 *FAL.* You spotted snakes, with double tongue,
Thorny hedge-hogs, be not seen;
Newts,⁴ and blind-worms,⁵ do no wrong;
Come not near our fairy queen:

Chorus. Philomel, with melody,
Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby; lulla, lulla, lullaby;
Never harm, nor spell, nor charm,
Come our lovely lady nigh;
So, good night, with lullaby.

II.

2 *FAL.* Wearing spiders, come not here;
Hence, you long-legged spinners,
Beetles black, approach not near; [hence;
Worm, nor snail, do no offence.

Chorus. Philomel, with melody, &c.

1 *Fai.* Hence, away; now all is well:
One, aloof, stand sentinel.

[*Exeunt Fairies. Titania sleeps.*]

Enter Oberon.

Obe. What thou seest, when thou dost wake,
[*Squeezes the flower on Titania's eye-lids.*
Do it for thy true love take;
Love, and languish for his sake:
Be it ounce,⁶ or cat, or bear,
Pard, or boar with bristled hair,
In thy eye that shall appear
When thou wak'st, it is thy dear;
Wake, when some vile thing is near. [*Exit.*]

Enter Lysander and Hermia.

Lys. Fair love, you faint with wandering in
the wood;
And to speak troth, I have forgot our way;

1 A dance. 2 Sports. 3 Of the genus *Anguis*.
2 Bats. 4 Lizards. 6 Of the lynx kind.

We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

Her. Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed,
For I upon this bank will rest my head.

Such separation, as, may well be said,
Becomes a virtuous bachelor and a maid:
So far be distant; and good night, sweet friend:
Thy love ne'er alter, till thy sweet life end!

Lys. Amen, amen, to that fair prayer, say I;
And then end life, when I end loyalty!

Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

Her. With half that wish the wisher's eyes be
pressed! [*They sleep.*]

Enter Puck.

Puck. Through the forest have I gone,
But Athenian found I none,
On whose eyes I might approve
This flower's force in stirring love.
Night and silence! who is here?
Weeds of Athens he doth wear:
This is he my master said,
Despis'd the Athenian maid;
And here the maiden, sleeping sound,
On the dank¹ and dirty ground.
Pretty soul! she durst not lie
Near this lack-love, kill-courtesy.
Churl, upon thy eyes I throw
All the power this charm doth owe²:
When thou wak'st let love forbid
Sleep his seat on thy eyelid.
So awake, when I am gone;
For I must now to Oberon. [*Exit.*]

Enter Demetrius and Helena, running.

Hel. Stay, though thou kill me, sweet Demetrius. [*me thus.*]

Dem. I charge thee, hence, and do not haunt
H. O, wilt thou darkling³ leave me? do not so.

Dem. Stay, on thy peril; I alone will go.

[*Exit Demetrius.*]

Hel. O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!
The more my prayer, the lesser is my grace.
Happy is Hermia, wheresoe'er she lies;
For she hath blessed and attractive eyes.
How came her eyes so bright? Not with salt
tears:

If so, my eyes are oftener wash'd than hers.
No, no, I am as ugly as a bear;
For beasts that meet me, run away for fear:
Therefore, no marvel, though Demetrius
Do, as a monster, fly my presence thus:
What wicked and dissembling glass of mine
Made me compare with Hermia's spher⁴ eyne?
But who is here?—Lysander! on the ground!
Dead? or asleep? I see no blood, no wound:—
Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake.

Lys. And run through fire I will, for thy
sweet sake. [*Waking.*]

Transparent Helena! Nature here shows art,
That through thy bosom makes me see thy heart.
Where is Demetrius? O, how fit a word
Is that vile name to perish on my sword!

Hel. Do not say so, Lysander: say not so:
What though he love you Hermia? O, what
though?

Yet Hermia still loves you: then be content.

1 Moist. 2 Possess. 3 In the dark. 4 Eyes.

Lys. Content with Hermia? No: I do repent
The tedious minutes I with her have spent.

Not Hermia, but Helena I love:

Who will not change a raven for a dove?
The will of man is by his reason sway'd;
And reason says you are the worthier maid.
Things growing are not ripe until their season:
So I, being young, till now ripe not to reason;
And touching now the point of human skill,
Reason becomes the marshal to my will,
And leads me to your eyes, where I o'erlook
Love's stories written in love's richest book.

Hel. Wherefore was I to this keen mockery
born?

When, at your hands, did I deserve this scorn?
Is't not enough, is't not enough, young man,
That I did never, no, nor never can,
Deserve a sweet look from Demetrius' eye,
But you must flout my insufficiency?
Good troth, you do me wrong, good sooth, you
do,

In such disdainful manner me to woo.

But fare you well: perforce I must confess,
I thought you lord of more true gentleness.

O, that a lady, of one man refus'd,
Should, of another, therefore be abus'd! [*Exit.*]

Lys. She sees not Hermia:—Hermia, sleep
thou there;

And never may'st thou come Lysander near!

For, as a surfeit of the sweetest things
The deepest loathing to the stomach brings,
Or, as the heresies, that men do leave,
Are hated most of those they did deceive;
So thou, my surfeit, and my heresy,
Of all be hated; but the most of me!

And all my powers, address your love and might,
To honour Helen, and to be her knight! [*Exit.*]

Her. [*Starting.*] Help me, Lysander, help me!
do thy best,

To pluck this crawling serpent from my breast!

Ah me, for pity!—what a dream was here?

Lysander, look, how I do quake with fear!

Methought a serpent eat my heart away,

And you sat smiling at his cruel prey:—

Lysander! what, removed? Lysander! lord!

What, out of hearing? gone? no sound, no word?

Alack, where are you? speak, an if you hear;

Speak, of all loves!; I swoon almost with fear.

No?—then I well perceive you are not nigh:

Either death, or you, I'll find immediately.

[*Exit.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE SAME. THE QUEEN OF
FAIRIES LYING ASLEEP.

*Enter Quince, Snug, Bottom, Flute, Snout, and
Starveling.*

Bot. Are we all met?

Quin. Pat, pat; and here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal: This green plot shall be our stage, this hawthorn brake our trying-house; and we will do it in action, as we will do it before the duke.

1 By all that is dear.

Bot. Peter Quince,—

Quin. What say'st thou, bully Bottom?

Bot. There are things in this comedy of *Pyramus and Thisby*, that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself; which the ladies cannot abide. How answer you that?

Snout. By'r lakin,¹ a parlous fear.

Star. I believe, we must leave the killing out, when all is done.

Bot. Not a whit; I have a device to make all well. Write me a prologue: and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords; and that Pyramus is not killed indeed: and for the more better assurance, tell them, that I Pyramus am not Pyramus, but Bottom the weaver: This will put them out of fear.

Quin. Well, we will have such a prologue; and it shall be written in eight and six.—

Bot. No, make it two more; let it be written in eight and eight.

Snout. Will not the ladies be afeard of the lion?

Star. I fear it, I promise you.

Bot. Masters, you ought to consider with yourselves: to bring in a lion among ladies, is a most dreadful thing; for there is not a more fearful wildfowl than your lion, living; and we ought to look to it.

Snout. Therefore, another prologue must tell, he is not a lion.

Bot. Nay, you must name his name, and half his face must be seen through the lion's neck; and he himself must speak through, saying thus, or to the same defect,—Ladies, or fair ladies, I would wish you, or, I would request you, or, I would entreat you, not to fear, not to tremble: my life for yours. If you think I come hither as a lion, it were pity of my life: No, I am no such thing; I am a man as other men are:—and there, indeed, let him name his name; and tell them plainly, he is Snug the joiner.

Quin. Well, it shall be so. But there is two hard things; that is, to bring the moon-light into a chamber: for you know, Pyramus and Thisby meet by moon-light.

Snug. Doth the moon shine, that night we play our play?

Bot. A calendar, a calendar! look in the almanack; find out moon-shine, find out moon-shine.

Quin. Yes, it doth shine that night.

Bot. Why, then you may leave a casement of the great chamber window, where we play, open; and the moon may shine in at the casement.

Quin. Ay; or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorn, and say, he comes to disfigure, or to present, the person of moon-shine. Then, there is another thing: we must have a wall in the great chamber; for Pyramus and Thisby, says the story, did talk through the chinks of a wall.

Snug. You never can bring in a wall.—What say you, Bottom?

Bot. Some man or other must present wall: and let him have some plaster, or some lome, or some rough-cast about him, to signify wall; or let him hold his fingers thus, and through that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisby whisper.

¹ By our little lady.

Quin. If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, every mother's son, and rehearse your parts. Pyramus, you begin: when you have spoken your speech, enter into that brake,¹ and so every one according to his cue.

Enter Puck behind.

Puck. What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here,

So near the cradle of the fairy queen?

What, a play toward? I'll be an auditor;

An actor too, perhaps, if I see cause.

Quin. Speak, Pyramus:—Thisby, stand forth.

Pyr. Thisby, the flowers of odious savours sweet,—

Quin. Odours, odours.

Pyr.—odours savours sweet:

So doth thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear,—

But, hark, a voice! stay thou but here awhile,

And by and by I will to thee appear. *[Exit.*

Puck. *[Aside.]* A stranger Pyramus than e'er play'd here! *[Exit.*

This. Must I speak now?

Quin. Ay, marry, must you; for you must understand, he goes but to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again. *[True,*

T. Most radiant Pyramus, most tily-white of Ofcolour like the red rose on triumphant brier, Most briskly juvenal,² and eke most lovely Jew, As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire,

I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

Quin. Ninus' tomb, man: Why you must not speak that yet; that you answer to Pyramus: you speak all your part at once, cues³ and all.—Pyramus, enter; your cue is past; it is, never tire.

Re-enter Puck, and Bottom with an Ass's head.

This. O,—As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.

Pyr. If I were fair, Thisby, I were only thine:—

Q. O monstrous! O strange! we are haunted. Pray, masters! fly, masters! help!

[Exeunt Clowns.

P. I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round, Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier;

Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,

A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire;

And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn,

Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire at every turn. *[Exit.*

Bot. Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them, to make me afeard.

Re-enter Snout.

Snout. O Bottom, thou art changed! what do I see on thee! *[Exit.*

Bot. What do you see? you see an ass's head of your own; Do you?

Re-enter Quince.

Quin. Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee: thou art translated. *[Exit.*

¹ Thicket.

² Juvenile.

³ The last words of a speech, which serve as a hint to the next speaker.

Bot. I see their knavery: this is to make an ass of me; to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do what they can: I will walk up and down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid. [*Sings.*

*The ouzel cock,¹ so black of hue,
With orange-tawny bill,
The thrush with his note so true,
The wren with little quill.*

Tit. What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

[*Waking.*

Bot. *The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,
The plain-song cuckoo grey,
Whose note full many a man doth mar,
And dares not answer, nay;—*

or, indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird? who would give a bird the lie, though he cry, *cuckoo*, never so?

Tit. I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again: Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy note, So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape; [me, And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

Bot. Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that: And yet, to say the truth, reason and love keep little company together now-a-days: The more the pity, that some honest neighbours will not make them friends. Nay, I can gleek² upon occasion.

Tit. Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

Bot. Not so, neither: but if I had wit enough to get out of this wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

Tit. Out of this wood do not desire to go; Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no. I am a spirit of no common rate: The summer still doth tend upon my state, And I do love thee; therefore, go with me; I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee; And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep, And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep:

And I will purge thy mortal grossness so, That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.—[*sees!* Peas-blossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustard-

Enter four Fairies.

1 *Fai.* Ready.

2 *Fai.* And I.

3 *Fai.* And I.

4 *Fai.* Where shall we go?

Tit. Be kind and courteous to this gentleman; Hop in his walks, and gambol in his eyes; Feed him with apricocks and dewberries, With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries; The honey-bags steal from the humble-bees, And, for night-tapers, crop their waxen thighs, And light them at the fiery glow-worm's eyes, To have my love to bed, and to arise; And pluck the wings from painted butterflies, To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes: Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies.

1 *Fai.* Hail mortal!

2 *Fai.* Hail!

3 *Fai.* Hail!

4 *Fai.* Hail!

1 Blackbird,

2 Joke.

Bot. I cry your worship's mercy, heartily.— I beseech, your worship's name?

Cob. Cobweb.

Bot. I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good master Cobweb: If I cut my finger, I shall make bold with you.—Your name, honest gentleman?

Peas. Peas-blossom.

Bot. I pray you, commend me to mistress Squash, your mother, and to master Peascod, your father. Good master Peas-blossom, I shall desire you of more acquaintance too.—Your name, I beseech you, sir?

Mus. Mustard-seed.

Bot. Good master Mustard-seed, I know your patience well: that same cowardly, giant-like ox-beef hath devoured many a gentleman of your house: I promise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere now. I desire you more acquaintance, good master Mustard-seed.

T. Come wait upon him; lead him to my bower.

The moon, methinks, looks with a watery eye; And when she weeps, weeps every little flower, Lamenting some enforced chastity.

Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—ANOTHER PART OF THE WOOD.

Enter Oberon.

Obe. I wonder, if Titania be awak'd; Then, what it was that next came in her eye, Which she must dote on in extremity.

Enter Puck.

Here comes my messenger.—How now, mad spirit? What night-rule now about this haunted grove?

Puck. My mistress with a monster is in love. Near to her close and consecrated bower, While she was in her dull and sleeping hour, A crew of patches,¹ rude mechanicals, That work for bread upon Athenian stalls, Were met together to rehearse a play, Intended for great Theseus' nuptial day. The shallowest thick-skin of that barren sort, Who Pyramus presented, in their sport Forsook his scene, and enter'd in a brake: When I did him at this advantage take, An ass's now!² I fixed on his head; Anon, his Thisbe must be answered, [spy, And forth my mimick comes: When they him As wild geese that the creeping fowler eye, Or russet-pated choughs,³ many in sort, Rising and cawing at the gun's report, Sever themselves, and madly sweep the sky; So, at his sight, away his fellows fly; And, at our stamp, here o'er and o'er one falls; He murder cries, and help from Athens calls. Their sense, thus weak, lost with their fears,

thus strong, Made senseless things begin to do them wrong: For briers and thorns at their apparel snatch; Some, sleeves; some, hats; from yielders all things catch.

I led them on in this distracted fear, And left sweet Pyramus translated there: When in that moment (so it came to pass,) Titania wak'd, and straightway lov'd an ass.

1 Paltry fellows. 2 Top of the head. 3 Jackdaws.

K

Obe. This falls out better than I could devise.
But hast thou yet latch'd the Athenian's eyes
With the love-juice, as I did bid thee do?

Puck. I took him sleeping,—that is finish'd
And the Athenian woman by his side; [too,
That, when he wak'd, of course she must beey'd.

Enter Demetrius and Hermia.

Obe. Stand close; this is the same Athenian.

Puck. This is the woman, but not this the man.

D. O, why rebuke you him that loves you so?
Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe. [worse;

H. Now I but chide, but I should use thee
For thou, I fear, hast given me cause to curse.
If thou hast slain Lysander in his sleep,
Being o'er shoes in blood, plunge in the deep,
And kill me too.

The sun was not so true unto the day,
As he to me: Would he have stol'n away
From sleeping Hermia? I'll believe as soon,
This whole earth may be bor'd; and that the moon
May through the centre creep, and so displease
Her brother's noon-tide with the Antipodes.
It cannot be, but thou hast murder'd him;
So should a murderer look; so dead, so grim.

Dem. So should the murderer look; and so
should I,

Pierc'd through the heart with your stern cruelty:
Yet you the murderer, look as bright, as clear,
As yonder Venus in her glimmering sphere.

Her. What's this to my Lysander? where is he?
Ah, good Demetrius, wilt thou give him me?

D. I had rather give his carcase to my hounds.

Her. Out, dog! out, cur! thou driv'st me
past the bounds

Of maiden's patience. Hast thou slain him then?
Henceforth be never number'd among men!

O! once tell true, tell true, even for my sake;
Durst thou have looked upon him, being awake,
And hast thou kill'd him sleeping? O brave
touch!

Could not a worm, an adder, do so much?
An adder did it; for with doubler tongue
Than thine, thou serpent, never adder stung.

Dem. You spend your passion on a mispris'd^d
I am not guilty of Lysander's blood; [mood:
Nor is he dead, for aught that I can tell.

Her. I pray thee, tell me then, that he is well.

D. And if I could, what should I get therefor?

Her. A privilege, never to see me more.—
And from thy hated presence part I so:
Seem no more, whether he be dead or no. [Exit.

D. There is no following her in this fierce vein:
Here, therefore, for a while I will remain.
So sorrow's heaviness doth heavier grow
For debt that bankrupt sleep doth sorrow owe;
Which now, in some slight measure it will pay,
If for his tender here I make some stay.

[Lies down.

Obe. What hast thou done? thou hast mistaken
quite,

And laid the love-juice on some true love's sight:
Of thy misprision must perforce ensue
Some true-love turned, and not a false turn'd
true.

Pu. Then fate o'er-rules; that, one man holding
A million fail, confounding oath on oath. [troth,

1 Smear'd.

2 Mistaken.

Obe. About the wood go swifter than the wind,
And Helena of Athens look thou find:
All fancy-sick¹ she is, and pale of cheer,²
With sighs of love, that cost the fresh blood dear:
By some illusion see thou bring her here;
I'll charm his eyes, against she do appear.

Puck. I go, I go; look how I go;
Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow. [Exit.

Obe. Flower of this purple die,
Hit with Cupid's archery,
Sink in apple of his eye!
When his love he doth espy,
Let her shine as gloriously
As the Venus of the sky.—
When thou wak'st, if she be by,
Beg of her for remedy.

Re-enter Puck.

Puck. Captain of our fairy band,
Helena is here at hand;
And the youth, mistook by me,
Pleading for a lover's fee;
Shall we their fond pageant see?
O, what fools these mortals be!

Obe. Stand aside: the noise they make,
Will cause Demetrius to awake.

Puck. Then will two at once, woo one;
That must needs be sport alone;
And those things do best please me,
That befall preposterously.

Enter Lysander and Helena.

Lys. Why should you think, that I should
woo in scorn?

Scorn and derision never come in tears:
Look, when I vow, I weep; and vows so born,
In their nativity all truth appears.

How can these things in me seem scorn to you,
Bearing the badge of faith, to prove them true?

Hel. You do advance your cunning more and
more.

When truth kills truth, O matchless holy fray!
These vows are Hermia's: Will you give her o'er?
Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing
weigh:

Your vows, to her and me, put in two scales,
Will even weigh; and both as light as tales.

Lys. I had no judgement, when to her I swore.

Hel. Nor none, in my mind, now you give
her o'er. [you.

Lys. Demetrius loves her, and he loves not

Dem. [Awaking.] O Helen, goddess, nymph,
perfect, divine!

To what, my love, shall I compare thine eyne?¹
Crystal is muddy. O, how ripe in show
Thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow
That pure congealed white, high Taurus' snow,
Fann'd with the eastern wind, turns to a crow,
When thou hold'st up thy hand: O let me kiss
This princess of pure white, this seal of bliss!

Hel. O cruel spite! I see you all are bent
To set against me, for your merriment.
If you were civil, and knew courtesy,
You would not do me thus much injury.
Can you not hate me, as I know you do,
But you must join, in souls,⁴ to mock me too?

1 Love-sick.

2 Countenance.

3 Eyes.

4 Heartily.

If you were men, as men you are in show,
 You would not use a gentle lady so ;
 To vow, and swear, and superpraise my parts,
 When, I am sure, you hate me with your hearts.
 You both are rivals, and love Hermia ;
 And now both rivals, to mock Helena :
 A trim exploit, a manly enterprise,
 To conjure tears up in a poor maid's eyes,
 With your derision ! none, of noble sort,
 Would so offend a virgin ; and extort
 A poor soul's patience, all to make you sport.

Lys. You are unkind, Demetrius : be not so ;
 For you love Hermia ; this, you know, I know :
 And here, with all good will, with all my heart,
 In Hermia's love I yield you up my part ;
 And yours of Helena to me bequeath,
 Whom I do love, and will do to my death.

Hel. Never did mockers waste more idle
 breath.

Dem. Lysander, keep thy Hermia ; I will none :
 If e'er I loved her, all that love is gone.
 My heart with her but, as guest-wise, sojourn'd ;
 And now to Helen is it home return'd,
 There to remain.

Lys. Helen, it is not so.
 D. Disparage not the faith thou dost not know,
 Lest, to thy peril, thou aby it dear.¹—
 Look, where thy love comes ; yonder is thy dear.

Enter Hermia.

Her. Dark night, that from the eye his func-
 tion takes,
 The ear more quick of apprehension make ;
 Wherein it doth impair the seeing sense,
 It pays the hearing double recompense :—
 Thou art not by mine eye, Lysander, found ;
 Mine ear, I thank it, brought me to thy sound.
 But why unkindly didst thou leave me so ?

Lys. Why should he stay, whom love doth
 press to go ?

Her. What love could press Lysander from
 my side ?

L. Lysander's love, that would not let him bide,
 Fair Helena : who more engilds the night
 Than all yon fiery oes² and eyes of light.
 Why seek'st thou me ? could not this make thee
 know,

The hate I bare thee made me leave thee so ?

Her. You speak not as you think ; it cannot be.

Hel. Lo, she is one of this confederacy !

Now I perceive they have conjoined, all three,
 To fashion this false sport in spite of me.
 Injurious Hermia : most ungrateful maid !
 Have you conspir'd, have you with these con-
 triv'd

To bait me with this foul derision ?
 Is all the counsel that we two have shar'd,
 The sisters' vows, the hours that we have spent,
 When we have chid the hasty-footed time
 For parting us,—O, and is all forgot ?

All school-days' friendship, childhood inno-
 We, Hermia, like two artificial³ gods, [cence ?
 Have with our needs⁴ created both one flower,
 Both on one sampler sitting on one cushion,
 Both warbling of one song, both in one key ;
 As if our hands, our sides, voices, and minds,
 Had been incorporate. So we grew together,
 1 Pay dearly for it. 2 Circles. 3 Skilful. 4 Needles.

Like to a double cherry, seeming parted ;
 But yet a union in partition,
 Two lovely berries moulded on one stem ;
 So with two seeming bodies, but one heart ;
 Two of the first, like coats in heraldry,
 Due but to one, and crowned with one crest,
 And will you rent our ancient love asunder,
 To join with men in scorning your poor friend ?
 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly :
 Our sex as well as I, may chide you for it ;
 Though I alone do feel the injury.

Her. I am amazed at your passionate words :
 I scorn you not ; it seems that you scorn me.

Hel. Have you not set Lysander, as in scorn,
 To follow me, and praise my eyes and face ?
 And made your other love, Demetrius,
 (Who even but now did spurn me with his foot,)
 To call me goddess, nymph, divine, and rare,
 Precious, celestial : Wherefore speaks he this
 To her he hates ? and wherefore doth Lysander
 Deny your love, so rich within his soul,
 And tender me, forsooth, affection ;
 But by your setting on, by your consent ?
 What though I be not so in grace as you,
 So hung upon with love, so fortunate ;
 But miserable most, to love unlov'd ?
 This you should pity, rather than despise.

Her. I understand not what you mean by this.

Hel. Ay, do, persevere, counterfeit sad looks,
 Make mows¹ upon me when I turn my back ;
 Wink at each other ; hold the sweet jest up :
 This sport, well carried, shall be chronicled.
 If you have any pity, grace, or manners,
 You would not make me such an argument.
 But fare ye well : 'tis partly mine own fault ;
 Which death, or absence, soon shall remedy.

Lys. Stay, gentle Helena ; hear my excuse ;
 My love, my life, my soul, fair Helena !

Hel. O excellent !

Her. Sweet, do not scorn her so.

Dem. If she cannot entreat, I can compel.

Lys. Thou canst compel no more than she
 entreat ;

Thy threats have no more strength than her
 weak prayers.—

Helen, I love thee ; by my life, I do ;

I swear by that which I will lose for thee,

To prove him false, that says I love thee not.

Dem. I say, I love thee more than he can do.

Lys. If thou say so, withdraw, and prove it too.

Dem. Quick, come,—

Her. Lysander, whereto tends all this ?

Lys. Away, you Ethiop !

Dem.

No, no, sir :—he will
 Seem to break loose ; take on, as you would
 follow ;

But yet come not : you are a tame man, go !

Lys. Hang off, thou cat, thou burr : vile
 thing, let loose ;

Or I will shake thee from me, like a serpent.

Her. Why are you grown so rude ? what
 change is this,

Sweet love ?

Lys. Thy love ? out, tawny Tartar, out !

Out, loathed medicine ! hated potion, hence !

Her. Do you not jest ?

Hel. Yes, 'sooth ; and so do you.

1 Wry faces.

Lys. Demetrius, I will keep my word with thee.

D. I would, I had your bond; for, I perceive, A weak bond holds you; I'll not trust your word.

Lys. What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead?

Although I hate her, I'll not harm her so.

Her. What, can you do me greater harm, than hate!

Hate me! wherefore? O me! what news, my love? Am not I *Hermia*? Are not you *Lysander*? I am as fair now, as I was erewhile.

Since night, you lov'd me; yet, since night you left me:

Why, then you left me,—O, the gods forbid!—In earnest shall I say?

Lys. Ay, by my life;

And never did desire to see thee more.

Therefore, be out of hope, of question, doubt,

Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest,

That I do hate thee, and love *Helena*.

Her. O me! you juggler! you canker blossom! You thief of love! what have you come by night, And stol'n my love's heart from him?

Hel. Fine, i' faith!

Have you no modesty, no maiden shame,

No touch of bashfulness? What, will you tear

Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?

Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet you!

Her. Puppet! why so? Ay, that way goes the game.

Now I perceive that she hath made compare Between our statures, she hath urg'd her height; And with her personage, her tall personage, Her height, forsooth, she hath prevail'd with him.—

And are you grown so high in his esteem,

Because I am so dwarfish, and so low?

How low am I, thou painted maypole? speak;

How low am I? I am not yet so low,

But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

Hel. I pray you, though you mock me gentle—Let her not hurt me: I was never curst;¹ [men,

I have no gift at all in shrewishness;

I am a right maid for my cowardice;

Let her not strike me: You, perhaps, may think,

Because she's something lower than myself,

That I can match her.

Her. Lower! hark, again.

Hel. Good *Hermia*, do not beset me with me.

I evermore did love you, *Hermia*,

Did ever keep your counsels, never wrong'd you;

Save, that, in love unto *Demetrius*,

I told him of your stealth unto this wood:

He follow'd you; for love, I follow'd him:

But he hath chid me hence; and threaten'd me

To strike me, spurn me, nay, to kill me too:

And now, so you will let me quiet go,

To Athens will I bear my folly back,

And follow you no further: Let me go;

You see how simple and how fond I am. [you?

Her. Why, get you gone; Who is't that hinders

Hel. A foolish heart, that I leave here behind.

Her. What, with *Lysander*?

Hel. With *Demetrius*.

Lys. Be not afraid: she shall not harm thee,

Helena.

1 Shrewish.

Dem. No, sir; she shall not, though you take her part. [shrewd:

Hel. O, when she's angry, she is keen and She was a vixen, when she went to school; And though she be but little, she is fierce.

Her. Little again? nothing but low and little?—Why will you suffer her to flout¹ me thus?

Let me come to her.

Lys. Get you gone, you dwarf; You minims,² of hind'ring knot-grass³ made; You bead, you acorn.

Dem. You are too officious, In her behalf that scorns your services.

Let her alone; speak not of *Helena*;

Take not her part: for if thou dost intend⁴

Never so little show of love to her,

Thou shalt aby⁵ it.

Lys. Now, she holds me not; Now follow, if thou dar'st, to try whose right, Or thine or mine, is most in *Helena*.

Dem. Follow? nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jole. [Exeunt *Lys.* and *Dem.*

Her. You, mistress, all this coil⁶ is 'long of Nay, go not back. [you:

Hel. I will not trust you, I;

Nor longer stay in your curst⁷ company.

Your hands, than mine, are quicker for a fray;

My legs are longer though, to run away. [Exit.

Her. I am amazed, and know not what to say.

[Exit pursuing *Helena*.

O. This is thy negligence: still thou mistak'st, Or else commit'st thy knaveries wilfully.

Puck. Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook.

Did you not tell me, I should know the man

By the Athenian garments he had on?

And so far blameless proves my enterprise,

That I have 'nointed an Athenian's eyes:

And so far am I glad it so did sort,

As this their jangling I esteem a sport.

O. Thou seest, these lovers seek a place to fight:

Hie, therefore, Robin, overcast the night;

The starry welkin,⁸ cover thou anon

With drooping fog, as black as *Acheron*;

And lead these testy rivals so astray,

As one come not within another's way.

Like to *Lysander* sometime frame thy tongue,

Then stir *Demetrius* up with bitter wrong;

And sometime rail thou like *Demetrius*;

And from each other look thou lead them thus,

Till o'er their brows death-counterfeiting sleep

With leaden legs and batty wings doth creep:

Then crush this herb into *Lysander's* eye;

Whose liquor hath this virtuous property,

To take from thence all error, with his might,

And make his eye-balls roll with wonted sight.

When they next wake, all this derision

Shall seem a dream, and fruitless vision;

And back to Athens shall the lovers wend

With league, whose date till death shall never

Whiles I in this affair do thee employ, [end.

I'll to my queen, and beg her Indian boy;

And then I will her charmed eye release

From monster's view, and all things shall be peace.

1 Mock.

2 Being of smallest size.

3 Believed to prevent the growth.

4 Design.

5 Pay for it.

6 Trouble.

7 Shrewish.

8 Vault of heaven.

P. My fairy lord, this must be done with haste ;
For night's swift dragons cut the clouds full fast,
And yonder shines Aurora's harbinger ; [there,
At whose approach, ghosts, wandering here and
Troop home to church-yards : and the spirits all,
That in cross-ways and floods have burial,
Already to their wormy beds are gone ;
For fear lest day should look their shames upon,
They wulfully themselves exile from light,
And must for aye consort with black-brow'd

O. But we are spirits of another sort : [night.
I with the Morning's Love¹ have oft made sport ;
And, like a forester, the groves may tread,
Even till the eastern gate, all fiery red,
Opening on Neptune with fair blessed beams,
Turns into yellow gold his salt-green streams.
But, notwithstanding, haste ; make no delay :
We may effect this business yet ere day. [Exit Ob.

Puck. Up and down, up and down ;
I will lead thee up and down ;
I am fear'd in field and town ;
Goblin lead them up and down.
Here comes one.

Enter Lysander.

Lys. Where art thou, proud Demetrius ? speak
thou now. [Lysander looks about.] [art thou ?]

Puck. Here, villain ; draw and ready. Where
Lys. I will be with thee straight.

Puck. Follow me then
To plainer ground.

[Exit Lysander as following the voice.

Enter Demetrius.

Dem. Lysander ! speak again.
Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled ?
Speak. In some bush ? Where dost thou hide
thy head ? [stars,

Puck. Thou coward, art thou bragging to the
Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,
And wilt not come ? Come, recreant ; come, thou
child ;

I'll whip thee with a rod : He is defil'd,
That draws a sword on thee.

Dem. Yea ; art thou there ?

Puck. Follow my voice ; we'll try no man-
hood here. [Exit.

Re-enter Lysander.

Lys. He goes before me, and still dares me on,
When I come where he calls, then he is gone.
The villain is much lighter heel'd than I :

I follow'd fast, but faster he did fly :
That fallen am I in dark uneven way,
And here will rest me. Come, thou gentle day !

[Lies down.

For if but once thou show me thy grey light,
I'll find Demetrius, and revenge this spite.

[Sleeps.

Re-enter Puck and Demetrius.

Puck. Ho, ho ! ho, ho ! Coward, why com'st
thou not ?

Dem. Abide me, if thou dar'st ; for well I wot,
Thou runn'st before me, shifting every place ;
And dar'st not stand, nor look me in the face.
Where art thou ?

Puck. Come hither ; I am here.

Dem. Nay, then thou mock'st me. Thou shalt
buy this dear,

¹ Cephalus.

If ever I thy face by daylight see :

Now, go thy way. Faintness constraineth me
To measure out my length on this cold bed.—
By day's approach look to be visited.

[Lies down and sleeps.

Enter Helena.

Hel. O weary night, O long and tedious night,
Abate thy hours : shine, comforts, from the
That I may back to Athens, by day-light, [east ;
From these that my poor company detest :—
And sleep, that sometimes shuts up sorrow's eye,
Steal me awhile from mine own company.

[Sleeps.

Puck. Yet but three ? Come one more ;
Two of both kinds makes up four.
Here she comes, curst and sad :—
Cupid is a knavish lad,
Thus to make poor females mad.

Enter Hermia.

Her. Never so weary, never so in woe,
Bedabbled with the dew, and torn with
I can no further crawl, no further go : [briers :
My legs can keep no pace with my desires.
Here will I rest me, till the break of day.
Heavens shield Lysander, if they mean a fray !

[Lies down.

Puck. On the ground

Sleep sound :

I'll apply

To your eye,

Gentle lover, remedy.

[Squeezing the juice on Lysander's eye.

When thou wak'st,

Thou tak'st

True delight

In the sight

Of thy former lady's eye :

And the country proverb known,

That every man should take his own,

In your waking shall be shown :

Jack shall have Jill ;

Nought shall go ill ;

The man shall have his mare again, and all shall
be well. [Exit Puck.—Dem., Hel., &c., sleep.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Titania and Bottom, Fairies attending ;
Oberon behind unseen.

Tita. Come, sit thee down upon this flowery
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,¹ [bed,
And stick musk-roses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.

Bot. Where's Peas-blossom ?

Peas. Ready.

B. Scratch my head, Peas-blossom,—Where's
monsieur Cobweb ?

Cob. Ready.

Bot. Monsieur Cobweb ; good monsieur, get
your weapons in your hand, and kill me a red-
hipped humble-bee on the top of a thistle ; and,
good monsieur, bring me the honey-bag. Do not

¹ Carress.

fret yourself too much in the action, monsieur ; and, good monsieur, have a care the honey-bag break not : I would be loath to have you overflown with a honey-bag, signior. — Where's monsieur Mustard-seed ?

Must. Ready.

B. Give me your nief,² monsieur Mustard-seed. Pray you, leave your courtesy, good monsieur.

Must. What's your will ?

Bot. Nothing, good monsieur, but to help cavalero Cobweb to scratch. I must to the barber's, monsieur ; for, methinks, I am marvellous hairy about the face : and I am such a tender ass, if my hair do but tickle me, I must scratch.

Tita. What, wilt thou hear some musick, my sweet love ?

Bot. I have a reasonable good ear in musick : let us have the tongs and the bones.

T. Or, say, sweet love, what thou desir'st to eat.

Bot. Truly, a peck of provender ; I could munch your good dry oats. Methinks, I have a great desire to a bottle of hay ; good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow.

Tita. I have a venturous fairy that shall seek the squirrel's hoard, and fetch thee new nuts.

Bot. I had rather have a handful, or two, of dried peas. But, I pray you, let none of your people stir me : I have an exposition of sleep come upon me.

T. Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms. Fairies, begone, and be all ways away.

[*Exeunt Fairies.*]

So doth the woodbine, the sweet honeysuckle,
Gently entwist, — the female ivy so
Enrings the barked fingers of the elm.

O, how I love thee ! how I dote on thee !

[*They sleep.*]

Oberon advances. Enter Puck.

Obe. Welcome, good Robin. See'st thou this sweet sight ?

Her dotage now I do begin to pity.
For meeting her of late, behind the wood,
Seeking sweet savours for this hateful fool,
I did upbraid her, and fall out with her :
For she his hairy temples then had rounded
With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers ;
And that same dew, which sometime on the buds
Was wont to swell, like round and orient pearls,
Saw now within the pretty flowret's eyes,
Like tears, that did their own disgrace bewail.
When I had, at my pleasure, taunted her,
And she, in mild terms, begg'd my patience,
I then did ask of her her changeling child ;
Which straight she gave me, and her fairy sent
To bear him to my bower in fairy land.

And now I have the boy, I will undo
This hateful imperfection of her eyes.
And, gentle Puck, take this transformed scalp
From off the head of this Athenian swain ;
That he awaking when the others do,
May all to Athens back again repair ;
And think no more of this night's accidents,
But as the fierce vexation of a dream.
But first I will release the fairy queen.

Be, as thou wast wont to be ;

[*Touching her eyes with an herb.*]

See, as thou wast wont to see ;

1 First.

Dian's bud o'er Cupid's flower

Hath such force and blessed power.

Now, my Titania ; wake you, my sweet queen.

Tita. My Oberon ! what visions have I seen !

Methought, I was enamour'd of an ass.

Obe. There lies your love.

Tita. How came these things to pass !

O, how mine eyes do loath his visage now !

Obe. Silence, a while. — Robin, take off this head.

Titania, musick call ; and strike more dead

Than common sleep, of all these five the sense.

Tita. Musick, ho ! musick, such as charmeth sleep.

Puck. Now, when thou wak'st, with thine own fool's eyes peep.

Obe. Sound, musick. [*Still musick.*] Come, my queen, take hands with me,

And rock the ground whereon these sleepers be.
Now thou and I are new in amity ;

And will, to-morrow midnight, solemnly,

Dance in Duke Theseus' house triumphantly,

And bless it to all fair posterity :

There shall the pairs of faithful lovers be

Wedded, with Theseus, all in jolity.

Puck. Fairy king, attend and mark ;

I do hear the morning lark.

Obe. Then, my queen, in silence sad,

Trip we after the night's shade :

We the globe can compass soon,

Swifter than the wand'ring moon.

Tita. Come, my lord ; and in our flight,

Tell me how it came this night,

That I sleeping here was found,

With these mortals, on the ground. [*Exeunt.*]

[*Horns sound within.*]

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, and train.

The. Go, one of you, find out the forester ; —

For now our observation is perform'd ;

And since we have the vaward¹ of the day,

My love shall hear the musick of my hounds, —

Uncouple in the western valley ; go : —

Despatch, I say, and find the forester. —

We will, fair queen, up to the mountain's top,

And mark the musical confusion

Of hounds and echo in conjunction.

Hip. I was with Hercules, and Cadmus, once,

When in a wood of Crete they bay'd the bear

With hounds of Sparta : never did I hear

Such gallant chiding ; for, besides the groves,

The skies, the fountains, every region near

Seem'd all one mutual cry : I never heard

So musical a discord, such sweet thunder.

The. My hounds are bred out of the Spartan

kind,

So flew'd,² so sanded³ ; and their heads are hung

With ears that sweep away the morning dew ;

Crook-knee'd, and dew-lap'd like Thessalian

bulls ;

Slow in pursuit, but match'd in mouth like bells,

Each under each. A cry more tuneable

Was never holla'd to, nor cheer'd with horn,

In Crete, in Sparta, nor in Thessaly :

Judge, when you hear. — But, soft ; what nymphs

are these ?

Ege. My lord, this is my daughter here asleep :

And this, Lysander ; this Demetrius is ;

1 Forepart. 2 Large chaps. 3 Colour of blood-hound.

This Helena, old Nadar's Helena :

I wonder of their being here together.

The. No doubt, they rose up early, to observe
The rite of May ; and, hearing our intent,
Came here in grace of our solemnity.—

But, speak Egeus ; is not this the day
That Hermia should give answer of her choice?

Ege. It is, my lord. [their horns.]

The. Go, bid the huntsmen wake them with

Horns, and shouts within. Demetrius, Lysander, Hermia, and Helena, wake and start up.

The. Good-morrow, friends. St Valentine is
past ;

Begin these wood-birds but to couple now ?

Lys. Pardon, my lord.

[*He and the rest kneel to Theseus.*]

The. I pray you all, stand up.

I know you are two rival enemies ;
How comes this gentle concord in the world,
That hatred is so far from jealousy,
To sleep by hate, and fear no enmity ?

Lys. My lord, I shall reply amazedly,
Half 'sleep, half waking : But as yet, I swear
I cannot truly say how I came here :

But, as I think, (for truly would I speak,—

And now, I do bethink me, so it is ;)

I came with Hermia hither : our intent
Was, to be gone from Athens, where we might be
Without the peril of the Athenian law.

Ege. Enough, enough, my lord ; you have
I beg the law, the law, upon his head.—[*enough* :
They would have stol'n away, they would, Deme-
Thereby to have defeated you and me : [trius,
You, of your wife ; and me, of my consent ;
Of my consent that she should be your wife.

De. My lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth,
Of this their purpose hither to this wood ;

And I in fury hither follow'd them ;

Fair Helena in fancy following me.

But, my good lord, I wot not by what power,

(But by some power it is,) my love to Hermia,

Melted as doth the snow, seems to me now

As the remembrance of an idle gawd,¹

Which in my childhood I did dote upon :

And all the faith, the virtue of my heart,

The object, and the pleasure of mine eye,

Is only Helena. To her, my lord,

Was I betroth'd ere I saw Hermia :

But, like in sickness, did I loath this food :

But, as in health, come to my natural taste,

Now do I wish it, love it, long for it,

And will for evermore be true to it.

The. Fair lovers, you are fortunately met :

Of this discourse we more will hear anon.—

Egeus, I will overbear your will ;

For in the temple, by and by with us,

These couples shall eternally be knit.

And, for the morning now is something worn,

Our purpos'd hunting shall be set aside.—

Away, with us, to Athens : Three and three,

We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.—

Come Hippolyta.

[*Exeunt The., Hip., Ege., and train.*]

Dem. These things seem small and undistin-
guishable,

Like far-off mountains turned into clouds.

¹ Ornament.

Her. Methinks, I see these things with parted
When everything seems double. [eye]

Hel. So methinks :

And I have found Demetrius like a jewel,

Mine own, and not mine own.

Dem. It seems to me,

That yet we sleep, we dream.—Do not you think,

The duke was here, and bid us follow him ?

Her. Yea ; and my father.

Hel. And Hippolyta.

Lys. And he did bid us follow to the temple.

Dem. Why then, we are awake : let's follow
him ;

And, by the way, let us recount our dreams.

[*Exeunt.*]

As they go out, Bottom awakes.

Bot. When my cue comes, call me, and I will
answer :—my next is, *Most fair Pyramus*.—Hey,
ho !—Peter Quince ! Flute, the bellows-mender !
Snout, the tinker ! Starveling ! Odd's my life !
stolen hence, and left me asleep ! I have had a
most rare vision. I have had a dream,—past the
wit of man to say what dream it was : Man is but
an ass, if he go about to expound this dream. Me-
thought I was—there is no man can tell what.
Methought I was, and methought I had,—But
man is but a patched fool, if he will offer to say
what methought I had. I will get Peter Quince
to write a ballad of this dream : it shall be called
Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom ;
and I will sing it in the latter end of the play,
before the duke : Peradventure, to make it the
more gracious, I shall sing it at her death. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

ATHENS. A ROOM IN QUINCE'S HOUSE.

Enter Quince, Flute, Snout, and Starveling.

Quin. Have you sent to Bottom's house ? Is
he come home yet ?

Star. He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt,
he is transported.

Flu. If he come not, then the play is marred ;
It goes not forward, doth it ?

Quin. It is not possible ; you have not a man
in all Athens, able to discharge Pyramus, but he.

Flu. No ; he hath simply the best wit of any
handycraft man in Athens.

Quin. Yea, and the best person, too ; and he
is a very paragon for a sweet voice.

Enter Snug.

Snug. Masters, the duke is coming from the
temple, and there is two or three lords and
ladies more married : if our sport had gone
forward, we had all been made men.

Flu. O sweet bully Bottom ! Thus hath he lost
sixpence a-day during his life ; he could not
have 'scaped sixpence a-day : an the duke had
not given him sixpence a-day for playing *Pyra-
mus*, I'll be hanged ; he would have deserved
it : sixpence a-day, in *Pyramus*, or nothing.

Enter Bottom.

Bot. Where are these lads ? where are these
hearts ?

Quin. Bottom !—O most courageous day ! O
most happy hour !

Bot. Masters, I am to discourse wonders: but ask me not what; for, if I tell you, I am no true Athenian. I will tell you everything, right as it fell out.

Quin. Let us hear, sweet Bottom.

Bot. Not a word of me. All that I will tell you, is, that the duke hath dined: Get your apparel together; good strings to your beards, new ribbons to your pumps; meet presently at the palace; every man look o'er his part; for, the short and the long is, our play is preferred. In any case, let Thisby have clean linen; and let not him, that plays the lion, pare his nails, for they shall hang out for the lion's claws. And, most dear actors, eat no onions, nor garlick, for we are to utter sweet breath; and I do not doubt, but to hear them say, it is a sweet comedy. No more words; away; go, away. [Exeunt.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

AN APARTMENT IN THE PALACE OF THESEUS.

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate, Lords, and Attendants.

Hip. 'Tis strange, my Theseus, that these lovers speak of.

The. More strange than true. I never may be-These antique fables nor these fairy toys. [lieve Lovers and madmen have such seething brains, Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend More than cool reason ever comprehends. The lunatick, the lover, and the poet, Are of imagination all compact:¹

One sees more devils than vast hell can hold; That is, the madman: the lover, all as frantick, Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt: The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling, Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven,

And, as imagination bodies forth The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing A local habitation, and a name.

Such tricks hath strong imagination; That, if it would but apprehend some joy, It comprehends some bringer of that joy; Or, in the night, imagining some fear, How easy is a bush suppos'd a bear?

Hip. But all the story of the night told over, And all their minds transfigur'd so together, More witnesses than fancy's images, And grows to something of great constancy; But, howsoever, strange and admirable.

Enter Lysander, Demetrius, Hermia, and Helena.

The. Here come the lovers, full of joy and mirth, Joy, gentle friends! joy, and fresh days of love, Accompany your hearts!

Lys. More than to us Wait on your royal walks, your board, your bed!

The. Come now; what masks, what dances shall we have,

To wear away this long age of three hours, Between our after-supper, and bed-time? Where is our usual manager of mirth? What revels are in hand? Is there no play, To ease the anguish of a torturing hour: Call Philostrate.

Philostr. Here, mighty Theseus.

The. Say what abridgment¹ have you for this evening?

What mask? what musick? How shall we be- The lazy time, if not with some delight? [guile

Philostr. There is a brief,² how many sports are ripe;

Make choice of which your highness will see first. [Giving a paper.

The. [Reads.] *The battle with the Centaurs, to be sung,*

By an Athenian songster to the harp, We'll none of that: that have I told my love, In glory of my kinsman Hercules.

The riot of the tipsy Bacchanals, Tearing the Thracian singer in their rage.

That is an old device; and it was play'd When I from Thebes came last a conqueror.

The thrice three muses mourning for the death Of learning, late deceas'd in beggary.

That is some satire, keen, and critical, Not sorting with a nuptial ceremony.

A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus,

And his love Thisbe; very tragical mirth.

Merry and tragical? Tedious and brief? That is hot ice, and wonderous strange snow. How shall we find the concord of this discord?

Philostr. A play there is, my lord, some ten words long;

Which is as brief as I have known a play; But by ten words, my lord, it is too long; Which makes it tedious: for in all the play There is not one word apt, one player fitted. And tragical, my noble lord, it is;

For Pyramus therein doth kill himself.

Which, when I saw rehears'd, I must confess, Made mine eyes water; but more merry tears The passion of loud laughter never shed.

The. What are they, that do play it? [here,

Phil. Hard-handed men that work in Athens Which never labour'd in their minds till now; And now have toil'd their unbreath'd memories With this same play, against your nuptial,

The. And we will hear it.

Philostr. No, my noble lord,

It is not for you: I have heard it over, And it is nothing, nothing in the world; Unless you can find sport in their intents, Extremely stretch'd, and conn'd with cruel pain, To do you service.

The. I will hear that play;

For never anything can be amiss, When simpleness and duty tender it. Go, bring them in;—and take your places, ladies. [Exit Philostrate.

H. I love not to see wretchedness o'ercharg'd, And duty in his service perishing. [thing.

The. Why, gentle sweet, you shall see no such *Hip.* He says, they can do nothing in this kind. [nothing.

The. The kinder we, to give them thanks for

Our sport shall be, to take what they mistake :
 And what poor duty can do,
 Noble respect takes it in might, not merit.
 Where I have come, great clerks have purposed
 To greet me with premeditated welcomes ;
 Where I have seen them shiver and look pale,
 Make periods in the midst of sentences,
 Throttle their practis'd accent in their fears,
 And, in conclusion, dumbly have broke off,
 Not paying me a welcome : Trust me, sweet,
 Out of this silence, yet, I pick'd a welcome ;
 And in the modesty of fearful duty
 I read as much, as from the rattling tongue
 Of sawcy and audacious eloquence.
 Love, therefore, and tongue-tied simplicity,
 In least, speak most, to my capacity.

Enter Philostrate.

Philost. So please your grace, the prologue is
 address'd.¹

The. Let him approach. [*Flourish of trumpets.*]

Enter Prologue.

Prol. If we offend, it is with our good-will.
 That you should think; we come not to offend,
 But with good-will. To show our simple skill,
 That is the true beginning of our end.
 Consider then, we come but in despite.

We do not come as minding to content you.
 Our true intent is. All for your delight,

We are not here. That you should here repent
 The actors are at hand; and, by their show, [you,
 You shall know all, that you are like to know.

The. This fellow doth not stand upon points.

Lys. He hath read his prologue, like a rough
 colt; he knows not the stop. A good moral,
 my lord: It is not enough to speak, but to
 speak true.

Hip. Indeed he hath played on this prologue,
 like a child on a recorder²; a sound, but not in
 government.

The. His speech was like a tangled chain; no-
 thing impaired, but all disordered. Who is next?

*Enter Pyramus and Thisbe, Wall, Moonshine,
 and Lion, as in dumb show.*

Prol. "Gentles, perchance you wonder at this
 show; [plain.

"But wonder on, till truth make all things

"This man is Pyramus, if you would know;

"This beauteous lady Thisbe is, certain.

"This man, with lime and rough-cast, doth pre-
 sent [sunder:

"Wall, that vile wall which did these lovers

"And through wall's chink, poor souls, they are
 content

"To whisper; at the which let no man wonder.

"This man, with lantern, dog, and bush of thorn,

"Presenteth moon-shine; for, if you will know,

"By moon-shine did these lovers think no scorn

"To meet at Ninus' tomb, there, there to woo.

"This grisly beast, which by name lion night,³

"The trusty Thisbe, coming first by night,

"Did scare away, or rather did affright;

"And, as she fled, her mantle she did fall;

"Which lion vile with bloody mouth did stain:

¹ Prepared. ² An instrument like a flageolet.

³ Is called.

"Anon comes Pyramus, sweet youth, and tall,
 "And finds his trusty Thisbe's mantle slain :
 "Whereat with blade, with bloody blameful
 blade, [breast;

"He bravely broach'd his boiling bloody

"And, Thisbe tarrying in mulberry shade,

"His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,

"Let lion, moonshine, wall and lovers twain,

"At large discourse, while here they do remain."

[*Exeunt Prol., Pyr., Thisbe, Lion, & Moonshine.*]

The. I wonder if the lion be to speak.

Dem. No wonder, my lord: one lion may,
 when many asses do.

Wall. "In this same interlude, it doth befall,

"That I, one Snout by name, present a wall:

"And such a wall, as I would have you think,

"That had in it a cranny'd hole, or chink,

"Through which the lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe,

"Did whisper often very secretly." [show

"This loam, this rough-cast, and this stone, doth

"That I am that same wall; the truth is so:

"And this the cranny is, right and sinister,

"Through which the fearful lovers are to
 whisper."

The. Would you desire lime and hair to speak
 better?

Dem. It is the wittiest partition that ever I
 heard discourse, my lord.

The. Pyramus draws near the wall: silence!

Enter Pyramus.

Pyr. "O grim-look'd night! O night with hue
 so black!

"O night, which ever art, when day is not!

"O night, O night, alack, alack, alack,

"I fear my Thisbe's promise is forgot!—

"And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall,

"That stand'st between her father's ground
 and mine!

"Thou wall, O wall, O sweet and lovely wall,

"Show me thy chink, to blink through with
 mine eye." [*Wall holds up his fingers.*

"Thanks, courteous wall: Jove shield thee well

"But what see I? No Thisbe do I see. [for this!

"O wicked wall, through whom I see no bliss;

"Curst be thy stones for thus deceiving me!"

The. The wall, methinks, being sensible,
 should curse again.

Pyr. No, in truth, sir, he should not. *De-
 ceiving me*, is Thisbe's cue: she is to enter now,
 and I am to spy her through the wall. You
 shall see, it will fall pat as I told you:—Yonder
 she comes.

Enter Thisbe.

T. "O wall, full often hast thou heard my
 moans,

"For parting my fair Pyramus and me:

"My cherry lips have often kissed thy stones;

"Thy stones, with lime and hair knit up in
 thee."

Pyr. "I see a voice; now will I to the chink,
 "To spy an I can hear my Thisbe's face.

"Thisbe!"

This. "My love, thou art my love, I think."

Pyr. "Think what thou wilt, I am thy lover's
 And like Limander am I trusty still." [grace;

¹ Eyes.

This. "And I like Helen, till the fates me kill."

Pyr. "Not Shafalus to Procrus was so true."

T. "As Shafalus to Procrus, I to you." [wall.]

Pyr. "O kiss me through the hole of this vile

T. "I kiss the wall's hole, not your lips at all."

Pyr. "Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?" [delay.]

This. "Tide life, tide death, I come without

W. "Thus have I, wall, my part discharged so;

"And, being done, thus wall away doth go."

[*Exeunt Wall, Pyramus, and Thisbe.*]

The. Now is the mural down between the two neighbours.

Dem. No remedy, my lord, when walls are so wifful to hear without warning.

Hip. This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.

T. The best in this kind are but shadows: and the worst are no worse, if imagination amend them.

Hip. It must be your imagination then, and not theirs.

The. If we imagine no worse of them, than they of themselves, they may pass for excellent men. Here come two noble beasts in, a moon and a lion.

[*Enter Lion and Moonshine.*]

Lion. "You, ladies, you, whose gentle hearts do fear

"The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,

"May now, perchance, both quake and tremble here,

"When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.

"Then know, that I, one Snug the joiner, am

"A lion fell, nor else no lion's dam:

"For if I should as lion come in strife

"Into this place, 'twere pity on my life."

T. A very gentle beast and of a good conscience.

Dem. The very best at a beast, my lord, that e'er I saw.

Lys. This lion is a very fox for his valour.

The. True; and a goose for his discretion.

Dem. Not so, my lord: for his valour cannot carry his discretion; and the fox carries the goose.

The. His discretion, I am sure, cannot carry his valour; for the goose carries not the fox. It is well: leave it to his discretion, and let us listen to the moon.

Moon. "This lantern doth the horned moon present:—"

D. He should have worn the horns on his head.

The. He is no crescent, and his horns are invisible within the circumference. [present;]

Moon. "This lantern doth the horned moon

"Myself the man i' the moon do seem to be."

The. This is the greatest error of all the rest: the man should be put into the lantern: How is it else the man i' the moon?

Dem. He dares not come there for the candle: for, you see, it is already in snuff.

Hip. I am a-weary of this moon: Would, he would change!

The. It appears, by his small light of discretion, that he is in the wane: but yet, in courtesy, in all reason, we must stay the time.

Lys. Proceed, moon.

Moon. All that I have to say, is, to tell you, that the lantern is the moon; I, the man in the

moon; this thorn-bush, my thorn-bush; and this dog, my dog.

Dem. Why, all these should be in the lantern; for they are in the moon. But, silence; here comes Thisbe.

[*Enter Thisbe.*]

This. "This is old Ninny's tomb: Where is
Lion. "Oh.—" [my love?"]

[*The Lion roars.—Thisbe runs off.*]

Dem. Well roared, lion.

The. Well run, Thisbe.

Hip. Well shone, moon.—Truly, the moon shines with a good grace.

The. Well moused, lion.

[*The Lion tears Thisbe's mantle, and exit.*]

Dem. And so comes Pyramus.

Lys. And so the lion vanish'd.

[*Enter Pyramus.*]

Pyr. "Sweet moon, I thank thee for thy sunny
beans;

"I thank thee, moon, for shining now so bright;

"For, by thy gracious, golden, glittering streams,

"I trust to taste of truest Thisby's sight.

"But stay;—O spite!

"But mark;—Poor knight,

"What dreadful dole is here?

"Eyes, do you see?

"How can it be?

"O dainty duck! O dear!

"Thy mantle good,

"What, stain'd with blood?

"Approach, ye furies fell!

"O fates! come, come,

"Cut thread and thrum;—

"Quail, crush, conclude, and quell!"

The. This passion, and the death of a dear friend, would go near to make a man look sad.

Hip. Beshrew my heart, but I pity the man.

Pyr. "O, wherefore, nature, didst thou lions
frame?

"Since lion vile hath here deflour'd my dear:

"Which is—no, no—which was the fairest dame,

"That liv'd, that lov'd, that lik'd, that look'd
with cheer."

"Come, tears, confound;

"Out, sword, and wound

"The pap of Pyramus:

"Ay, that left pap,

"Where heart doth hop:

"Thus die I, thus, thus, thus.

"Now am I dead,

"Now am I fled;

"My soul is in the sky:

"Tongue, loose thy light!

"Moon, take thy flight!

"Now die, die, die, die, die."

[*Dies.—Exit Moonshine.*]

D. No die, but an ace, for him; for he is but one.

Lys. Less than an ace, man; for he is dead; he is nothing.

The. With the help of a surgeon, he might yet recover, and prove an ass.

Hip. How chance moonshine is gone, before Thisbe comes back and finds her lover?

The. She will find him by star-light.—Here she comes; and her passion ends the play.

Enter Thisbe.

Hip. Methinks, she should not use a long one, for such a Pyramus: I hope she will be brief.

Dem. A mote will turn the balance, which Pyramus, which Thisbe is the better.

Lys. She hath spied him already with those sweet eyes.

Dem. And thus she moans, *videlicet*.—

This. "Asleep, my love?

"What, dead, my dove?"

"O, Pyramus, arise,

"Speak, speak. Quite dumb?

"Dead, dead. A tomb

"Must cover thy sweet eyes.

"These lily brows,

"This cherry nose,

"These yellow cowslip cheeks,

"Are gone, are gone:

"Lovers, make moan!

"His eyes were green as leeks.

"O sisters three,

"Come, come, to me,

"With hands as pale as milk;

"Lay them in gore,

"Since you have shore

"With shears his thread of silk.

"Tongue, not a word:—

"Come, trusty sword;

"Come, blade, my breast imbrue:

"And farewell, friends:—

"Thus Thisbe ends:

"Adieu, adieu, adieu." *[Dies.]*

T. Moonshine and lion are left to bury the dead.

Dem. Ay, and wall too.

Bot. No, I assure you; the wall is down that parted their fathers. Will it please you to see the epilogue, or to hear a Bergomask dance, between two of our company?

The. No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse. Never excuse; for when the players are all dead, there need none to be blamed. Marry, if he that writ it, had play'd Pyramus and hanged himself in Thisbe's garter, it would have been a fine tragedy: and so it is, truly; and very notably discharged. But come, your Bergomask: let your epilogue alone.

[Here a dance of Clowns.]

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelve:—

Lovers, to bed; 'tis almost fairy time.

I fear we shall outsleep the coming morn,

As much as we this night have overwatch'd.

This palpable gross play hath well beguild

The heavy gait of night.—Sweet friends, to bed.—

A fortnight hold we this solemnity,

In nightly revels, and new jolity. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.

Enter Puck.

Puck. Now the hungry lion roars,

And the wolf howls the moon;

Whilst the heavy ploughman snores,

All with weary task fordone.¹

Now the wasted brands do glow,

Whilst the scritch-owl, scritch loud,

¹ Overcome.

Puts the wretch, that lies in woe,

In remembrance of a shroud.

Now it is the time of night,

That the graves, all gaping wide,

Every one lets forth his sprite,

In the church-way paths to glide:

And we fairies that do run

By the triple Hecat's team,

From the presence of the sun,

Following darkness like a dream,

Now are frolick; not a mouse

Shall disturb this hallow'd house:

I am sent, with broom, before,

To sweep the dust behind the door.

Enter Oberon and Titania, with their Train.

Ob. Through this house give glimmering light,

By the dead and drowsy fire:

Every elf, and fairy sprite,

Hop as light as bird from brier;

And his ditty, after me,

Sing, and dance it trippingly.

Tita. First, rehearse this song by rote:

To each word a warbling note,

Hand in hand, with fairy grace,

Will we sing, and bless this place.

SONG, AND DANCE.

Ob. Now, until the break of day,

Through this house each fairy stray.

To the best bride-bed will we,

Which by us shall blessed be;

So shall all the couples three

Ever true in loving be;

And the blots of nature's hand

Shall not in their issue stand;

Never mole, hare-lip, nor scar,

Nor mark prodigious,¹ such as are

Despised in nativity,

Shall upon their children be.—

With this field-dew consecrate,

Every fairy take his gait²;

And each several chamber bless,

Through this palace with sweet peace:

E'er shall it in safety rest,

And the owner of it blest.

Trip away;

Make no stay;

Meet me all by break of day.

[Exeunt Oberon, Titania, and Train.]

Puck. If we shadows have offended,

Think but this, (and all is mended,)

That you have but slumber'd here,

While these visions did appear,

And this weak and idle theme,

No more yielding but a dream,

Gentles, do not reprehend;

If you pardon, we will mend.

And, as I am honest Puck,

If we have unearned luck

Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,

We will make amends, ere long:

Else the Puck a liar call.

So, good night unto you all.

Give me your hands, if we be friends,

And Robin shall restore amends. *[Exit.]*

Love's Labour's Lost.

Persons Represented.

FERDINAND, *King of Navarre.*

BIRON,
LONGAVILLE, } *Lords attending on the King.*
DUMAIN, }

BOYET, } *Lords attending on the Princess*
MERCADÉ, } *of France.*

DON ADRIANO DE ARMADO, *a fantastical Spaniard.*

SIR NATHANIEL, *a Curate.*

HOLOFERNES, *a Schoolmaster.*

DULL, *a Constable.*

COSTARD, *a Clown.*

MOTH, *Page to Armado.*
A Forester.

PRINCESS OF FRANCE.

ROSALINE, } *Ladies attending on the*
MARIA, } *Princess.*

KATHARINE, }
JAQUENETTA, *a Country Girl.*

Officers and Others, attendants on the King and Princess.

SCENE.—*Navarre.*

Act First.

SCENE I.

NAVARRÉ. A PARK, WITH A PALACE IN IT.

Enter the King, Biron, Longaville, & Dumain.

King. Let fame, that all hunt after in their lives,
Live register'd upon our brazen tombs, [lives,
And then grace us in the disgrace of death;
When, spite of cormorant devouring time,
The endeavour of this present breath may buy
That honour, which shall bate his scythe's keen
And make us heirs of all eternity. [ledge,
Therefore, brave conquerors:—for so you are,

That war against your own affections,
And the huge army of the world's desires,—
Our late edict shall strongly stand in force;
Navarre shall be the wonder of the world;
Our court shall be a little academe,
Still and contemplative in living art.

You three, Biron, Dumain, and Longaville,
Have sworn for three years' term to live with me,
My fellow-scholars, and to keep those statutes,
That are recorded in this schedule here:
Your oaths are past, and now subscribe your
names;

That his own hand may strike his honour down,
That violates the smallest branch herein:
If you are arm'd to do, as sworn to do,
Subscribe to your deep oath, and keep it too.

Lon. I am resolv'd: 'tis but a three years' fast;
The mind shall banquet, though the body pine:
Fat paunches have lean pates; and dainty bits
Make rich the ribs, but bank'rout quite the wits.

Dum. My loving lord, Dumain is mortified;
The grosser manner of these world's delights
He throws upon the gross world's baser slaves:
To love, to wealth, to pomp, I pine and die;
With all these living in philosophy.

Biron. I can but say their protestation over,
So much, dear liege, I have already sworn,
That is, to live and study here three years.
But there are other strict observances:

As, not to see a woman in that term;
Which, I hope well, is not enrolled there:
And, one day in a week to touch no food;
And but one meal on every day beside;
The which, I hope, is not enrolled there:
And then to sleep but three hours in the night,
And not be seen to wink of all the day;
(When I was wont to think no harm all night,
And make a dark night too of half the day);
Which, I hope well, is not enrolled there:
O, these are barren tasks, too hard to keep;
Not to see ladies, study, fast, not sleep.

K. Your oath is pass'd to pass away from these.
B. Let me say no, my liege, an if you please?

I only swore, to study with your grace,
And stay here in your court for three years' space.

Long. You swore to that, Biron, and to the rest.

B. By yea and nay, sir, then I swore in jest.—
What is the end of study? let me know.

King. Why, that to know, which else we
should not know.

Biron. Things hid and barr'd, you mean,
from common sense?

King. Ay, that is study's god-like recompense.

Biron. Come on then, I will swear to study so.
To know the thing I am forbid to know:

As thus—To study where I well may dine,
When I to feast expressly am forbid;

Or, study where to meet some mistress fine,
When mistresses from common sense are hid:

Or, having sworn too hard-a-keeping oath,
Study to break it, and not break my troth.

If study's gain be thus, and this be so,
Study knows that, which yet it doth not know:

Swear me to this, and I will ne'er say, no.

K. These be the stops that hinder study quite,
And train our intellects to vain delight.

Biron. Why, all delights are vain; but that
most vain,

Which, with pain purchas'd, doth inherit pain:
As, painfully to pore upon a book,

To seek the light of truth; while truth the while
Doth falsely blind the eyesight of his look:

Light, seeking light, doth light of light beguile:
So, ere you find where light in darkness lies,
Your light grows dark by losing of your eyes.
Study me how to please the eye indeed,

By fixing it upon a fairer eye;
Who dazzling so, that eye shall be his heed,
And give him light that was it blinded by.
Study is like the heaven's glorious sun,
That will not be deep-search'd with saucy
looks;

Small have continual plodders ever won,
Save base authority from others' books.
These earthly godfathers of heaven's lights,
That give a name to every fixed star,
Have no more profit of their shining nights,
Than those that walk, and wot not what they
are.

Too much to know, is, to know nought but fame;
And every godfather can give a name.

King. How well he's read, to reason against
reading! [ceeding!]

Dum. Proceeded well, to stop all good pro-
Long. He weeds the corn, and still let's grow
the weeding.

Biron. The spring is near, when green geese
are a-breeding.

Dum. How follows that?

Biron. Fit in his place and time.

Dum. In reason nothing.

Biron. Something then in rhyme.

Long. Biron is like an envious sneaping¹ frost,
That bites the first-born infants of the spring.

Biron. Well, say I am; why should proud
summer boast,

Before the birds have any cause to sing?

Why should I joy in an abortive birth?

At Christmas I no more desire a rose

Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows;

But like of each thing, that in season grows.

So you, to study now it is too late.

Climb o'er the house t' unlock the little gate.

K. Well, sit you out: go home, Biron; adieu!

Biron. No, my good lord; I have sworn to
stay with you:

And, though I have for barbarism spoke more,

Than for that angel knowledge you can say,

Yet confident I'll keep what I have sworn,

And bide the penance of each three years' day.

Give me the paper, let me read the same;

And to the strict'st decrees I'll write my name.

King. How well this yielding rescues thee
from shame!

Biron. [Reads.] Item, That no woman shall
come within a mile of my court.—

And hath this been proclaim'd?

Long. Four days ago.

Biron. Let's see the penalty.

[Reads.]—On pain of losing her tongue.—

Who devis'd this?

Long. Marry, that did I.

Biron. Sweet lord, and why? [penalty.]

Long. To fright them hence with that that dread
Biron. A dangerous law against gentility.

[Reads.] Item, If any man be seen to talk
with a woman within the term of three years, he
shall endure such publick shame as the rest of
the court can possibly devise.—

1 Nipping.

This article, my liege, yourself must break;

For, well you know, here comes in embassy
The French king's daughter, with yourself to
speak,—

A maid of grace, and complete majesty,—
About surrender-up of Aquitain

To her decrepit, sick, and bed-rid father:

Therefore this article is made in vain,

Or vainly comes the admired princess hither.

King. What say you, lords? why, this was
quite forgot.

Biron. So study evermore is overshot;

While it doth study to have what it would,

It doth forget to do the thing it should:

And when it hath the thing it hunteth most,

'Tis won, as towns with fire; so won, so lost.

King. We must, of force, dispense with this
She must be here on mere necessity. [decree;]

Biron. Necessity will make us all forsworn,
Three thousand times within this three years'
space;

For every man with his affects is born;

Not by might mastered, but by special grace:

If I break faith, this word shall speak for me,

I am forsworn on mere necessity.—

So to the laws at large I write my name:

[Subscribes.]

And he, that breaks them in the least degree,
Stands in attainder of perpetual shame:

Suggestions¹ are to others, as to me;

But, I believe, although I seem so loth,

I am the last that will last keep his oath.

But is there no quick recreation granted?

King. Ay, that there is: our court, you know,

With a refined traveller of Spain; [is haunted]

A man in all the world's new fashion planted,

That hath a mint of phrases in his brain:

One, whom the musick of his own vain tongue

Doth ravish, like enchanting harmony;

A man of compliments, whom right and wrong

Have chose as umpire of their mutiny:

This child of fancy, that Armado hight,²

For interim to our studies, shall relate,

In high-born words, the worth of many a knight

From tawny Spain, lost in the world's debate.

How you delight, my lords, I know not, I;

But, I protest, I love to hear him lie,

And I will use him for my minstrelsy.

Biron. Armado is a most illustrious wight,

A man of fire-new words, fashion's own knight.

Long. Costard the swain, and he, shall be our
sport;

And, so to study, three years is but short.

Enter Dull, with a letter, and Costard.

Dull. Which is the duke's own person?

Biron. This, fellow: What would'st?

Dull. I myself reprehend his own person, for
I am his grace's tharborough³; but I would see
his own person in flesh and blood.

Biron. This is he.

Dull. Signior Arme—Arme—commends you.
There's villany abroad; this letter will tell you
more.

Cost. Sir, the contempts thereof are as touch-
ing me.

King. A letter from the magnificent Armado.

1 Temptations.

2 Called.

3 Constable.

Biron. How low soever the matter I hope for high words.

Long. A high hope for a low heaven: Heaven grant us patience!

Biron. To hear? or forbear hearing?

Long. To hear meekly, sir, and to laugh moderately; or to forbear both.

Biron. Well, sir, be it as the style shall give us cause to climb in the merriness.

Cost. The matter is to me, sir, as concerning Jaquenetta. In manner and form following, I was seen with her in the manor house, sitting with her upon the form, and taken following her into the park; which, put together, is, in manner and form following.

King. Will you hear this letter with attention?

Biron. As we would hear an oracle.

Cost. Such is the simplicity of man to hearken after the flesh.

King. [*Reads.*] Great Deputy, the welkin's vicegerent, and sole dominator of Navarre, my body's fostering patron,—

Cost. Not a word of Costard yet.

King. So it is,—

Cost. It may be so: but if he say it is so, he is, in telling true, but so, so.

King. Peace!

Cost.—be to me, and every man that dares not fight!

King. No words.

Cost.—of other men's secrets, I beseech you.

King. So it is, besieged with sable coloured melancholy, I did commend the black oppressing humour to the most wholesome physick of thy health-giving air; and, as I am a gentleman, betook myself to walk. The time when? About the sixth hour; when beasts most graze, birds best peck, and men sit down to that nourishment which is called supper. So much for the time when: Now for the ground which; which I mean, I walked upon: it is cyleped thy park. Then for the place where; where, I mean, I did encounter that most preposterous event, that draweth from my snow-white pen the eben-coloured ink, which here thou viewest, beholdest, surveyest, or seest: But to the place, where,—It standeth north-north-east and by east from the west corner of thy curious-knotted garden: There did I see that low-spirited swain, that base minnow of thy mirth.

Cost. Me.

King.—that unletter'd small-knowing soul.

Cost. Me.

King.—that shallow vassal.

Cost. Still me.

King.—which, as I remember, hight Costard,

Cost. O me!

King.—sorted and consorted, contrary to thy established proclaimed edict and canon, with—
with,—O with—a child of our grandmother Eve, a female, or, for thy more sweet understanding, a woman. Him I (as my ever esteemed duty pricks me on) have sent to thee, to receive the need of punishment, by thy sweet grace's officer, Antony Dull; a man of good repute, carriage, bearing, and estimation.

Dull. Me, an't shall please you; I am Antony Dull.

King. For Jaquenetta, (so is the weaker vessel called, which I apprehend with the aforesaid), I keep her as a vessel of thy law's fury; and shall, at the least of thy sweet notice, bring her to trial. Thine, in all compliments of devoted and heart-burning heat of duty.

DON ADRIANO DE ARMADO.

Biron. This is the best that ever I heard.

King. Ay, the best for the worst. But, sirrah, what say you to this? Did you hear the proclamation?

Cost. I do confess much of the hearing it, but little of the marking of it.

King. Sir, I will pronounce your sentence; You shall fast a week with bran and water.

Cost. I had rather pray a month with mutton and porridge.

King. And Don Armado shall be your keeper.—My lord Biron, see him deliver'd o'er.—

And go we, lords, to put in practice that Which each to other hath so strongly sworn.—

[*Exeunt King, Longaville, and Dumain.*]

Biron. I'll lay my head to any good man's hat, These oaths and laws will prove an idle scorn.—Sirrah, come on.

Cost. I suffer for the truth, sir; for true it is. Jaquenetta is a true girl; and therefore, Wel-come the sour cup of prosperity: Affliction may one day smile again, and till then, sit thee down, sorrow!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—ARMADO'S HOUSE.

Enter Armado and Moth.

Arm. Boy, what sign is it when a man of great spirit grows melancholy?

Moth. A great sign, sir, that he will look sad.

Arm. Why, sadness is one and the self-same thing, dear imp.

Moth. No, no, sir, no.

Arm. How canst thou part sadness and melancholy, my tender juvenal?¹

Moth. By a familiar demonstration of the working, my tough senior.

Arm. Why tough senior? why tough senior?

M. Why tender juvenal? why tender juvenal?

Arm. I spoke it, tender juvenal, as a congruent epitheton, appertaining to thy young days, which we may nominate tender.

Moth. And I, tough senior, as an appertinent title to your old time, which we may name tough.

Arm. Pretty and apt.

Moth. How mean you, sir? I pretty, and my saying apt? or, I apt, and my saying pretty?

Arm. Thou pretty because little.

Moth. Little pretty, because little: Wherefore apt?

Arm. And therefore apt, because quick.

Moth. Speak you this in my praise, master?

Arm. In thy condign praise.

Moth. I will praise an eel with the same praise.

Arm. What? that an eel is ingenious?

Moth. That an eel is quick.

Arm. I do say, thou art quick in answers: Thou heatest my blood.

Moth. I am answered, sir.

1 Juvenile.

Arm. I love not to be crossed.

Moth. He speaks the mere contrary, crosses love not him. [Aside.]

Arm. I have promised to study three years with the duke.

Moth. You may do it in an hour, sir.

Arm. Impossible.

Moth. How many is one thrice told?

Arm. I am ill at reckoning, it fitteth the spirit of a tapster.

M. You are a gentleman, and a gamester, sir.

Arm. I confess both; they are both the varnish of a complete man.

Moth. Then, I am sure you know how much the gross sum of deuce-ace amounts to.

Arm. It doth amount to one more than two.

Moth. Which the base vulgar do call three.

Arm. True.

Moth. Why, sir, is this such a piece of study? Now here is three studied, ere you'll thrice wink: and how easy it is to put years to the word three, and study three years in two words, the dancing horse will tell you.

Arm. A most fine figure!

Moth. To prove you a cipher. [Aside.]

Arm. I will hereupon confess, I am in love: and, as it is base for a soldier to love, so am I in love with a base wench. If drawing my sword against the humour of affection would deliver me from the reprobate thought of it, I would take desire prisoner, and ransom him to any French courtier for a new devised courtesy. I think scorn to sigh; methinks, I should outswear Cupid. Comfort me, boy: What great men have been in love?

Moth. Hercules, master.

Arm. Most sweet Hercules!—More authority, dear boy, name more; and, sweet my child, let them be men of good repute and carriage.

Moth. Samson, master: he was a man of good carriage, great carriage! for he carried the town-gates on his back, like a porter: and he was in love.

Arm. O well knit Samson! strong jointed Samson! I do excel thee in my rapier, as much as thou didst me in carrying gates. I am in love too.—Who was Samson's love, my dear Moth?

Moth. A woman, master.

Arm. Of what complexion?

Moth. Of all the four, or the three, or the two; or one of the four.

Arm. Tell me precisely of what complexion?

Moth. Of the sea-water green, sir.

Arm. Is that one of the four complexions?

Moth. As I have read, sir; and the best of them too.

Arm. Green, indeed, is the colour of lovers: but to have a love of that colour, methinks, Samson had small reason for it. He, surely, affected her for her wit.

Moth. It was so, sir; for she had a green wit.

Arm. My love is most immaculate white and red.

Moth. Most maculate thoughts, master, are masked under such colours.

Arm. Define, define, well-educated infant.

M. My father's wit, and my mother's tongue assist me!

Arm. Sweet invocation of a child; most pretty, and pathetic!

Moth. If she be made of white and red,

Her faults will ne'er be known;

For blushing cheeks by faults are bred,

And fears by pale white shown:

Then, if she fear, or be to blame,

By this you shall not know;

For still her cheeks possess the same,

Which native she doth owe.¹

A dangerous rhyme, master, against the reason of white and red.

Arm. Is there not a ballad, boy, of the King and the Beggar?

Moth. The world was very guilty of such a ballad some three ages since; but, I think, now 'tis not to be found; or, if it were, it would neither serve for the writing nor the tune.

Arm. I will have the subject newly writ o'er, that I may example my digression by some mighty precedent. Boy, I do love that country girl, that I took in the park with the rational hind, Costard; she deserves well.

Moth. To be whipped; and yet a better love than my master. [Aside.]

Arm. Sing, boy; my spirit grows heavy in love.

Moth. And that's great marvel, loving a light woman.

Arm. I say sing.

Moth. Forbear till this company be past.

Enter Dull, Costard, and Jaquenetta.

Dull. Sir, the duke's pleasure is, that you keep Costard safe: and you must let him take no delight, nor no penance; but a' must fast three days a-week: For this damsel, I must keep her at the park; she is allowed for the day-woman.² Fare you well.

A. I do betray myself with blushing.—Maid, Jaq. Man.

Arm. I will visit thee at the lodge.

Jaq. That's here-by.

Arm. I know where it is situate.

Jaq. How wise you are!

Arm. I will tell thee wonders.

Jaq. With that face?

Arm. I love thee.

Jaq. So I heard you say.

Arm. And so farewell.

Jaq. Fair weather after you!

Dull. Come, Jaquenetta, away.

[Exit Dull and Jaquenetta.]

Arm. Villain, thou shalt fast for thy offences, ere thou be pardoned.

Cost. Well, sir, I hope, when I do it, I shall do it on a full stomach.

Arm. Thou shalt be heavily punished.

Cost. I am more bound to you, than your fellows, for they are but lightly rewarded.

Arm. Take away this villain; shut him up.

Moth. Come, you transgressing slave; away.

Cost. Let me not be pent up, sir, I will fast, being loose.

Moth. No, sir, that were fast and loose: thou shalt to prison.

Cost. Well, if ever I do see the merry days of desolation that I have seen, some shall see—

Moth. What shall some see?

Cost. Nay, nothing, master *Moth*, but what they look upon. It is not for prisoners to be too silent in their words; and, therefore, I will say nothing; I have as little patience as another man; and therefore I can be quiet.

[*Exeunt Moth and Costard.*]

Arm. I do affect¹ the very ground, which is base, where her shoe, which is baser, guided by her foot, which is basest, doth tread. I shall be forsworn (which is a great argument of falsehood), if I love: And how can that be true love, which is falsely attempted? Cupid's butt-shaft² is too hard for Hercules' club, and therefore too much odds for a Spaniard's rapier. The first and second cause will not serve my turn; the passado³ he respects not, the duello he regards not: his disgrace is to be called boy; but his glory is to subdue men. Adieu, valour! rust, rapier! be still drum! for your manager is in love; yea, he loveth. Assist me, some extemporal god of rhyme, for, I am sure, I shall turn sonneteer. Devise, wit; write, pen; for I am for whole volumes in folio. [Exit.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

A PAVILION, AND TENTS AT A DISTANCE.

Enter the Princess of France, Rosaline, Maria, Katherine, Boyet, Lords, and other Attendants.

Boyet. Now, madam, summon up your dearest spirits:

Consider who the king your father sends;
To whom he sends; and what's his embassy:
Yourself, held precious in the world's esteem;
To parley with the sole inheritor
Of all perfections that a man may owe,
Matchless Navarre; the plea of no less weight
Than Aquitain; a dowry for a queen.
Be now as prodigal of all dear grace,
As nature was in making graces dear,
When she did starve the general world beside,
And prodigally gave them all to you.

Prin. Good lord Boyet, my beauty, though but mean,

Needs not the painted flourish of your praise;
Beauty is bought by judgment of the eye,
Not utter'd by base sale of chapmen's tongues:
I am less proud to hear you tell my worth,
Than you much willing to be counted wise
In spending your wit in the praise of mine.
But now to task the tasker.—Good Boyet,
You are not ignorant, all-telling fame
Doth noise abroad Navarre hath made a vow,
Till painful study shall out-wear three years,
No woman may approach his silent court:
Therefore to us seemeth it a needful course,
Before we enter his forbidden gates,
To know his pleasure; and, in that behalf,
Bold of your worthiness, we single you
As our best-moving fair solicitor:
Tell him, the daughter of the king of France,

1 Love. 2 Arrow to shoot at butts with. 3 Thrust.

On serious business, craving quick despatch,
Impertunes personal conference with his grace.
Haste, signify so much; while we attend,
Like humbly-visaged suitors, his high will.

Boyet. Proud of employment, willingly I go. [Exit.]

P. All pride is willing pride, and yours is so.—
Who are the votaries, my loving lords,
That are vow-fellows with this virtuous duke?

1 *Lord.* Longaville is one.

Prin. Know you the man?

Mar. I know him, madam; at a marriage feast,
Between lord Perigot and the beauteous heir
Of Jaques Falconbridge solemnized,
In Normandy saw I this Longaville:
A man of sovereign parts he is esteem'd;
Well fitted in the arts, glorious in arms:
Nothing becomes him ill, that he would well.
The only soil of his fair virtue's gloss,
(If virtue's gloss will stain with any soil.)
Is a sharp wit match'd with too blunt a will;
Whose edge hath power to cut, whose will still
wills

It should none spare that come within his power.

P. Some merry mocking lord, belike; is't so?

Mar. They say so most, that most his humours
know.

Prin. Such short-liv'd wits do wither as they
Who are the rest? [grow.]

Kath. The young Dumain, a well-accomplish'd
youth,

Of all that virtue love for virtue lov'd:
Most power to do most harm, least knowing ill;
For he hath wit to make an ill shape good,
And shape to win grace though he hath no wit.
I saw him at the duke Alençon's once;
And much too little of that good I saw,
Is my report, to his great worthiness.

Ros. Another of these students at that time
Was there with him: If I have heard a truth,
Biron they call him; but a merrier man,
Within the limit of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withal:
His eye begets occasion for his wit;
For every object that the one doth catch,
The other turns to a mirth-moving jest;
Which his fair tongue (conceit's expositor)
Delivers in such apt and gracious words,
That aged ears play truant at his tales,
And younger hearings are quite ravished;
So sweet and voluble is his discourse.

P. Heaven bless my ladies! are they all in love;
That every one her own hath garnished
With such bedecking ornaments of praise;

Mar. Here comes Boyet.

Re-enter Boyet.

Prin. Now, what admittance, lord?

Boy. Navarre had notice of your fair approach;
And he, and his competitors¹ in oath,
Were all address'd² to meet you, gentle lady,
Before I came. Marry, thus much I have learnt,
He rather means to lodge you in the field,
(Like one that comes here to besiege his court,)
Than seek a dispensation for his oath,
To let you enter his unpeopled house.
Here comes Navarre. [The Ladies mask.]

1 Confederates.

2 Prepared.

Enter King, Longaville, Dumain, Biron, and Attendants.

King. Fair princess, welcome to the court of Navarre.

Prin. Fair, I give you back again; and, welcome I have not yet: the roof of this court is too high to be yours; and welcome to the wild fields too base to be mine.

K. You shall be welcome, madam, to my court.

P. I will be welcome, then; conduct me thither.

K. Hear me, dear lady; I have sworn an oath.

P. Our lady help my lord! he'll be forsworn.

King. Not for the world, fair madam, by my will.

Prin. Why, will shall break it; will, and nothing else.

King. Your ladyship is ignorant what it is.

P. Were my lord so, his ignorance were wise, Where now his knowledge must prove ignorance. I hear, your grace hath sworn-out house-keeping: 'Tis deadly sin to keep that oath, my lord, And sin to break it:

But pardon me, I am too sudden-bold;

To teach a teacher ill beseemeth me.

Vouchsafe to read the purpose of my coming, And suddenly resolve me in my suit.

[*Gives a paper.*]

King. Madam, I will, if suddenly I may.

Prin. You will the sooner, that I were away; For you'll prove perjur'd, if you make me stay.

Biron. Did not I dance with you in Brabant once?

Ros. Did not I dance with you in Brabant once?

Biron. I know you did.

Ros. How needless was it then To ask the question!

Biron. You must not be so quick.

Ros. 'Tis 'long of you that spur me with such questions.

Biron. Your wit's too hot, it speeds too fast, 'twill tire.

Ros. Not till it leave the rider in the mire.

Biron. What time o' day?

Ros. The hour that fools shall ask.

Biron. Now fair befall your mask!

Ros. Fair fall the face it covers!

Biron. And send you many lovers!

Ros. Amen, so you be none.

Biron. Nay, then will I be gone.

King. Madam, your father here doth intimate The payment of a hundred thousand crowns; Being but the one half of an entire sum, Disburs'd by my father in his wars.

But say, that he, or we (as neither have), Receiv'd that sum; yet there remains unpaid A hundred thousand more; in surety of the which,

One part of Aquitaine is bound to us, Although not valued to the money's worth. If then the king your father will restore But that one half which is unsatisfied, We will give up our right in Aquitaine, And hold fair friendship with his majesty. But that, it seems, he little purposeth, For here he doth demand to have repaid An hundred thousand crowns; and not demands, On payment of a hundred thousand crowns, To have his title live in Aquitaine;

Which we much rather had depart¹ withal, And have the money by our father lent, Than Aquitaine divided as it is.

Dear princess, were not his requests so far From reason's yielding, your fair self should make A yielding, 'gainst some reason, in my breast, And go well satisfied to France again.

P. You do the king my father too much wrong, And wrong the reputation of your name, In so unseemingly to confess receipt Of that which hath so faithfully been paid.

King. I do protest, I never heard of it;

And, if you prove it, I'll repay it back, Or yield up Aquitaine.

Prin. We arrest your word:— Boyet, you can produce acquittances, For such a sum, from special officers Of Charles his father.

King. Satisfy me so. [*come,* Boyet. So please your grace, the packet is not Where that and other specialities are bound; To-morrow you shall have a sight of them.

King. It shall suffice me: at which interview, All liberal reason I will yield unto. Mean time, receive such welcome at my hand, As honour, without breach of honour, may Make tender of to thy true worthiness:

You may not come, fair princess, in my gates; But here without, you shall be so receiv'd, As you shall deem yourself lodg'd in my heart, Though so denied fair harbour in my house. Your own good thoughts excuse me, and farewell:

To-morrow shall we visit you again. [*grace!* *P.* Sweet health and fair desires consort your *King.* Thy own wish wish I thee in every place! [*Exeunt King and his Train.*]

Biron. Lady, I will commend you to my own heart. *Ros.* 'Pray you, do my commendations; I would be glad to see it.

Biron. I would, you heard it groan.

Ros. Is the fool sick?

Biron. Sick at heart.

Ros. Alack, let it blood.

Biron. Would that do it good?

Ros. My physick says, I.²

Biron. Will you prick¹ with your eye?

Ros. No poyn³, with my knife.

Biron. Now, heaven save thy life!

Ros. And yours from long living!

Biron. I cannot stay thanksgiving. [*Retiring.*]

Dum. Sir, I pray you, a word: What lady is that same?

Boyet. The heir of Alençon, Rosaline her name. *Dum.* A gallant lady! Monsieur, fare you well. [*Exit.*]

Long. I beseech you a word: What is she in the white?

Boyet. A woman sometimes, an you saw her in the light.

Long. Pray you, sir, whose daughter?

Boyet. Her mother's, I have heard.

Long. Heaven's blessing on your beard!

Boyet. Good, sir, be not offended:

She is an heir of Falconbridge.

¹ Part with. ² Says ay.
³ A French particle of negation.

Long. Nay, my choler is ended.

She is a most sweet lady.

Boyet. Not unlike, sir; that may be.

[*Exit Long.*]

Biron. What's her name in the cap?

Boyet. Katharine, by good hap.

Biron. Is she wedded or no?

Boyet. To her will, sir, or so.

Biron. You are welcome, sir; adieu!

Boyet. Farewell to me, sir, and welcome to you.

[*Exit Biron.—Ladies unmask.*]

Mar. That last is Biron, the merry mad-cap
Not a word with him but a jest. [lord]

Boyet. And every jest but a word.

If my observation, (which very seldom lies,)

By the heart's still rhetorick, disclosed with eyes,
Deceive me not now, Navarre is infected.

Prin. With what?

Boyet. With that which we lovers entitle,

Prin. Your reason? [affected]

Boyet. Why all his behaviours did make their
retire

To the court of his eye, peeping thorough desire:
His heart, like an agate, with your print im-
pressed,

Proud with his form, in his eye pride expressed:
His tongue, all impatient to speak and not see,

Did stumble with haste in his eye sight to be;

All senses to that sense did make their repair,

To feel only looking on fairest of fair:

Methought, all his senses were lock'd in his eye,

As jewels in crystal for some prince to buy;

Who, tending their own worth, from where

they were glass'd,

Did point you to buy them, along as you pass'd.

His face's own margent did quote such amazes,

That all eyes saw his eyes enchanted with gazes:

I'll give you Aquitain, and all that is his,

An you give him for my sake but one loving kiss.

Prin. Come, to our pavilion: Boyet is dis-
pos'd—

Boy. But to speak that in words, which his eye
hath disclos'd:

I only have made a mouth of his eye,
By adding a tongue which I know will not lie.

Ros. Thou art an old love-monger, and
speak'st skilfully. [of him.]

M. He is Cupid's grandfather, and learns news

Ros. Then was Venus like her mother; for
her father is but grim.

Boyet. Do you hear, my mad girls?

Mar. No.

Boyet. What then, do you see?

Ros. Ay, our way to be gone.

Boyet. You are too hard for me. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE PARK, NEAR THE PALACE.

Enter Armado and Moth.

Arm. Warble, child; make passionate my
sense of hearing.

Moth. Concolinel — [Singing.]

Arm. Sweet air!—Go, tenderness of years;
take this key, give enlargement to the swain,

bring him festinately¹ hither; I must employ
him in a letter to my love.

Moth. Master, will you win your love with a
French brawl?²

Arm. How mean'st thou? brawling in French?

Moth. No, my complete master: but to jig
off a tune at the tongue's end, canary³ to it with
your feet, humour it with turning up your eye-
lids; sigh a note, and sing a note; sometime
through the throat, as if you swallowed love
with singing love; sometime through the nose,
as if you snuffed up love by smelling love; with
your hat penthouse-like, o'er the shop of your
eyes; with your arms crossed on your thin
doublet, like a rabbit on a spit; or your hands
in your pocket, like a man after the old painting;
and keep not too long in one tune, but a snip
and away.

A. How hast thou purchased this experience?

Moth. By my penny of observation.

Arm. But O,—but O,—

Moth.—the hobby-horse is forgot.

Arm. Callest thou my love, hobby-horse?

Moth. No, master; the hobby-horse is but a
colt, and your love, perhaps, a hackney. But
have you forgot your love?

Arm. Almost I had.

Moth. Negligent student! learn her by heart.

Arm. By heart, and in heart, boy.

Moth. And out of heart, master: all those
three I will prove.

Arm. What wilt that prove?

Moth. A man, if I live; and this, by, in, and
without, upon the instant: By heart you love
her, because your heart cannot come by her: in
heart you love her, because your heart is in love
with her: and out of heart you love her, being
out of heart that you cannot have her.

Arm. I am all these three.

Moth. And three times as much more, and
yet nothing at all.

Arm. Fetch hither the swain; he must carry
me a letter.

Moth. A message well sympathised; a horse
to be ambassador for an ass!

Arm. Ha, ha! what sayest thou?

Moth. Marry, sir, you must send the ass upon
the horse, for he is very slow-gaited: But I go.

Arm. The way is but short; away.

Moth. As swift as lead, sir.

Arm. Thy meaning, pretty ingenious?

Is not lead a metal, heavy, dull, and slow?

Moth. *Minimé*, honest master; or, rather
master no.

Arm. I say, lead is slow.

Moth. You are too swift, sir, to say so:
Is that lead slow which is fired from a gun?

Arm. Sweet smoke of rhetorick:

He reputes me a cannon; and the bullet, that's
I shoot thee at the swain. [he:]

Moth. Thump then, and I flee. [*Exit.*]

Arm. A most acute juvenal; voluble and free
of grace!

By thy favour, sweet welkin, I must sigh in thy
face:

Most rude melancholy, Valour gives thee place.

My herald is returned.

1 Hastily. 2 A dance. 3 A sprightly dance.

Re-enter Moth and Costard.

Moth. A wonder, master; here's a costard¹ broken in a shin.

Arm. Some enigma, some riddle: come,—thy *l'envoy*; ²—begin.

Cost. No enigma, no riddle, no *l'envoy*; no salve in the mail, sir: O, sir, plantain, a plain plantain; no *l'envoy*, no *l'envoy*, no salve, sir, but a plantain!

Arm. By virtue, thou enforcest laughter; thy silly thought, my spleen; the heaving of my lungs provokes me to ridiculous smiling: O, pardon me, my stars! Doth the inconsiderate take salve for *l'envoy*, and the word, *l'envoy*, for a salve?

Moth. Do the wise think them other? is not *l'envoy* a salve?

Arm. No, page: it is an epilogue or discourse to make plain

Some obscure precedence that hath tofore³ been I will example it: [sain.⁴

The fox, the ape, and the humble-bee,
Were still at odds, being but three.

There's the moral: Now the l'envoy. [again.]

Moth. I will add the *l'envoy*: Say the moral

Arm. The fox, the ape, and the humble-bee,
Were still at odds, being but three:

Moth. Until the goose came out of door,
And stay'd the odds by adding four.

Now will I begin your moral, and do you follow with my *l'envoy*.

The fox, the ape, and the humble-bee,
Were still at odds, being but three:

Arm. Until the goose came out of door,
Staying the odds by adding four.

Moth. A good *l'envoy*, ending in the goose:
Would you desire more?

Cost. The boy hath sold him a bargain, a goose, that's flat:—

Sir, your pennyworth is good, an your goose be fat.— [loose:]

To sell a bargain well is as cunning as fast and Let me see a fat *l'envoy*; ay, that's a fat goose.

Arm. Come hither, come hither: How did this argument begin?

Mo. By saying that a *Costard* was broken in Then call'd you for the *l'envoy*. [a shin.]

Cost. True, and I for a plantain: Thus came your argument in;

Then the boy's fat *l'envoy*, the goose that you And he ended the market. [bought:]

Arm. But tell me; how was there a *Costard* broken in a shin?

Moth. I will tell you sensibly.

Cost. Thou hast no feeling of it, *Moth*; I will speak that *l'envoy*:

I, *Costard*, running out, that was safely within, Fell over the threshold, and broke my shin.

Arm. We will talk no more of this matter.

Cost. Till there be more matter in the shin.

Arm. Sirrah *Costard*, I will enfranchise thee.

Cost. O, marry me to one *Frances*:—I smell some *l'envoy*, some goose, in this.

Arm. I mean, setting thee at liberty, enfranchising thy person; thou wert immured, restrained, captivated, bound.

C. True, true; and now you will let me loose.

1 A head. 2 A French term for concluding verses.

3 Before. 4 Said.

Arm. I give thee thy liberty, set thee from durance; and, in lieu thereof, impose on thee nothing but this: Bear this significant to the country maid *Jaquenetta*: there is remuneration; [Giving him money.] for the best ward of mine honour, is rewarding my dependents. *Moth*, follow. [Exit.]

Moth. Like the sequel, I.—Signior *Costard*, adieu. [Exit *Moth*.]

Cost. Now will I look to his remuneration. Remuneration! O, that's the Latin word for three farthings: three farthings—remuneration.—What's the price of this inkle¹? a penny!—No, I'll give you a remuneration: why, it carries it.—Remuneration!

Enter Biron.

Biron. O, my good knave *Costard*! exceedingly well met.

Cost. Pray you, sir, how much carnation ribbon may a man buy for a remuneration?

Biron. What is the remuneration?

Cost. Marry, sir, half-penny farthing.

Biron. O, why then, three-farthings-worth of silk.

Cost. I thank your worship: Heaven be with you!

Biron. O, stay, slave; I must employ thee: As thou wilt win my favour, good my knave, Do one thing for me that I shall entreat.

Cost. When would you have it done, sir?

Biron. O, this afternoon.

Cost. Well, I will do it, sir: Fare you well.

Biron. O, thou knowest not what it is.

Cost. I shall know, sir, when I have done it.

Biron. Why, villain, thou must know first.

Cost. I will come to your worship to-morrow morning.

Biron. It must be done this afternoon. Hark, slave, it is but this;—

The princess comes to hunt here in the park, And in her train there is a gentle lady;

When tongues speak sweetly, then they name her name,

And *Rosaline* they call her: ask for her;

And to her white hand see thou do commend

This seal'd up counsel. There's thy *guerdon*²; go. [Gives him money.]

Cost. *Guerdon*,—O sweet *guerdon*! better than remuneration; eleven-pence farthing better;

Most sweet *guerdon*!—I will do it, sir, in print.³ —*Guerdon*—remuneration. [Exit.]

Biron. O!—And I, forsooth, in love! I, that have been love's whip;

A very beadle to a humorous sigh;

A critick; nay, a night-watch constable;

A domineering pedant o'er the boy,

Than whom no mortal so magnificent!

This whimpled,⁴ whining, purblind, wayward boy;

This senior-junior, giant-dwarf, *Dan Cupid*;

Regent of love rhymes, lord of folded arms,

The anointed sovereign of sighs and groans,

Liege of all loiterers and malcontents,

And I to be a corporal of his field,

And wear his colours like a tumbler's hoop!

What? I! I love! I sue! I seek a wife!

1 Tape. 2 Reward. 3 Exactly. 4 Veiled.

A woman, that is like a German clock,
Still a-repairing; ever out of frame;
And never going aright, being a watch,
But being watch'd that it may still go right?
Nay, to be perjur'd, which is worst of all;
And, among three, to love the worst of all;
And I to sigh for her! to watch for her!
To pray for her! Go to; it is a plague
That Cupid will impose for my neglect
Of his most mighty dreadful little might.
Well, I will love, write, sigh, pray, sue, and
groan;
Some men must love my lady, and some Joan.
[Exit.]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A PAVILION IN THE PARK.

*Enter the Princess, Rosaline, Maria, Katherine,
Boyet, Lords, Attendants, and a Forester.*

Prin. Was that the king, that spurred his
horse so hard
Against the steep uprising of the hill?

Boyet. I know not; but, I think, it was not he.

Prin. Whoe'er he was, he showed a mounting
mind.

Well, lords, to-day we shall have our despatch;
On Saturday we will return to France.—

Then, forester, my friend, where is the bush,
That we must stand and play the murderer in?

F. Here by, upon the edge of yonder coppice;
A stand, where you may make the fairest shoot.

Prin. I thank my beauty, I am fair that shoot.
And thereupon thou speak'st the fairest shoot.

For. Pardon me, madam, for I meant not so.

Prin. What, what? first praise me, and again
say, no?

O short-liv'd pride! Not fair; alack for woe!

For. Yes, madam, fair.

Prin. Nay, never paint me now;
Where fair is not, praise cannot mend the brow.
Here, good my glass, take this for telling true;

[Giving him money.]

Fair payment for foul words is more than due.

For. Nothing but fair is that which you in-
herit.

P. See, see, my beauty will be sav'd by merit.
O heresy in fair, fit for these days!

A giving hand, though foul, shall have fair
praise.—

But come, the bow:—Now mercy goes to kill,
And shooting well is then accounted ill.

Thus will I save my credit in the shoot:
Not wounding, pity would not let me do't;
If wounding, then it was to show my skill,
That more for praise, than purpose, meant to
kill.

And, out of question, so it is sometimes;
Glory grows guilty of detested crimes;
When, for fame's sake, for praise, an outward
part.

We bend to that the working of the heart:
As I for praise alone, now seek to spill
The poor deer's blood, that my heart means no
ill.

Boyet. Do not curst¹ wives hold that self-
sovereignty
Only for praise' sake, when they strive to be
Lords o'er their lords?

Prin. Only for praise: and praise we may
To any lady that subdues a lord. [afford]

Enter Costard.

Prin. Here comes a member of the common-
wealth.

Cost. Pray you, which is the head lady?

Prin. Thou shalt know her, fellow, by the
rest that have no heads.

Cost. Which is the greatest lady, the highest?

Prin. The thickest, and the tallest.

Cost. The thickest, and the tallest! it is so;
truth is truth.

Are not you the chief woman? you are the
thickest here.

Prin. What's your will, sir? what's your will?

Cost. I have a letter from monsieur Bir6n, to
one lady Rosaline.

Prin. O, thy letter, thy letter; he's a good
friend of mine:

Stand aside, good bearer.—Boyet, you can carve;
Break up this capon.

Boyet. I am bound to serve.—

This letter is mistook, it importeth none here;
It is writ to Jaquenetta.

Prin. We will read it, I swear:
Break the neck of the wax, and everyone give ear.

Boyet. [Reads.] By heaven, that thou art fair,
is most infallible; true, that thou art beauteous;
truth itself, that thou art lovely: More fairer
than fair, beautiful than beauteous: truer than
truth itself, have commiseration on thy heroical
vassal! The magnanimous and most illustrate
king Cophetua set eye upon the pernicious and
indubitate beggar Zenelophon; and he it was
that might rightly say, veni, vidi, vici; which
to anatomise in the vulgar (O base and obscure
vulgar!) videlicet, he came, saw, and overcame:
he came, one; saw, two; overcame, three. Who
came? the king: Why did he come? to see:
Why did he see? to overcome: To whom came
he? to the beggar: What saw he? the beggar:
Who overcame he: the beggar: the conclusion is
victory; On whose side? the king's: The cap-
tive is enriched; On whose side? the beggar's:
The catastrophe is a nuptial; On whose side?
the king's?—no, on both in one, or one in both,
I am the king; for so stands the comparison:
thou the beggar; for so witnesseth thy lowliness.
Shall I command thy love? I may: Shall I en-
force thy love? I could: Shall I entreat thy
love? I will. What shalt thou exchange for
rags? robes; For titles, titles; For thyself, me.
Thus, expecting thy reply, I profane my lips
on thy foot, my eyes on thy picture, and my
heart on thee.

Thine, in the dearest design of industry,

DON ADRIANO DE ARMADO.

Thus dost thou hear the Nemean lion roar

'Gainst thee, thou lamb, that standest as his
prey;

Submissive fall his princely feet before,

And he from forage will incline to play:

1 Shrewish.

But if thou strive, poor soul, what art thou then?
Food for his rage, repasture for his den.

Prin. What plume of feathers is he, that indited this letter?

What vane? what weathercock? did you ever hear better?

Boyet. I am much deceived, but I remember the style.

Prin. Else your memory is bad, going o'er it erewhile.¹

Boyet. This Armado is a Spaniard, that keeps here in court;

A phantasm, a Monarcho, and one that makes To the prince, and his book-mates. [sport]

Prin. Thou, fellow, a word: Who gave thee this letter?

Cost. I told you; my lord.

Prin. To whom should'st thou give it?

Cost. From my lord to my lady.

Prin. From which lord, to which lady?

C. From my lord Biron, a good master of mine, To a lady of France, that he call'd Rosaline.

Prin. Thou hast mistaken his letter. Come, lords, away.

Here, sweet, put up this; 'twill be thine another day. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Holofernes, Sir Nathaniel, and Dull.

Nath. Very reverent sport, truly; and done in the testimony of a good conscience.

Hol. The deer was, as you know, in *sanguis*,—blood; ripe as a pomewater,² who now hangeth like a jewel in the ear of *calo*,—the sky, the welkin, the heaven; and anon falleth like a crab, on the face of *terra*,—the soil, the land, the earth.

Nath. Truly, master Holofernes, the epithets are sweetly varied, like a scholar at the least: But, sir, I assure ye, it was a buck of the first head.³

Hol. Sir Nathaniel, *haud credo*.

Dull. 'Twas not a *haud credo*, 'twas a pricket.

Hol. Most barbarous intimation! yet a kind of insinuation, as it were, *in via*, in way, of explication; *facere*, as it were, replication, or rather, *ostentare*, to show, as it were, his inclination,—after his undressed, unpolished, uneducated, unpruned, untrained, or rather unlettered, or, ratherest, unconfirmed fashion,—to insert again my *haud credo* for a deer.

Dull. I said, the deer was not a *haud credo*; 'twas a pricket.

Hol. Twice sod⁴ simplicity, *bis coctus*!—O thou monster ignorance, how deformed dost thou look!

Nath. Sir, he hath never fed of the dainties that are bred in a book; he hath not eat paper, as it were; he hath not drunk ink; his intellect is not replenished; he is only an animal, only sensible in the duller parts;

And such barren plants are set before us, that we thankful should be

(Which we of taste and feeling are) for those parts that do fructify in us more than he.

¹ Lately.

² A species of apple.

³ A fawn, a year old, is called a pricket; when two years old,—a sorel; when three years old,—a sore; when four years,—a buck of the first head; when five years,—an old buck.

⁴ Pret. of Seethe.

For as it would ill become me to be vain, indiscreet, or a fool, [in a school: So, were there a patch set on learning, to see him But, *omne bene*, say I; being of an old father's mind.

Many can brook the weather, that love not the wind.

Dull. You two are bookmen: Can you tell by your wit,

What was a month old at Cain's birth, that's not five weeks old as yet?

H. Dictynna, good man dull; Dictynna, good man Dull.

Dull. What is Dictynna?

Nath. A title to Phœbe, to Luna, to the moon.

Hol. The moon was a month old, when Adam was no more;

And raught¹ not to five weeks, when he came to The allusion holds in the exchange. [fivescore.

Dull. 'Tis true, indeed; the collusion holds in the exchange.

Hol. Heaven comfort thy capacity! I say, the allusion holds in the exchange.

Dull. And I say the pollution holds in the exchange; for the moon is never but a month old: and I say beside, that 'twas a pricket that the princess kill'd.

Hol. Sir Nathaniel, will you hear an extemporal epitaph on the death of the deer? and, to humour the ignorant, I have call'd the deer the princess kill'd a pricket.

Nath. *Perge*, good master Holofernes, *perge*; so it shall please you to abrogate scurrility.

Hol. I will something affect the letter; for it argues facility.

The praiseful princess pierc'd and prick'd a pretty pleasing pricket;

Some say a sore; but not a sore, till now made sore with shooting.

The dogs did yell; put I to sore, then sorel jumps from thicket; [a-hooting.

Or pricket, sore, or else sorel; the people fall If sore be sore, then I to sore makes fifty sores;

O sore I!

Of one sore I an hundred make, by adding but

Nath. A rare talent! [one more L.

Dull. If a talent be a claw, look how he claws him with a talent.

Hol. This is a gift that I have, simple, simple; a foolish extravagant spirit, full of forms, figures, shapes, objects, ideas, apprehensions, motions, revolutions: But the gift is good in those in whom it is acute, and I am thankful for it.

Nath. Sir, I praise heaven for you; and so may my parishioners; for their sons are well tutor'd by you, and their daughters profit very greatly under you: you are a good member of the commonwealth.

Hol. *Mehercle*, if their sons be ingenious, they shall want no instruction: if their daughters be capable, I will put it to them: But, *vir sapit, qui pauca loquitur*: a soul feminine saluteth us.

Enter Jaquenetta and Costard.

Jaq. Good morrow, master person.

Hol. Master person,—*quasi* pers-on. And if one should be pierced, which is the one?

¹ Reached.

Cost. Marry, master schoolmaster, he that is likest to a hogshead.

Hol. Of piercing a hogshead! a good lustre of conceit in a turf of earth; fire enough for a flint: 'tis pretty; it is well.

Jaq. Good master parson, be so good as read me this letter; it was given me by Costard, and sent me from Don Armatho: I beseech you, read it.

Hol. *Fauste, precor gelidâ quando pecus omne sub umbrâ Ruminat*,—and so forth. Ah, good old Mantuan: I may speak of thee as the traveller doth of Venice!

— *Vinegia, Vinegia,*
Chi non te vede, ei non te pregia.

Old Mantuan! old Mantuan! Who understandeth thee not, loves thee not.—*Ut, re, sol, la, mi, fa*.—Under pardon, sir, what are the contents? or, rather, as Horace says in his—What, my soul, verses?

Nath. Ay, sir, and very learned.

Hol. Let me hear a staff, a stanza, a verse; *Lege, domine.*

Nath. [Reads.] *If love make me forsworn,*
how shall I swear to love? [cavendish!]

Ah, never faith could hold, if not to beauty
Though to myself forsworn, to thee I'll faithful
prove;

Those thoughts to me were oaks, to thee like
osiers bowed.

Study his bias leaves, and makes his book thine
eyes; [comprehend:]

Where all those pleasures live, that art would
If knowledge be the mark, to know thee shall
suffice; [commend:]

Well learned is that tongue, that well can thee
All ignorant that soul, that sees thee without
wonder; [admire:]

(Which is to me some praise, that I thy parts
Thy eye Jove's lightning bears, thy voice his
dreadful thunder, [fire.]

Which not to anger bent, is musick, and sweet
Celestial, as thou art, oh pardon, love, this
wrong,

That sings heaven's praise with such an earthly
tongue!

Hol. You find not the apostrophes, and so miss the accent: let me supervise the canzonet. Here are only numbers ratified; but for the elegance, facility, and golden cadence of poesy, caret. Ovidius Naso was the man: and why, indeed, Naso; but for smelling out the odoriferous flowers of fancy, the jerks of invention? *Imitari*, is nothing: so doth the hound his master, the ape his keeper, the tired horse his rider. But *damosella* virgin, was this directed to you?

Jaq. Ay, sir, from one Monsieur Biron, one of the strange queen's lords.

Hol. I will overglance the superscript. *To the snow-white hand of the most beauteous Lady Rosaline.* I will look again on the intellect of the letter, for the nomination of the party writing to the person written unto:

Your Ladyship's in all desired employment,
BIRON.

Sir Nathaniel, this Biron is one of the votaries with the king; and here he hath framed a letter

1 Caparisoned.

to a sequent of the stranger queen's, which, accidentally, or by the way of progression, hath miscarried.—Trip and go, my sweet; deliver this paper into the royal hand of the king; it may concern much: Stay not thy compliment; I forgive thy duty; adieu.

Jaq. Good Costard, go with me.

C. Have with thee, my girl. [*Ex. Cost. and Jaq.*]

Nath. Sir, you have done this very religiously; and, as a certain father saith—

Hol. Sir, tell not me of the father, I do fear colourable colours. But, to return to the verses; Did they please you, Sir Nathaniel?

Nath. Marvellous well for the pen.

Hol. I do dineto-day at the father's of a certain pupil of mine; where if, before repast, it shall please you to gratify the table with a grace, I will, on my privilege I have with the parents of the foresaid child or pupil, undertake your *ven venuto*; where I will prove those verses to be very unlearned, neither savouring of poetry, wit, nor invention: I beseech your society.

Nath. And thank you too: for society, (saith the text,) is the happiness of life.

Hol. And, certes, the text most infallibly concludes it,—Sir, [*To Dull.*] I do invite you too; you shall not say me, nay: *pauca verba*. Away; the gentles are at their game, and we will to our recreation. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE PARK.

Enter Biron, with a paper.

Biron. The king he is hunting the deer; I am coursing myself. Well, Set thee down, sorrow! for so, they say, the fool said, and so say I, and I the fool. Well proved, wit! This love is as mad as Ajax: it kills sheep; it kills me, I a sheep: Well proved again on my side! I will not love: if I do, hang me; if faith, I will not, O, but her eye,—by this light, but for her eye, I would not love her; yes, for her two eyes. Well, I do nothing in the world but lie, and lie in my throat. By heaven, I do love: and it hath taught me to rhyme, and to be melancholy; and here is part of my rhyme, and here my melancholy. Well, she hath one o' my sonnets already; the clown bore it, the fool sent it, and the lady hath it: sweet clown, sweeter fool, sweetest lady! By the world, I would not care a pin if the other three were in: Here comes one with a paper.

[*Gets up into a tree.*]

Enter the King, with a paper.

King. Ah me!

Biron. [*Aside.*] Shot, by heaven!—Proceed, sweet Cupid; thou hast thump'd him with thy bird-bolt under the left pap:—

King. [Reads.] *So sweet a kiss the golden sun*
gives not

To those fresh morning drops upon the rose
As thye eye-beams, when their fresh rays have smote
The night of dew that on my cheeks down flows;
Nor shines the silver moon one half so bright
Through the transparent bosom of the deep,
As doth thy face through tears of mine give light;

Thou shin'st in every tear that I do weep;

1 In truth.

No drop, but as a coach doth carry thee
 So ridest thou triumphing in my woe;
 Do but behold the tears that swell in me,
 And they thy glory through my grief will show.
 But do not love thyself; then thou wilt keep
 My tears for glasses, and still make me weep.
 O queen of queens, how far dost thou excel!
 No thought can think, nor tongue of mortal tell.
 How shall she know my griefs? I'll drop the
 paper;
 Sweet leaves shade folly. Who is he comes here?
 [Steps aside.]

Enter Longaville, with a paper.

What Longaville! and reading! listen, ear.
 Biron. Now, in thy likeness, one more fool,
 appear! [Aside.]
 Long. Ah me! I am forsworn.
 Biron. Why, he comes in like a perjure, wear-
 ing papers. [Aside.]
 King. In love, I hope: Sweet fellowship in
 shame! [Aside.]
 Biron. One drunkard loves another of the
 name. [Aside.]
 L. Am I the first that have been perjured so?
 Biron. [Aside.] I could put thee in comfort;
 not by two, that I know: [society;
 Thou mak'st the triumvir, the corner-cap of
 The shape of love's Tyburn that hangs up sim-
 plicity. [to move:]
 Long. I fear, these stubborn lines lack power
 O sweet Maria, empress of my love!
 These numbers will I tear, and write in prose.
 Bir. [Aside.] O, rhymes are guards on wanton
 Disfigure not his slop. [Cupid's hose:
 L. This same shall go.—[He reads the sonnet.
 Did not the heavenly rhetoric of thine eye
 ('Gainst whom the world cannot hold argument)
 Persuade my heart to this false perjury?
 Vows, for thee broke, deserve not punishment.
 A woman I forswore; but, I will prove,
 Thou, being a goddess, I forswore not thee:
 My vow was earthly, thou a heavenly love; [me.
 Thy grace being gain'd, cures all disgrace in
 Vows are but breath, and breath a vapour is:
 Then thou, fair sun, which on my earth doth
 Exhal'st this vapour vow; in thee it is: [shine,
 If broken, then, it is no fault of mine:
 If by me broke: What fool is not so wise,
 To lose an oath to win a paradise?

Enter Dumain, with a paper.

Long. By whom shall I send this?—Company!
 stay. [Stepping aside.]
 Byron. [Aside.] All hid, all hid, an old infant
 Like a demi-god here sit I in the sky, [play:
 And wretched fools' secrets heedfully o'er-eye.
 More sacks to the mill! O heavens, I have my
 wish;
 Dumain transform'd: four woodcocks in a dish!
 Dum. O most divine Kate!
 Biron. O most prophane coxcomb! [Aside.]
 Dum. As upright as the cedar, fair as day.
 Biron. Ay, as some days; but then no sun
 must shine. [Aside.]
 Dum. O that I had my wish!
 Long. And I had mine! [Aside.]
 King. And I mine too, good lord! [Aside.]

Biron. Amen, so I had mine: Is not that a
 good word? [Aside.]

Dum. I would forget her; but a fever she
 Reigns in my blood, and will remember'd be.

Biron. A fever in your blood, why then incision
 Would let her out in saucers; Sweet misprision!
 [Aside.]

D. Once more I'll read the ode that I have writ.

Biron. Once more I'll mark how love can
 vary wit. [Aside.]

Dum. On a day, (alack the day!)
 Love, whose month is ever May,
 Spied a blossom, passing fair,
 Playing in the wanton air:
 Through the velvet leaves the wind,
 All unseen, 'gan passage find;
 That the lover, sick to death,
 Wish'd himself the heaven's breath.
 Air, quoth he, thy cheeks may blow;
 Air, would I might triumph so!
 But, alack, my hand is sworn,
 Ne'er to pluck thee from thy thorn:
 Vow, alack, for youth unmeet;
 Youth so apt to pluck a sweet.
 Do not call it sin in me,
 That I am forsworn for thee:
 Thou for whom even Jove would swear,
 Juno but an Ethiop were;
 And deny himself for Jove,
 Turning mortal for thy love.—

This will I send; and something else more plain,
 That shall express my true love's fasting pain.
 O would the King, Birón, and Longaville,
 Were lovers too! Ill to example ill,
 Would from my forehead wipe a perjur'd note;
 For none offend, where all alike do dote.

Long. Dumain, [Advancing.] thy love is far
 from charity,

That in love's grief desir'st society:
 You may look pale, but I should blush, I know,
 To be o'erheard, and taken napping so.

King. Come, sir, [Advancing.] you blush; as
 his your case is such;

You chide at him, offending twice as much:
 You do not love Maria; Longaville
 Did never sonnet for her sake compile;
 Nor never lay his wretched arms athwart
 His loving bosom, to keep down his heart.
 I have been closely shrouded in this bush,
 And mark'd you both, and for you both did
 blush. [fashion;]

I heard your guilty rhymes, observ'd your
 Sawsighs reek from you, noted well your passion:
 Ah me! says one; O Jove! the other cries:
 One, her hairs were gold, crystal the other's eyes:
 You would for paradise break faith and troth;
 [To Long.]

And Jove, for your love, would infringe an oath.
 [To Dumain.]

What will Birón say, when that he shall hear
 A faith infring'd, which such a zeal did swear?
 How will he scorn? how will he spend his wit?
 How will he triumph, leap, and laugh at it?
 For all the wealth that ever I did see,
 I would not have him know so much by me.

Biron. Now step I forth to whip hypocrisy.—
 Ah, good my liege, I pray thee pardon me:
 [Descends from the tree.]

Good heart, what grace hast thou, thus to reprove
These worms for loving, that art most in love?
Your eyes do make no coaches; in your tears,
There is no certain princess that appears:
You'll not be perjur'd, 'tis a hateful thing;
Tush, none but minstrels like of sonnetting.
But are you not asham'd? nay, are you not,
All three of you, to be thus much o'ershot?
You found his mote; the king your mote did see;
But I a beam do find in each of three.
O what a scene of foolery I have seen,
Of sighs, of groans, of sorrow, and of teen!¹
O me, with what strict patience have I sat,
To see a king transformed to a gnat!
To see great Hercules whipping a gig,
And profound Solomon to tune a jig,
And Nestor play at push-pin with the boys,
And crick² Timon laugh at idle toys!
Where lies thy grief, O tell me, good Dumain?
And, gentle Longaville, where lies thy pain?
And where my liege's? all about the breast:—
A caudle,³ ho!

King. Too bitter is thy jest.
Are we betray'd thus to thy over-view?

Biron. Not you by me, but I betray'd to you;
I, that am honest; I, that hold it sin
To break the vow I am engaged in?
I am betray'd, by keeping company
With moon-like men of strange inconstancy.
When shall you see me write a thing in rhyme?
Or groan for Joan? or spend a minute's time
In pruning me? When shall you hear that I
Will praise a hand, a foot, a face, an eye?

King. Soft; whether away so fast?

A true man or a thief that gallops so?

Biron. I post from love: good lover, let me go.

Enter Jaquenetta and Costard.

Jaq. God bless the king!

King. What present hast thou there?

Cost. Some certain treason.

King. What makes treason here?

Cost. Nay, it makes nothing, sir.

King. If it mar nothing neither,
The treason, and you, go in peace away together.

J. I beseech your grace, let this letter be read,
Our parson misdoubts it; 'twas treason, he said.

K. Biron, read it over. [*Giving him the letter.*]
Where hadst thou it?

Jaq. Of Costard.

King. Where hadst thou it?

Cost. Of Dun Adramadio, Dun Adramadio.

King. How now! what is in you? why dost
thou tear it?

Biron. A toy, my liege, a toy; your grace needs
not fear it.

Long. It did move him to passion, and there-
fore let's hear it.

Dum. It is Biron's writing, and here is his
name. [*Picks up the pieces.*]

Biron. Ah, you loggerhead, [*To Costard.*] you
were born to do me shame.—

Guilty, my lord, guilty; I confess, I confess.

King. What?

Biron. That you three fools lack'd me fool
to make up the mess:

He, he, and you, my liege, and I,

Are pick-purses in love, and we deserve to die.
O, dismiss this audience, and I shall tell you

Dum. Now the number is even. [*more.*]

Biron. True, true; we are four;—

Will these turtles be gone?

King. Hence, sirs; away.

Cost. Walk aside the true folk, and let the
traitors stay. [*Exeunt Cost. and Jaq.*]

B. Sweet lords, sweet lovers, O let us embrace!

As true we are as flesh and blood can be:

The sea will ebb and flow, heaven show his face;

Young blood will not obey an old decree.

King. What, did these rent lines show some
love of thine?

Biron. Did they, quoth you? Who sees the
heavenly Rosaline,

That, like a rude and savage man of Inde,

At the first opening of the gorgeous east,

Bows not his vassal head; and, stricken blind,

Kisses the base ground with obedient breast?

What peremptory eagle-sighted eye

Dares look upon the heaven of her brow,

That is not blinded by her majesty? [*now?*]

King. What zeal, what fury hath inspired thee

My love, her mistress, is a gracious moon;

She, an attending star, scarce seen a light.

Biron. My eyes are then no eyes, nor I Biron:

O, but for my love, day would turn to night!

Of all complexions the cul'd sovereignty

Do meet, as at a fair, in her fair cheek;

Where several worthies make one dignity; [*seek.*]

Where nothing wants, that want itself doth

Lend me the flourish of all gentle tongues—

Fye, painted rhetoric! O, she needs it not;

To things of sale a seller's praise belongs;

She passes praise; then praise too short doth

A wither'd hermit, five-score winters worn, [*blot.*]

Might shake off fifty, looking in her eye:

Beauty doth varnish age, as if new-born,

And gives the crutch the cradle's infancy.

O, 'tis the sun, that maketh all things shine!

King. By heaven, thy love is black as ebony.

Biron. Is ebony like her? O wood divine!

A wife of such wood were felicity.

O, who can give an oath? where is a book?

That I may swear, beauty doth beauty lack.

If that she learn not of her eye to look:

No face is fair, that is not full so black.

O, if in black my lady's brows be deckt,

It mourns, that painting, and usurping hair,

Should ravish doters with a false aspect;

And therefore is she born to make black fair.

Her favour turns the fashion of the days;

For native blood is counted painting now;

And therefore red, that would avoid dispraise,

Paints itself black, to imitate her brow.

King. But what of this? Are we not all in love?

B. Nothing so sure; and thereby all forsworn.

K. Then leave this chat: and, good Biron, now

Our loving lawful, and our faith not torn. [*prove*]

Dum. Ay, marry, there,—some flattery for

this evil.

Long. O, some authority how to proceed;

Some tricks, some quillets,¹ how to cheat the

Dum. Some salve for perjury. [*devil.*]

Biron. O, 'tis more than need!—

Have at you then, affection's men at arms;

¹ Grief. ² Cynic. ³ A spiced mixture for invalids.

¹ Chicanes.

Consider, what you first did swear unto ;—
 To fast,—to study,—and to see no woman ;—
 Flat treason 'gainst the kingly state of youth.
 Say, can you fast? Your stomachs are too young,
 And abstinence engenders maladies.
 And where that you have vow'd to study, lords,
 In that each of you hath forsworn his book:
 Can you still dream, and pore, and thereon look?
 For when would you, my lord, or you, or you,
 Have found the ground of study's excellence,
 Without the beauty of a woman's face?
 From women's eyes this doctrine I derive:
 They are the ground, the books, the academes,
 From whence doth spring the true Promethean
 Why, universal plodding prisons up [fire.
 The nimble spirits in the arteries;
 As motion, and long-during action, tires
 The sinewy vigour of the traveller.
 Now, for not looking on a woman's face,
 You have in that forsworn the use of eyes;
 And study too, the causer of your vow:
 For where is any author in the world,
 Teaches such beauty as a woman's eye?
 Learning is but an adjunct to ourself,
 And where we are, our learning likewise is.
 Then, when ourselves we see in ladies' eyes,
 Do we not likewise see our learning there?
 O, we have made a vow to study, lords;
 And in that vow we have forsworn our books;
 For when would you, my liege, or you, or you,
 In leaden contemplation, have found out
 Such fiery numbers, as the prompting eyes
 Of beauteous tutors have enrich'd you with?
 Other slow arts entirely keep the brain;
 And therefore finding barren practisers,
 Scarce show a harvest of their heavy toil:
 But love, first learned in a lady's eyes,
 Lives not alone immured in the brain;
 But with the motion of all elements,
 Courses as swift as thought in every power;
 And gives to every power a double power,
 Above their functions and their offices.
 It adds a precious seeing to the eye;
 A lover's eyes will gaze an eagle blind;
 A lover's ear will hear the lowest sound,
 When the suspicious head of theft is stopp'd;
 Love's feeling is more soft, and sensible,
 Than are the tender horns of cockled snails;
 Love's tongue proves dainty Bacchus gross in
 taste:
 For valour, is not love a Hercules,
 Still climbing trees in the Hesperides?
 Subtle as sphinx; as sweet, and musical,
 As bright Apollo's lute, strung with his hair;
 And, when love speaks, the voice of all the gods
 Makes heaven drowsy with the harmony.
 Never durst poet touch a pen to write,
 Until his ink were temper'd with love's sighs;
 O, then his lines would ravish savage ears,
 And plant in tyrants mild humility.
 From women's eyes this doctrine I derive:
 They sparkle still the right Promethean fire;
 They are the books, the arts, the academes,
 That show, contain, and nourish all the world;
 Else none at all in aught proves excellent:
 Then fools you were these women to forswear;
 Or, keeping what is sworn, you will prove fools,
 For wisdom's sake, a word that all men love;

Or for love's sake, a word that loves all men;
 Let us once lose our oaths, to find ourselves,
 Or else we lose ourselves to keep our oaths:
 It is religion to be thus forsworn:
 For charity itself fulfils the law;
 And who can sever love from charity?
King. Saint Cupid, then! and soldiers to the
 field! [France?
Long. Shall we resolve to woo these girls of
King. And win them too: therefore let us devise
 Some entertainment for them in their tents.
Biron. First, from the park let us conduct
 them thither;
 Then, homeward, every man attach the hand
 Of his fair mistress: in the afternoon
 We will with some strange pastime solace them,
 Such as the shortness of the time can shape;
 For revels, dances, masks, and merry hours,
 Fore-run fair Love, strewing her way with flowers.
King. Away, away! no timeshall be omitted,
 That will be time, and may by us be fitted.
 [Exeunt.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A STREET.

Enter Holofernes, Sir Nathaniel, and Dull.

Hol. Satis quod sufficit.

Nath. Sir, your reasons¹ at dinner have been sharp and sententious; pleasant without scurrility, witty without affection,² audacious without impudency, learned without opinion, and strange without heresy. I did converse this *quondam* day with a companion of the king's, who is intitled, nominated, or called, Don Adriano de Armado.

Hol. *Novi hominem tanquam te.* His humour is lofty, his discourse peremptory, his tongue filed, his eye ambitious, his gait majestical, and his general behaviour vain, ridiculous, and thirasonical.³ He is too picked,⁴ too spruce, too affected, too odd, as it were, too perigrinate, as I may call it.

Nath. A most singular and choice epithet.

[Takes out his table-book.

Hol. He draweth out the thread of his verbosity finer than the staple of his argument. I abhor such fanatical phantasms, such insociable and point-devise⁵ companion; such rackers of orthography, as to speak, dout, fine, when he should say, doubt; det, when he should pronounce, debt; d, e, b, t; not, d, e, t: he clepeth⁶ a calf, cauf; a half, hauf; neighbour, vocatur, nebour, neigh, abbreviated, ne: This is abominable, (which he would call abominable,) it insinuateth me of insanie; *Ne intelligis domine?* to make frantick, lunatick.

Nath. *Laus deo, bone intelligo.*

Hol. Bone?—bone, for bené: *Priscian* a little scratch'd; 'twill serve.

Enter Armado, Moth, and Costard.

Nath. *Videsne quis venit?*

Hol. *Video, et gaudeo.*

Arm. Chirra! [To Moth.

1 Discourses. 3 Boastful. 5 Finical exactness.
 2 Affectation. 4 Smart. 6 Calls.

Hol. Quare Chirra, not sirrah?

Arm. Men of peace well encounter'd.

Hol. Most military, sir, salutation.

Moth. They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps. [*To Costard aside.*]

Cost. O, they have lived long in the alms-basket of words? I marvel, thy master hath not eaten thee for a word; for thou art not so long by the head as *honortificabilitudininitatibus*: thou art easier swallowed than a flap-dragon.¹

Moth. Peace; the peal begins.

Arm. Monsieur, [*To Hol.*] are you not letter'd?

Moth. Yes, yes; he teaches boys the horn-book:—What is a, b, spelt backward with a horn on his head?

Hol. Ba, *pueritia*, with a horn added.

Moth. Ba, most silly sheep, with a horn:—You hear his learning.

Hol. Quis, quis, thou consonant?

Moth. The third of the five vowels, if you repeat them; or the fifth, if I.

Hol. I will repeat them, a, e, i.—

Moth. The sheep; the other two concludes it; o, u.

Arm. Now, by the salt wave of the Mediterranean, a sweet touch, a quick venew² of wit: snip, snap, quick and home; it rejoiceth my intellect: true wit.

Moth. Offer'd by a child to an old man.

Cost. And I had but one penny in the world, thou shouldst have it to buy gingerbread: hold, there is the very remuneration I had of thy master, thou halfpenny purse of wit, thou pigeon-egg of discretion.

A. Arts-man, *præambula*; we will be singled from the barbarous.¹ Do you not educate youth at the charge-house³ on the top of the mountain?

Hol. Or, *mons*, the hill.

Arm. At your sweet pleasure; for the moun-

Hol. I do, sans question. [*Exit tain.*]

Arm. Sir, the king is a noble gentleman; and my familiar, I do assure you, very good friend:—For what is inward between us, let it pass:—I do beseech thee, remember thy courtesy;—I beseech thee, apparel thy head;—and among other importunate and most serious designs,—and of great import indeed, too;—but let that pass:—for I must tell thee, it will please his grace (by the world) sometime to lean upon my poor shoulder; but sweet heart, let that pass. By the world, I recount no fable; some certain special honours it pleaseth his greatness to impart to Armado, a soldier, a man of travel, that hath seen the world: but let that pass.—The very all of all is,—but, sweet heart, I do implore secrecy,—that the king would have me present the princess, sweet chuck, with some delightful ostentation, or show, or pageant, or antic, or fire-work. Now, understanding that the curate and your sweet self, are good at such eruptions, and sudden breaking out of mirth, as it were, I have acquainted you withal, to the end to crave your assistance.

Hol. Sir, you shall present before her the nine worthies.—Sir Nathaniel, as concerning some entertainment of time, to be rendered by our

assistance,—the king's command, and this most gallant, illustrate, and learned gentleman,—before the princess; I say, none so fit as to present the nine worthies.

Nath. Where will you find men worthy enough to present them?

Hol. Yourself; myself, or this gallant gentleman; this swain, because of his great limb or joint, shall pass Pompey the great; the page, Hercules.

Arm. Pardon, sir, error; he is not quantity enough for that worthy's thumb: he is not so big as the end of his club.

Hol. Shall I have audience? he shall present Hercules in minority: his *enter* and *exit* shall be strangling a snake; and I will have an apology for that purpose.

Moth. An excellent device! so, if any of the audience hiss, you may cry, *Well done Hercules! now thou crushest the snake!* that is the way to make an offence gracious; though few have the grace to do it.

Arm. For the rest of the worthies?—

Hol. I will play three myself.

Moth. Thrice-worthy gentleman!

Arm. Shall I tell you a thing?

Hol. We attend.

Arm. We will have, if this fadge¹ not, an antic. I beseech you follow.

Hol. *Via*,² Goodman Dull! thou hast spoken no word all this while.

Dull. Nor understood none neither, sir.

Hol. *Allons!* we will employ thee.

Dull. I'll make one in a dance, or so; or I will play on the tabor to the worthies, and let them dance the hay.

Hol. Most dull, honest Dull, to our sport away. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—BEFORE THE PRINCESS'S PAVILION.

Enter the Princess, Katherine, Rosaline, and Maria.

Prin. Sweet hearts, we shall be rich ere we depart,

If fairings come thus plentifully in:

A lady wall'd about with diamonds!—

Look you, what I have from the loving king.

Ros. Madam, came nothing else along with that!

Prin. Nothing but this? yes, as much love in rhyme,

As would be cramm'd up in a sheet of paper, Writ on both sides the leaf, margent and all; That he was fain to seal on Cupid's name.

Ros. That was the way to make his god-head wax³;

For he hath been five thousand years a boy.

Kath. Ay, and a shrewd unhappy gallows too.

Ros. You'll ne'er be friends with him; he kill'd your sister.

K. He made her melancholy, sad, and heavy; And so she died: had she been light, like you, Of such a merry, nimble, stirring spirit, She might have been a grandam ere she died: And so may you; for a light heart lives long.

¹ Raisins put into brandy on fire. ³ Free school.
² Repartee.

¹ Suit. ² Come on. ³ Grow.

Ros. What's your dark meaning, mouse,¹ of this light word?

Kath. A light condition in a beauty dark.

Ros. We need more light to find your meaning out. [snuff²;

Kath. You'll mar the light, by taking it in. Therefore, I'll darkly end the argument.

R. Look what you do, you do it still! the dark.

Kath. So do not you; for you are a light girl.

Ros. Indeed, I weigh not you; and therefore light.

Kath. You weigh me not—O, that's you care not for me.

R. Great reason; for, Past cure is still past care.

P. Well banded both; a set of wit well play'd.

But, Rosaline, you have a favour too:

Who sent it? and what is it?

Ros. I would, you knew:

An if my face were but as fair as yours,

My favour were as great; be witness this.

Nay, I have verses too, I thank Birón:

The numbers true; and, were the numb'ring too,

I were the fairest goddess on the ground:

I am compar'd to twenty thousand fairs.

O, he hath drawn my picture in his letter!

Prin. Any thing like?

R. Much, in the letters: nothing in the praise.

Prin. Beauteous as ink; a good conclusion.

Kath. Fair as a text B in a copy-book.

Ros. Ware pencils! How? let me not die your debtor,

My red dominical, my golden letter:

O, that your face were not so full of O's!

Kath. A plague of that jest! and beshrew all shrou's!

P. But what was sent to you from fair Dumain?

Kath. Madam, this glove.

Prin. Did he not send you twain?

Kath. Yes, madam; and moreover,

Some thousand verses of a faithful lover:

A huge translation of hypocrisy,

Vilely compil'd, profound simplicity.

Mar. This, and these pearls, to me sent Longaville:

The letter is too long by half a mile.

P. I think noless: Dost thou not wish in heart, The chain were longer, and the letter short?

M. Ay, or I would these hands might never part.

Prin. We are wise girls to mock our lovers so.

R. They are worse fools to purchase mocking That same Birón I'll torture ere I go. [so.

O, that I knew he were but in by the week!

How I would make him fawn, and beg, and seek;

And wait the season, and observe the times,

And spend his prodigal wits in bootless rhymes;

And shape his service wholly to my behests;

And make him proud to make me proud that jest!

So potent-like would I o'ersway his state,

That he should be my fool, and I his fate.

Prin. None are so surely caught, when they are catch'd,

As wit turn'd fool: folly in wisdom hatch'd,

Hath wisdom's warrant, and the help of school;

And wit's own grace to grace a learned fool.

Ros. The blood of youth burns not with such

As gravity's revolt to wantonness. [excess

Mar. Folly in fools bears not so strong a note, As foolery in the wise, when wit doth dote; Since all the power thereof it doth apply, To prove, by wit, worth in simplicity.

Enter Boyet.

Prin. Here comes Boyet, and mirth is in his face. [her grace?

Boyet. O, I am stabb'd with laughter! Where's

Prin. Thy news, Boyet?

Boyet. Prepare, madam, prepare!—

Arm, my girls, arm! encounters mounted are Against your peace: Love doth approach disarm'd in arguments; you'll be surpris'd: [guis'd,

Must your wits; stand in your own defence; Or hide your heads like cowards, and fly hence.

Prin. Saint Dennis to saint Cupid! What are they,

That charge their breath against us? say, scout,

Boyet. Under the cool shade of a sycamore, I thought to close mine eyes some half an hour:

When, lo! to interrupt my purpos'd rest, Toward that shade I might behold address

The king and his companions: warily I stole into a neighbour thicket by,

And overheard what you shall overhear;

That, by and by, disguis'd they will be here. Their herald is a pretty knavish page,

That well by heart hath conn'd his embassage: Action, and accent, did they teach him there;

Thus must thou speak, and thus thy body bear: And ever and anon they made a doubt,

Presence majestical would put him out; For, quoth the king, an angel shalt thou see;

Yet fear not thou, but speak audaciously. The boy reply'd, An angel is not evil;

I should have fear'd her, had she been a devil. With that all laugh'd, and clapp'd him on the

shoulder; Making the bold wag by their praises bolder.

One rubb'd his elbow, thus; and fleer'd, and swore,

A better speech was never spoke before: Another with his finger and his thumb,

Cry'd *Via! we will do't, come what will come:*

The third he caper'd, and cried, *All goes well:*

The fourth turn'd on the toe, and down he fell. With that they all did tumble on the ground,

With such a zealous laughter, so profound, That in this spleen ridiculous appears,

To check their folly, passion's solemn tears.

P. But what, but what, come they to visit us?

Boyet. They do, they do; and are apparel'd thus,—

Like Muscovites, or Russians: as I guess, Their purpose is, to parle, to court, and dance:

And every one his love-feat will advance Unto his several mistress: which they'll know

By favours several, which they did bestow.

Prin. And will they so? the gallants shall be task'd:—

For, ladies, we will every one be mask'd;

And not a man of them shall have the grace, Despite of suit, to see a lady's face.—

Hold, Rosaline, this favour thou shalt wear;

And then the king will court thee for his dear;

Hold, take thou this, my sweet, and give me thine;

1 A term of endearment.

2 In anger.

So shall Birón take me for Rosaline.—

And change your favours too; so shall your loves
Woo contrary, deceiv'd by these removes.

Ros. Come on then; wear the favours most
in sight.

Kath. But, in this changing, what is your
intent?

Prin. The effect of my intent is, to cross
They do it but in mocking merriment; [theirs:
And mock for mock is only my intent.

Their several counsels they unbosom shall
To loves mistook; and so be mock'd withal,
Upon the next occasion that we meet,

With visages display'd, to talk, and greet.

Ros. But shall we dance, if they desire us to?

Prin. No: to the death, we will not move a foot,
Nor to their penn'd speech render we no grace;
But, while 'tis spoke, each turn away her face.

Boyet. Why, that contempt will kill the
speaker's heart,

And quite divorce his memory from his part.

Prin. Therefore I do it; and I make no doubt
The rest will ne'er come in, if he be out.

There's no such sport, as sport by sport o'er-
thrown;

To make theirs ours, and ours none but our own:
So shall we stay, mocking intended game;

And they, well mock'd, depart away with shame.

[Trumpets sound within.]

Boyet. The trumpet sounds; be mask'd, the
maskers come. [The Ladies mask.]

Enter the King, Biron, Longaville, and Du-
main, in Russian habits, and masked; Moth,
Musicians, and Attendants.

Moth. All hail, the richest beauties on the earth!

Boyet. Beauties no richer than rich taffata.

Moth. A holy parcel of the fairest dames,

[The Ladies turn their backs to him.]

That ever turn'd their—backs—to mortal views!

Biron. Their eyes, villain, their eyes.

Moth. That ever turn'd their eyes to mortal
views! Out—

Boyet. True; out, indeed.

Moth. Out of your favours, heavenly spirits,

Not to behold— [vouchsafe,

Biron. Once to behold, rogue.

Moth. Once to behold with your sun-beamed
eyes,—with your sun-beamed eyes—

Boyet. They will not answer to that epithet;
You were best call it daughter-beamed eyes.

Moth. They do not mark me, and that brings
me out. [rogue.]

Biron. Is this your perfectness? begone, you

Ros. What would these strangers? know their
minds, Boyet:

If they do speak our language, 'tis our will
That some plain man recount their purposes:
Know what they would.

Boyet. What would you with the princess?

Bir. Nothing but peace and gentle visitation.

Ros. What would they, say they?

Boy. Nothing but peace and gentle visitation.

Ros. Why, that they have; and bid them so
be gone.

Boyet. She says, you have it, and you may be
gone.

K. Say to her, we have measur'd many miles
To tread a measure with her on this grass.

Boyet. They say that they have measur'd
many a mile,

To tread a measure with you on this grass.

Ros. It is not so: ask them how many inches
Is in one mile: If they have measur'd many,
The measure then of one is easily told. [miles.]

Boyet. If, to come hither you have measur'd
And many miles; the princess bids you tell,
How many inches do fill up one mile.

Bir. Tell her, we measure them by weary steps.

Boyet. She hears herself.

Ros. How many weary steps,
Of many weary miles you have o'ergone,
Are number'd in the travel of one mile?

Biron. We number nothing that we spend for
Our duty is so rich, so infinite, [you;
That we may do it still without accompt.

Vouchsafe to show the sunshine of your face,
That we, like savages, may worship it.

Ros. My face is but a moon, and clouded too.

K. Blessed are clouds, to do as such clouds do!
Vouchsafe, bright moon, and these thy stars,
to shine

(Those clouds remov'd,) upon our wat'ry eyne.

Ros. O vain petitioner! beg a greater matter;
Thou now request'st but moonshine in the water.

King. Then, in our measure do but vouchsafe
one change;

Thou bid'st me beg; this begging is not strange.

Ros. Play, musick, then: nay, you must do
it soon. [Musick plays.]

Not yet; no dance: thus change I like the moon.

King. Will you not dance! How come you
thus estrang'd?

[chang'd.]

Ros. You took the moon at full; but now she's
King. Yet still she is the moon, and I the man.

The musick plays; vouchsafe some motion to it.

Ros. Our ears vouchsafe it.

King. But your legs should do it.

Ros. Since you are strangers, and come here
by chance,

We'll not be nice: take hands;—we will not
King. Why take we hands then? [dance.]

Ros. Only to part friends:—
Court'sy, sweet hearts; and so the measure ends.

K. More measure of this measure; be not nice.

Ros. We can afford no more at such a price.

King. Prize you yourselves; What buys your
company?

Ros. Your absence only.

King. That can never be.

Ros. Then cannot we be bought; and so adieu;
Twice to your visor, and half once to you!

K. If you deny to dance, let's hold more chat.

Ros. In private then.

King. I am best pleas'd with that.
[They converse apart.]

Bir. White-handed mistress, one sweet word
with thee.

P. Honey, and milk, and sugar; there is three.

Biron. Nay then, two treys,¹ (an if you grow
so nice,)

Metheglin,² wort, and malmsey;—Well run,
dice.

There's half a dozen sweets.

¹ Threes.

² A drink of honey and water.

Prin. Seventh sweet, adieu !
 Since you can cog,¹ I'll play no more with you.

Biron. One word in secret.

Prin. Let it not be sweet.

Biron. Thou griev'st my gall.

Prin. Gall? bitter.

Biron. Therefore meet.

[*They converse apart.*]

Dum. Will you vouchsafe with me to change

Mar. Name it. [a word?]

Dum. Fair lady,—

Mar. Say you so? Fair lord,—
 Take that for your fair lady.

Dum. Please it you,

As much in private, and I'll bid adieu.

[*They converse apart.*]

Kath. What, was your visor made without a tongue?

Long. I know the reason, lady, why you ask.

Kath. O, for your reason! quickly, sir; I long.

L. You have a double tongue within your mask, and would afford my speechless visor half.

K. Veal, quoth the Dutchman;—Is not veal

Long. A calf, fair lady? [a calf?]

Kath. No, a fair lord calf.

Long. Let's part the word.

Kath. No, I'll not be your half.

Long. One word in private with you, ere I die.

Kath. Bleat softly then, the butcher hears you cry.

[*They converse apart.*]

Boyet. The tongues of mocking damsels are as

As is the razor's edge invisible, [keen
 Cutting a smaller hair than may be seen;

Above the sense of sense: so sensible
 Seemeth their conference; their conceits have wings,

Fleeter than arrows, bullets, wind, thought,
 swifter things. [break off.]

Ros. Not one word more, my maids; break off.

B. By heaven, all dry-beaten with pure scoff!

K. Farewell, mad damsels; you have simple wits.

[*Exeunt King, Lords, Moth, Musick, and Attendants.*]

Prin. Twenty adieus, my frozen Muscovites.—
 Are these the breed of wits so wonder'd at?

Boy. Tapers they are, with your sweet breaths puff'd out.

Prin. O poverty in wit, kingly poor-flout!
 Will they not, think you, hang themselves to-night?

Or ever, but in visors, show their faces?
 This pert Birón was out of countenance quite.

Ros. O! they were all in lamentable cases!
 The king was weeping-ripe for a good word.

Prin. Birón did swear himself out of all suit.

Mar. Dumain was at my service, and his sword:
 No point,² quoth I; my servant straight was mute.

K. Lord Longaville said, I came o'er his heart;
 And trow you, what he call'd me?

Prin. Qualm, perhaps.

Kath. Yes, in good faith.

Prin. Go, sickness, as thou art!

Ros. Well, better wits have worn plain statute-caps.³

But will you hear? the king is my love sworn.

P. And quick Birón hath plighted faith to me.

Kath. And Longaville was for my service born.

Mar. Dumain is mine, as sure as bark on tree.

Boy. Madam, and pretty mistresses, give ear:

Immediately they will again be here

In their own shapes; for it can never be,

They will digest this harsh indignity.

Prin. Will they return?

Boyet. They will, they will, heaven knows;

And leap for joy, though they are lame with blows: [repair,

Therefore, change favours;¹ and, when they
 Blow like sweet roses in this summer air.

Prin. How blow? how blow? speak to be understood.

B. Fair ladies, mask'd, are roses in their bud:
 Dismask'd, their damask sweet commixture

Are angels vailing clouds, or roses blown. [shown,

Prin. Avaunt, perplexity! What shall we do,

If they return in their own shapes to woo?

Ros. Good madam, if by me you'll be advis'd,

Let's mock them still, as well known, as disguis'd:

Let us complain to them what foels were here,

Disguis'd like Muscovites, in shapeless gear;

And wonder what they were; and to what end

Their shallow shows, and prologue vilely penn'd,

And their rough carriage so ridiculous,

Should be presented at our tent to us.

B. Ladies, withdraw; the gallants are at hand.

Prin. Whip to our tents, as roes run over land.

[*Exeunt Princess, Ros., Kath., and Maria.*]

Enter the King, Biron, Longaville, and Dumain, in their proper habits.

King. Fair sir, heaven save you! Where is the princess?

Boy. Gone to her tent: Please it, your majesty,
 Command me any service to her thither? [word.

K. That she vouchsafe me audience for one

Boyet. I will, and so will she, I know, my lord.

[*Exit.*]

Bir. This fellow picks up wit, as pigeons peas;
 And utters it again when Jove doth please:

He is wit's pedlar; and retails his wares

At wakes, and wassels,² meetings, markets, fairs;

He can carve too, and lisp: Why, this is he,

That kiss'd away his hand in courtesy;

This is the ape of form, monsieur the nice,

That, when he plays at tables, chides the dice

In honourable terms; nay, he can sing

A mean³ most meanly; and, in ushering,

Mend him who can: the ladies call him, sweet;

The stairs, as he treads on them, kiss his feet:

This is the flower that smiles on every one,

To show his teeth as white as whale's bone;⁴

And consciences, that will not die in debt,

Pay him the due of honey-tongued Boyet.

K. A blister on his sweet tongue, with my heart,

That put Armado's page out of his part!

Enter the Princess, ushered by Boyet; Rosaline, Maria, Katherine, and Attendants.

Biron. See where it comes!—Behaviour, what wert thou, [now?

Till this man show'd thee? and what art thou

K. All hail, sweet madam, and fair time of day!

1 Regards.

2 Merry meetings.

3 The tenor.

4 Whale tooth.

1 Trick. 2 The French adverb of negation.

3 Better wits may be found among citizens.

Prin. Fair, in all hail, is foul as I conceive.
K. Construe my speeches better, if you may.
P. Then wish me better, I will give you leave.
King. We came to visit you; and purpose now
 To lead you to our court: vouchsafe it then.

Prin. This field shall hold me; and so hold
 your vow:

Nor heaven, nor I delight in perjur'd men.
K. Rebuke me not for that which you provoke;
 The virtue of your eye must break my oath.

Prin. You nick-name virtue: vice you should
 have spoke;

For virtue's office never breaks men's troth.
 Now, by my maiden honour, yet as pure

As the unsullied lily, I protest,
 A world of torments though I should endure,
 I would not yield to be your house's guest:

So much I hate a breaking-cause to be
 Of heavenly oaths, vow'd with integrity.

King. O, you have liv'd in desolation here,
 Unseen, unvisited, much to our shame.

Prin. Not so, my lord; it is not so, I swear;
 We have had pastimes here, and pleasant

A mess of Russians left us but of late. [game;
King. How, madam? Russians?

Prin. Ay, in truth, my lord;
 Trim gallants, full of courtship, and of state.

Ros. Madam, speak true:—It is not so, my lord;
 My lady, (to the manner of the days,)¹

In courtesy, gives undeserving praise.
 We four, indeed, confronted here with four

In Russian habit; here they stay'd an hour,
 And talk'd apace; and in that hour, my lord,

They did not bless us with one happy word,
 I dare not call them fools; but this I think,

When they are thirsty, fools would fain have
 drink.

Bir. This jest is dry to me—Fair, gentle, sweet,
 Your wit makes wise things foolish; when we

With eyes best seeing heaven's fiery eye, [greet
 By light we lose light: Your capacity

Is of that nature, that to your huge store [poor.
 Wise things seem foolish, and rich things but

Ros. This proves you wise and rich; for in my
Biron. I am a fool, and full of poverty. [eye.—

Ros. But that you takewat doth to you belong.
 It were a fault to snatch words from my tongue.

Biron. O, I am yours, and all that I possess.
Ros. All the fool mine!

Biron. I cannot give you less.
Ros. Which of the visors was it that you wore?

Biron. Where? when? what visor? why demand you this?

Ros. There, then, that visor; that superfluous
 case,

That hid the worse, and show'd the better face.
King. We are descried: they'll mock us now

downright.
Dum. Let us confess, and turn it to a jest.

Prin. Amaz'd, my lord? Why looks your
 highness sad?

Ros. Help, hold his brows! he'll swoon!
 Why look you pale?—

Sea-sick, I think, coming from Muscovy.
Biron. Thus pour the stars down plagues for

perjury.
 Can any face of brass hold longer out?—

Herestand I, lady; dart thy skill at me; [flout;
 Bruise me with scorn, confound me with a

Thrust thy sharp wit quite through my ignorance;
 Cut me to pieces with thy keen conceit;

And I will wish thee never more to dance,
 Nor never more in Russian habit wait.

O! never will I trust to speeches penn'd,
 Nor to the motion of a school-boy's tongue;

Nor never come in visor to my friend;
 Nor woo in rhyme, like a blind harpers's

Taffata phrases, silken terms precise, [song:
 Three-pil'd hyperboles, spruce affectation,

Figures pedantical; these summer-flies
 Have blown me full of maggot ostentation:

I do forswear them: and I here protest
 By this white glove (how white the hand,

heaven knows!)

Henceforth my wooing mind shall be express'd
 In russet yeas, and honest kersey noes:

And, to begin, girl,—so heaven help me, la!—
 My love to thee is sound, sans crack or flaw.

Ros. Sans SANS, I pray you.
Biron. Yet I have a trick

Of the old rage:—bear with me, I am sick;
 I'll leave it by degrees. Soft, let us see;—

Write, *heaven have mercy on us*, on those three;
 They are infected, in their hearts it lies;

They have the plague, and caught it of your eyes:
 These lords are visited; you are not free,

For the Lord's tokens on you do I see. [us.
P. No, they are free, that gave these tokens to

B. Our states are forfeit, seek not to undo us.
Ros. It is not so: For how can this be true,

That you stand forfeit, being those that sue?
B. Peace; for I will not have to do with you.

Ros. Nor shall not, if I do as I intend.
B. Speak for yourselves, my wit is at an end.

King. Teach us, sweet madam, for our rude
 transgression

Some fair excuse.
Prin. The fairest is confession.

Were you not here, but even now, disguis'd?
King. Madam, I was.

Prin. And were you well advis'd?
King. I was, fair madam.

Prin. When you then were here,
 What did you whisper in your lady's ear?

King. That more than all the world I did
 respect her.

Prin. When she shall challenge this, you will
 reject her.

King. Upon mine honour, no.
Prin. Peace, peace, forbear;

Your oath once broke, you force¹ not to forswear.
King. Despise me, when I break this oath of

mine.
Prin. I will; and therefore keep it:—Rosaline,

What did the Russian whisper in your ear?
R. Madam, he swore, that he did hold me dear,

As precious eye-sight; and did value me
 Above this world: adding thereto, moreover,

That he would wed me, or else die my lover.
P. Heaven give thee joy of him! the noble

Most honourably doth uphold his word. [lord
King. What mean you, madam? by my life,

my troth,
 I never swore this lady such an oath.

Ros. By heaven you did; and to confirm it plain
You gave me this; but take it, sir, again.

K. My faith, and this, the princess I did give:
I knew her by this jewel on her sleeve.

Prin. Pardon me, sir, this jewel did she wear;
And lord Birón, I thank him, is my dear:—
What; will you have me, or your pearl again?

Biron. Neither of either; I remit both twain.—
I see the trick on't;—Here was a consent,¹
(Knowing aforehand of our merriment),

To dash it like a Christmas comedy: [zany,²
Some carry-tale, some please-man, some slight
Some mumble-mews,³ some trencher-knight,
some Dick,—

That smiles his cheek in years; and knows the
trick

To make my lady laugh, when she's dispos'd—
Told our intents before: which once disclos'd,
The ladies did change favours; and then we,
Following the signs, woo'd but the sign of she.
Now, to our perjury to add more terror,
We are again forsworn; in will, and error.
Much upon this it is:—And might not you,

[*To Boyet.*
Foretell our sport, to make us thus untrue?
Do not you know my lady's foot by the squire,⁴

And laugh upon the apple of her eye?
And stand between her back, sir, and the fire,
Holding a trencher, jesting merrily!

You leer upon me, do you? there's an eye,
Wounds like a leaden sword.

Boyet. Full merrily
Hath this brave manage, this career, been run.

Biron. Lo, he is tilting straight! Peace; I
have done.

Enter Costard.

Welcome, pure wit! thou partest a fair fray.

Cost. O, sir, they would know,
Whether the three worthies shall come in, or no.

Biron. What, are there but three?

Cost. No, sir; but it is vara fine,
For every one pursents threee.

Biron. And three times thrice is nine.

Cost. Not so, sir; under correction, sir; I
hope, it is not so:

You cannot beg us, sir, I can assure you, sir;
we know what we know:

I hope, sir, three times thrice, sir,—

Biron. Is not nine.

Cost. Under correction, sir, we know where-
until it doth amount.

B. By Jove, I always took three threes for nine.

Cost. O, sir, it were pity you should get your
living by reckoning, sir.

Biron. How much is it?

Cost. O, sir, the parties themselves, the actors,
sir, will show whereuntil it doth amount: for
my own part, I am, as they say, but to perfect
one man,—e'en one poor man; Pompion, the
great, sir.

Biron. Art thou one of the worthies?

Cost. It pleased them, to think me worthy of
Pompion the great: for mine own part, I know
not the degree of the worthy: but I am to
stand for him.

Biron. Go, bid them prepare.

Cost. We will turn it finely off, sir; we will
take some care. [*Exit Costard.*

King. Birón, they will shame us, let them
not approach.

Biron. We are shame-proof, my lord; and
'tis some policy,

To have one show worse than the king's and
his company.

King. I say, they shall not come. [now;

Prin. Nay, my good lord, let me o'er-rule you
That sport best pleases, that doth least know how:
Where zeal strives to content, and the contents
Die in the zeal of them which it presents,
Their form confounded makes most form in
mirth; [birth.

When great things labouring perish in their
Bir. A right description of our sport, my lord.

Enter Armado.

Arm. Anointed, I implore so much expense
of thy royal sweet breath, as will utter a brace
of words.

[*Armado converses with the King, and de-
livers him a paper.*

That's all one, my fair, sweet, honey monarch:
for, I protest, the schoolmaster is exceeding
fantastical; too, too vain; too, too vain: But
we will put it, as they say, to *fortuna della
guerra*. I wish you the peace of mind, most
royal complement! [*Exit Armado.*

King. Here is like to be a good presence of
worthies: He presents Hector of Troy; the
swain, Pompey the great; the parish curate,
Alexander; Armado's page, Hercules; the
pedant, Judas Machabæus:

And if these four worthies in their first show
thrive, [other five.

These four will change habits, and present the
Biron. There is five in the first show.

King. You are deceiv'd, 'tis not so.

Biron. The pedant, the braggart, the hedge-
priest, the fool, and the boy:—

Abate a throw at novum¹; and the whole world
again, [vein.

Cannot pick out five such, take each one in his

King. The ship is under sail, and here she
comes again.

[*Seats brought for the King, Princess, &c.
Pageant of the Nine Worthies.*

Enter Costard arm'd for Pompey.

Cost. I Pompey am,—

Boyet. You lie, you are not he.

Cost. I Pompey am,—

Boyet. With libbard's² head on knee.

Biron. Well said, old mocker; I must needs
be friends with thee.

C. I Pompey am, Pompey surnam'd the big,—
Dum. The great. [great;

Cost. It is great, sir;—Pompey surnam'd the
That oft in field, with target and shield, did
make my foe to sweat:

And, travelling along this coast, I here am come
by chance; [of France.

And lay my arms before the feet of this sweet lass
If your ladyship would say, Thanks Pompey, I
had done.

1 Game with dice. 2 Leopard.

1 Conspiracy.

2 Buffoon.

3 Tale-bearer.

4 Measure.

Prin. Great thanks, great Pompey.

Cost. 'Tis not so much worth ; but, I hope, I was perfect : I made a little fault in great.

Biron. My hat to a halfpenny, Pompey proves the best worthy.

Enter Nathaniel arm'd, for Alexander.

Nath. When in the world I liv'd, I was the world's commander,

By east, west, north, and south, I spread my conquering might :

My 'scutcheon plain declares that I am Alisander,

Boyet. Your nose says, no, you are not ; for it stands too right. [*Alexander.*]

P. The conqueror is dismay'd. Proceed, good *Nath.* When in the world I liv'd, I was the world's commander ;—

B. Most true, 'tis right ; you wereso, Alisander. *Biron.* Pompey the great,——

Cost. Your servant, and Costard.

Biron. Take away the conqueror, take away Alisander.

Cost. O, sir, [*To Nath.*] you have overthrown Alisander the conqueror ! You will be scraped out of the painted cloth for this. A conqueror, and afraid to speak ! run away for shame, Alisander. [*Nath. retires.*] There, an't shall please you ; a foolish mild man ; an honest man, look you, and soon dash'd ! He is a marvellous good neighbour, in sooth ; and a very good bowler : but, for Alisander, alas, you see, how 'tis ;—a little o'er-parted :—But there are worthies a-coming will speak their mind in some other sort.

Prin. Stand aside, good Pompey.

Enter Holofernes arm'd, and Moth arm'd, for Hercules.

Hol. Great Hercules is presented by this imp, Whose club kill'd Cerberus, that three-headed canus ;

And when he was a babe, a child, a shrimp, Thus did he strangle serpents in his manus Quoniam, he seemeth in minority ;

Ergo, I come with this apology.—

Keep some state in thy exit, and vanish.

[*Exit Moth.*]

Hol. Judas I am, cyleped¹ Machabæus.

Dum. Judas Machabæus clipt, is plain Judas.

Hol. I will not be put out of countenance.

Biron. Because thou hast no face.

Hol. What is this ?

Boyet. A cittern head.

Dum. The head of a bodkin.

Biron. A death's face in a ring.

L. The face of an old Roman coin, scarce seen.

Boyet. The pummel of Cæsar's faulchion.

Dum. The carv'd-bone face on a flask.

Biron. St George's half-cheek in a brooch.

Dum. Ay, in a brooch of lead.

B. Ay, and worn in the cap of a tooth-drawer : And now, forward ; for we have put thee in countenance.

Hol. You have put me out of countenance.

Biron. False ; we have given thee faces.

Hol. But you have out-fac'd them all.

¹ Called,

Biron. An thou wert a lion, we would do so. *Boyet.* Therefore, as he is, an ass, let him go.

[*Exit Holofernes.*]

Enter Armado arm'd, for Hector.

Biron. Hide thy head, Achilles ; here comes Hector in arms.

Dum. Though my mocks come home by me, I will now be merry.

King. Hector was but a Trojan in respect of *Boyet.* But is this Hector ? [*this.*]

D. I think, Hector was not so clean-timber'd.

Long. His leg is too big for Hector.

Dum. More calf, certain.

Boyet. No ; he is best indued in the small.

Biron. This cannot be Hector.

Dum. He's a painter, for he makes faces.

A. The armipotent Mars, of lances the mighty, Gave Hector a gift,——

Dum. A gilt nutmeg.

Biron. A lemon.

Long. Stuck with cloves.

Dum. No, cloven.

Arm. Peace !

The armipotent Mars, of lances the mighty, Gave Hector a gift, the heir of Ilium ; [*yea*

A man so breath'd, that certain he would fight, From morn till night, out of his pavilion.

I am that flower,——

Dum. That mint.

Long. That columbine.

Arm. Sweet lord Longaville, rein thy tongue.

Long. I must rather give it the rein ; for it runs against Hector.

Dum. Ay, and Hector's a greyhound.

Arm. The sweet war-man is dead ; sweet chucks, beat not the bones of the buried : when he breath'd, he was a man.—But I will forward with my device : Sweet royalty, [*To the Princess.*] bestow on me the sense of hearing.

[*Bir. whispers Costard.*]

P. Speak, brave Hector ; we are much delighted.

Arm. I do adore thy sweet grace's slipper.

Boyet. Loves her by the foot.

Arm. This Hector far surmounted Hannibal.—

C. The party is gone, fellow Hector, she is gone.

Arm. Dost thou infamozize me among potentates ? thou shalt die.

Cost. Then shall Hector be hanged, for Pompey that is dead by him.

Dum. Most rare Pompey !

Boyet. Renowned Pompey !

Biron. Greater than great, great, great, great Pompey ! Pompey the huge !

Dum. Hector trembles.

Biron. Pompey is moved.—More Ates,¹ more Ates ; stir them on ! stir them on !

Dum. Hector will challenge him.

Biron. Ay, if he have no more man's blood in him than will sup a flea.

Arm. By the north pole, I do challenge thee. *Cos.* I will not fight with a pole, like a northern man ; I'll slash ; I'll do it by the sword ;—I pray you, let me borrow my arms again.

Dum. Room for the incensed worthies.

Cost. I'll do it in my shirt.

Dum. Most resolute Pompey.

¹ The goddess of discord.

Arm. Gentlemen and soldiers, pardon me ; I will not combat in my shirt.

Dum. You may not deny it, Pompey hath made the challenge.

Arm. Sweet bloods, I both may and will.

Biron. What reason have you for't ?

Arm. The naked truth of it is, I have no shirt, I go woolward for penance.

Boyet. True, and it was enjoined him in Rome for want of linen.

Enter Mercade.

Mer. Heaven save you, madam !

Prin. Welcome, Mercade.

But that thou interrupt'st our merriment.

Mer. I am sorry, madam ; for the news I bring, is heavy in my tongue. The king your father—

Prin. Dead, for my life.

Mer. Even so ; my tale is told.

B. Worthies, away ; the scene begins to cloud.

A. For mine own part, I breathe free breath ; I have seen the day of wrong through the little hole of discretion, and I will right myself like a soldier.

[*Exeunt Worthies.*]

King. How fares your majesty ?

Prin. Boyet, prepare ; I will away to-night.

King. Madam, not so ; I do beseech you, stay.

P. Prepare, I say.—I thank you, gracious lords,

For all your fair endeavours ; and entreat,

Out of a new-sad soul, that you vouchsafe

In your rich wisdom, to excuse or hide,

The liberal¹ opposition of our spirits :

If over-boldly we have borne ourselves

In the converse of breath, your gentleness

Was guilty of it.—Farewell, worthy lord !

A heavy heart bears not an humble tongue :

Excuse me so, coming so short of thanks

For my great suit so easily obtain'd.

King. The extreme parts of time extremely

All causes to the purpose of his speed ; [form

And often, at his very loose, decides

That which long process could not arbitrate :

And though the morning brow of progeny

Forbid the smiling courtesy of love,

The holy suit which fain it would convince ;

Yet, since love's argument was first on foot,

Let not the cloud of sorrow justle it

From what it purpos'd ; since, to wail friends

lost,

Is not by much so wholesome, profitable,

As to rejoice at friends but newly found.

P. I understand you not, my griefs are double.

Bir. Honest plain words best pierce the ear of grief :—

And by these badges understand the king.

For your fair sakes have we neglected time,

Play'd foul play with our oaths ; your beauty, ladies,

Hath much deform'd us, fashioning our humours

Even to the opposed end of our intents :

And what in us hath seem'd ridiculous,—

As love is full of unbecoming strains ;

All wanton as a child, skipping, and vain ;

Form'd by the eye, and, therefore like the eye

Full of strange shapes, of habits, and of forms,

Varying in subjects as the eye doth roll

To every varied object in his glance :

¹ Excessive.

Which party-coated presence of loose love

Put on by us, if, in your heavenly eyes

Have misbecom'd our oaths and gravities,

Those heavenly eyes, that look into these faults,

Suggested us to make : Therefore, ladies,

Our love being yours, the error that love makes

Is likewise yours : we to ourselves prove false,

By being once false for ever to be true

To those that make us both,—fair ladies, you :

And even that falsehood, in itself a sin,

Thus purifies itself, and turns to grace.

P. We have receiv'd your letters, full of love ;

Your favours, the ambassadors of love ;

And, in our maiden council, rated them

At courtship, pleasant jest, and courtesy,

As bombast, and as lining to the time :

But more devout than this, in our respects,

Have we not been ; and therefore met your loves

In their own fashion, like a merriment.

Dum. Our letters, madam, show'd much more

Long. So did our looks. [than jest.

Ros. We did not quote! them so.

King. Now, at the latest minute of the hour,

Grant us your loves.

Prin. A time, methinks, too short

To make a world-without-end bargain in :

No, no, my lord, your grace is perjur'd much,

Full of dear guiltiness ; and therefore this,—

If for my love (as there is no such cause)

You will do aught, this shall you do for me :

Your oath I will not trust ; but go with speed

To some forlorn and naked hermitage,

Remote from all the pleasures of the world ;

There stay, until the twelve celestial signs

Have brought about their annual reckoning ;

If this austere insouciant life

Change not your offer made in heat of blood,

If frosts, and fasts, hard lodging, and thin weeds,²

Nip not the gaudy blossoms of your love,

But that it bear this trial, and last love ;

Then, at the expiration of the year,

Come challenge, challenge me by these deserts,

And, by this virgin palm, now kissing thine,

I will be thine ; and, till that instant, shut

My woeful self up in a mourning house ;

Raining the tears of lamentation,

For the remembrance of my father's death.

If this thou do deny, let our hands part ;

Neither entitled in the other's heart.

King. If this, or more than this, I would deny,

To flatter up these powers of mine with rest,

The sudden hand of death close up mine eye !

Hence ever then my heart is in thy breast.

Bir. And what to me, my love? and what to me?

R. You must be purged too, your sins are rank ;

You are attain'd³ with faults and perjury ;

Therefore, if you my favour mean to get,

A twelvemonth shall you spend, and never rest,

But seek the weary beds of people sick.

Dum. But what to me, my love? but what to me?

K. A wife!—A beard, fair health, and honesty ;

With three-fold love I wish you all these three.

Dum. O, shall I say, I thank you, gentle wife?

K. Not so, my lord ;—a twelvemonth and a day

I'll mark no words that smooth-fac'd wooers say :

Come when the king doth to my lady come,

Then, if I have much love, I'll give you some.

¹ Regard. ² Clothing. ³ Stained.

M

D. I'll serve thee true and faithfully till then.

K. Yet swear not, lest you be forsworn again.

Long. What says Maria?

Mar. At the twelvemonth's end,
I'll change my black gown for a faithful friend.

L. I'll stay with patience; but the time is long.

Mar. The liker you; few taller are so young.

Bir. Studies, my lady? mistress, look on me.

Behold the window of my heart, mine eye,

What humble suit attends thy answer there;

Impose some service on me for thy love.

Ros. Oft have I heard of you, my lord Birón,

Before I saw you: and the world's large tongue

Proclaims you for a man replete with mocks;

Full of comparisons and wounding flouts;

Which you on all estates will execute,

That lie within the mercy of your wit:

To weed this wormwood from your fruitful brain;

And, therewithal, to win me, if you please,

(Without the which I am not to be won,)

You shall this twelvemonth term from day to day

Visit the speechless sick, and still converse

With groaning wretches; and your task shall be,

With all the fierce endeavour of your wit,

To enforce the pained impotent to smile.

B. To move wild laughter in the throat of

It cannot be; it is impossible: [death?

Mirth cannot move a soul in agony. [spirit,

Ros. Why, that's the way to choke a gibing

Whose influence is begot of that loose grace,

Which shallow laughing hearers give to fools:

A jest's prosperity lies in the ear

Of him that hears it, never in the tongue

Of him that makes it; then, if sickly ears,

Deaf'd with the clamours of their own dear

groans,

Will hear your idle scorns, continue then,

And I will have you, and that fault withal;

But, if they will not, throw away that spirit,

And I shall find you empty of that fault,

Right joyful of your reformation.

Birón. A twelvemonth? well, befall what will

I'll jest a twelvemonth in an hospital. [befal,

Prin. Ay, sweet my lord: and so I take my

leave. [To the King.

K. No, madam: we will bring you on your way.

Bir. Our wooing doth not end like an old play;

Jack hath not Jill: these ladies' courtesy

Might well have made our sport a comedy.

K. Come, sir, it wants a twelvemonth and a

And then 'twill end. [day,

Birón. That's too long for a play.

Enter Armado.

Arm. Sweet majesty, vouchsafe me.—

Prin. Was not that Hector?

Dum. The worthy knight of Troy.

Arm. I will kiss thy royal finger and take

leave: I am a votary; I have vowed to Jaque-

netta to hold the plough for her sweet love three

years. But, most esteemed greatness, will you

hear the dialogue that the two learned men have
compiled, in praise of the owl and the cuckoo?
it should have followed in the end of our show.

King. Call them forth quickly, we will do so.

Arm. Holla! approach.

*Enter Holofernes, Nathaniel, Moth, Costard,
and others.*

This side is Hiems, winter; this Ver, the spring;
the one maintain'd by the owl, the other by the
cuckoo. Ver, begin.

SONG.

I.

SPRING. When daisies pied,¹ and violets blue,

And lady-smocks all silver-white,

And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue,

Do paint the meadows with delight,

The cuckoo then, on every tree,

Mocks married men, for thus sings he,

Cuckoo;

Cuckoo, cuckoo,—O word of fear,

Unpleasing to a married ear!

II.

When shepherds pipe on oaten straws,

And merry larks are ploughmen's clocks,

When turtles tread, and rooks, and daws,

And maidens bleach their summer smocks,

The cuckoo then, on every tree,

Mocks married men, for thus sings he,

Cuckoo;

Cuckoo, cuckoo,—O word of fear,

Unpleasing to a married ear!

III.

WINTER. When icicles hang by the wall,

And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,

And Tom bears logs into the hall,

And milk comes frozen home in pail,

When blood is nipp'd, and ways be foul,

Then nightly sings the staring owl,

To-who;

Tu-whit, to-who, a merry note.

While greasy Joan doth keel² the pot.

IV.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,

And coughing drowns the parson's saw,

And birds sit brooding in the snow,

And Marian's nose looks red and raw,

When roasted crabs³ hiss in the bowl,

Then nightly sings the staring owl,

To-who;

Tu-whit, to-who, a merry note,

While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

Arm. The words of Mercury are harsh after
the songs of Apollo. You, that way; we, this
way. [Exeunt.

1 Variegated.

2 Scum.

3 Wild apples.

Merchant of Venice.

Persons Represented.

DUKE OF VENICE.
 PRINCE OF MOROCCO, } *Suitors to Portia.*
 PRINCE OF ARRAGON, }
 ANTONIO, *the Merchant of Venice.*
 BASSANIO, *his Friend.*
 SALANIO, }
 SALARINO, } *Friends to Antonio and Bassanio.*
 GRATIANO, }
 LORENZO, *in love with Jessica.*
 SHYLOCK, *a Jew.*
 TUBAL, *a Jew, his Friend.*
 LAUNCELOT GOBBO, *a Clown, Servant to Shylock.*

Old GOBBO, *Father to Launcelot.*
 SALERIO, *a Messenger from Venice.*
 LEONARDO, *Servant to Bassanio.*
 BELTHAZAR, } *Servants to Portia.*
 STEPHANO, }

PORTIA, *a rich Heiress.*
 NERISSA, *her Waiting-Maid.*
 JESSICA, *Daughter to Shylock.*

Magnificoes of Venice, Officers of the Court of Justice, Gaoler, Servants, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—Partly at Venice, and partly at Belmont, the seat of Portia, on the Continent.

Act First.

SCENE I.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Antonio, Salarino, and Salanio.

Ant. In sooth, I know not why I am so sad;
 It wearies me; you say it wearies you;
 But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,
 What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born,
 I am to learn;
 And such a want-wit sadness makes of me,
 That I have much ado to know myself.

Salar. Your mind is tossing on the ocean;
 There, where your argosies¹ with portly sail,—
 Like signiors and rich burghers of the flood,
 Or, as it were, the pageants of the sea,—
 Do overpeer the petty traffickers,
 That court'sy to them, do them reverence,
 As they fly by them with their woven wings.

Salan. Believe me, sir, had I such venture
 forth

The better part of my affections would
 Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still
 Plucking the grass, to know where sits the wind;
 Peering in maps, for ports, and piers, and roads;
 And every object, that might make me fear
 Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt,
 Would make me sad.

Salar. My wind, cooling my broth,
 Would blow me to an ague, when I thought
 What harm a wind too great might do at sea.
 I should not see the sandy hour-glass run,
 But I should think of shallows and of flats;
 And see my wealthy Andrew dock'd in sand,
 Vailing² her high-top lower than her ribs,
 To kiss her burial. Should I go to church,
 And see the holy edifice of stone,
 And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks?
 Which touching but my gentle vessel's side,
 Would scatter all her spices on the stream;
 Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks;
 And, in a word, but even now worth this,
 And now worth nothing! Shall I have the
 thought

To think on this; and shall I lack the thought,
 That such a thing, bechano'd, would make me
 sad?

But, tell not me; I know Antonio
 Is sad to think upon his merchandize.

Ant. Believe me, no: I thank my fortune for it,
 My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,
 Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate
 Upon the fortune of this present year:

Therefore, my merchandize makes me not sad.

Salan. Why then you are in love.

Ant. Fie, fie!

Salan. Not in love neither? Then let's say,
 you are sad,

Because you are not merry: and 'twere as easy
 For you, to laugh, and leap, and say, you are
 merry,

Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed
 Janus,

Nature hath fram'd strange fellows in her time:
 Some that will evermore peep through their eyes,
 And laugh, like parrots, at a bag-piper;
 And other of such vinegar aspect,
 That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile,
 Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable.

Enter Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano.

Salan. Here comes Bassanio, your most noble
 Gratiano, and Lorenzo: Fare you well; [kinsman,
 We leave you now with better company. [merry,

Salar. I would have staid till I had made you
 If worthier friends had not prevented me.

Ant. Your worth is very dear in my regard.
 I take it, your own business calls on you,
 And you embrace the occasion to depart.

Salar. Good morrow, my good lords.

Bass. Good signiors both, when shall we laugh?

Say, when?

You grow exceeding strange: Must it be so?

Salar. We'll make our leasures to attend on
 [Exit Salarino and Salanio. [yours,

Lor. My lord Bassanio, since you have found
 Antonio,

We two will leave you: but, at dinner-time,
 I pray you, have in mind where we must meet.

1 Large trading vessels.

2 Lowering.

Bass. I will not fail you.

Gra. You look not well, signior Antonio;
You have too much respect upon the world:
They lose it, that do buy it with much care.
Believe me, you are marvellously chang'd.

A. I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano;
A stage, where every man must play a part,
And mine a sad one.

Gra. Let me play the Fool:
With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come;
And let my liver rather heat with wine,
Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.
Why should a man, whose blood is warm within,
Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster?
Sleep when he wakes? and creep into the jaundice
By being peevish? I tell thee what, Antonio,—
I love thee, and it is my love that speaks;
There are a sort of men, whose visages
Do cream and mantle, like a standing pond;
And do a wilful stillness¹ entertain,
With purpose to be dress'd in an opinion
Of wisdom, gravity, profound conceit;
As who should say, *I am Sir Oracle*,
And, when I ope my lips, let no dog bark!

O, my Antonio, I do know of these,
That therefore only are reputed wise,
For saying nothing; who, I am very sure, [ears,
If they should speak, would almost dam those
Which, hearing them, would call their brothers,
I'll tell thee more of this another time: [fools.
But fish not, with this melancholy bait,
For this fool's gudgeon, this opinion.—
Come, good Lorenzo;—Fare ye well, a while;
I'll end my exhortation after dinner. [time:]

Lor. Well, we will leave you then till dinner—
I must be one of these same dumb wise men,
For Gratiano never lets me speak.

G. Well, keep me company but two years more,
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine own
tongue.

Ant. Farewell: I'll grow a talker for this gear.
[*Exeunt Gratiano and Lorenzo.*]

Bass. Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of
nothing, more than any man in all Venice: His
reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two
bushels of chaff; you shall seek all day ere you
find them: and, when you have them, they are
not worth the search.

Ant. Well; tell me now, what lady is this same
To whom you swore a secret pilgrimage,
That you to-day promis'd to tell me of?

Bass. 'Tis not unknown to you, Antonio,
How much I have disabled mine estate,
By something showing a more swelling port
Than my faint means would grant continuance:
Nor do I now make moan to be abridg'd
From such a noble rate; but my chief care
Is, to come fairly off from the great debts,
Wherein my time, something too prodigal,
Hath left me gag'd: To you, Antonio,
I owe the most, in money, and in love;
And from your love I have a warranty
To unburthen all my plots, and purposes,
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.

Ant. I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it;
And, if it stand, as you yourself still do,
Within the eye of honour, be assured,

1 Silence.

My purse, my person, my extremest means,
Lie all unlock'd to your occasions.

Bass. In my school-days, when I had lost one
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight [shaft
The self-same way, with more advised watch,
To find the other forth; and by advent'ring both,
I oft found both: I urge this childhood proof,
Because what follows is pure innocence.
I owe you much; and, like a wilful youth,
That which I owe is lost; but if you please
To shoot another arrow that self way
Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,
As I will watch the aim, or to find both,
Or bring your latter hazard back again,
And thankfully rest debtor for the first.

Ant. You know me well; and herein spend but
To wind about my love with circumstance; [time,
And, out of doubt, you do me now more wrong,
In making question of my uttermost,
Than if you had made waste of all I have:
Then do but say to me what I should do,
That in your knowledge may be me done,
And I am prest¹ unto it: therefore, speak.

Bass. In Belmont is a lady richly left,
And she is fair, and, fairer than that word,
Of wond'rous virtues; sometimes from her eyes
I did receive fair speechless messages:
Her name is Portia; nothing undervalued
To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia.
Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth;
For the four winds blow in from every coast
Renowned suitors: and her sunny locks
Hang on her temples like a golden fleece;
Which makes her seat of Belmont, Colchus's
And many Jasons come in quest of her. [strand,
O my Antonio, had I but the means
To hold a rival place with one of them,
I have a mind presages me such thrift,
That I should questionless be fortunate.

Ant. Thou know'st, that all my fortunes are at
Nor have I money, nor commodity [sea;
To raise a present sum: therefore go forth,
Try what my credit can in Venice do;
That shall be rack'd, even to the uttermost,
To furnish thee to Belmont, to fair Portia.
Go presently inquire, and so will I,
Where money is; and I no question make,
To have it of my trust, or for my sake. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Portia and Nerissa.

Por. By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is
a-weary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, sweet madam, if your
miseries were in the same abundance as your
good fortunes are: And yet, for aught I see, they
are as sick, that surfeit with too much, as they
that starve with nothing: It is no mean happi-
ness, therefore, to be seated in the mean; super-
fluity comes sooner by white hairs, but compe-
tency lives longer.

Por. Good sentences, and well pronounced.

Ner. They would be better, if well followed.

Por. If to do were as easy as to know what
were good to do, chapels had been churches,

1 Ready.

and poor men's cottages, prince's palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions: I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose me a husband:—O me, the word choose! I may neither choose whom I would, nor refuse whom I dislike; so is the will of a living daughter curb'd by the will of a dead father:—Is it not hard, Nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?

Ner. Your father was ever virtuous; and holy men, at their death, have good inspirations; therefore, the lottery, that he hath devised in these three chests, of gold, silver, and lead, (whereof who chooses his meaning, chooses you,) will, no doubt, never be chosen by any rightly, but one who you shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come?

Por. I pray thee, over-name them: and as thou namest them, I will describe them; and, according to my description, level at my affection.

Ner. First, there is the Neapolitan prince.

Por. Ay, that's a colt, indeed, for he doth nothing but talk of his horse; and he makes it a great appropriation to his own good parts, that he can shoe him himself.

Ner. Then, is there the county? Palatine.

Por. He doth nothing but frown; as who should say, *An if you will not have me, choose*; he hears merry tales, and smiles not; I fear he will prove the weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had rather be married to a death's head with a bone in his mouth, than to either of these. Heaven defend me from these two!

Ner. How say you by the French lord, monsieur Le Bon?

Por. Heaven made him, and therefore let him pass for a man. In truth, I know it is a sin to be a mocker: But, he! why, he hath a horse better than the Neapolitan's; a better bad habit of frowning than the Count Palatine: he is every man in no man: if a throstle sing, he falls straight a capering; he will fence with his own shadow: If I should marry him, I should marry twenty husbands: If he would despise me, I would forgive him; for if he love me to madness, I shall never requite him.

Ner. What say you then to Faulconbridge, the young baron of England?

Por. You know, I say nothing to him; for he understands not me, nor I him: he hath neither Latin, French, nor Italian; and you will come into the court and swear, that I have a poor pennyworth in the English. He is a proper man's picture; but, alas! who can converse with a dumb show? How oddly he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behaviour every where.

Ner. What think you of the Scottish lord, his neighbour?

Por. That he hath a neighbourly charity in him; for he borrowed a box of the ear of the Englishman, and swore he would pay him again,

1 Count.

when he was able: I think the Frenchman became his surety, and sealed under for another.

Ner. How like you the young German, the duke of Saxony's nephew?

Por. Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober; and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk: when he is best, he is a little worse than a man; and when he is worst, he is little better than a beast: an the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make shift to go without him.

N. If he should offer to choose, and choose the right casket, you should refuse to perform your father's will, if you should refuse to accept him.

Por. Therefore, for fear of the worst, I pray thee set a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary casket; for, if the devil be within, and that temptation without, I know he will choose it. I will do any thing, Nerissa, ere I will be married to a sponge.

Ner. You need not fear, lady, the having any of these lords; they have acquainted me with their determinations: which is, indeed, to return to their home, and to trouble you with no more suit; unless you may be won by some other sort than your father's imposition, depending on the caskets.

Por. If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana, unless I be obtained by the manner of my father's will: I am glad this parcel of wooers are so reasonable; for there is not one among them but I dote on his very absence, and I wish them a fair departure.

Ner. Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a Venetian, a scholar, and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquis of Montferrat?

Por. Yes, yes, it was Bassanio; as I think, so was he called.

Ner. True, madam; he of all the men that ever my foolish eyes looked upon, was the best deserving a fair lady.

P. I remember him well; and I remember him worthy of thy praise.—How now! what news?

Enter a Servant.

Serv. The four strangers seek for you, madam, to take their leave: and there is a fore-runner come from a fifth, the prince of Morocco; who brings word, the prince, his master, will be here to-night.

Por. If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should be glad of his approach: if he have the condition of a saint, and the complexion of a devil, I had rather he should shrive me than wive me. Come, Nerissa.—Sirrah, go before.—While we shut the gate upon one wooer, another knocks at the door. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III.—VENICE. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Bassanio and Shylock.

Shy. Three thousand ducats,—well.

Bass. Ay, sir, for three months.

Shy. For three months,—well.

Bass. For the which, as I told you, Antonio shall be bound.

Shy. Antonio shall become bound,—well.

Bass. May you stead me? Will you pleasure me? Shall I know your answer?

Shy. Three thousand ducats, for three months, and Antonio bound.

Bass. Your answer to that.

Shy. Antonio is a good man.

Bass. Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?

Shy. Ho, no, no, no, no;—my meaning, in saying he is a good man, is to have you understand me, that he is sufficient: yet his means are in supposition: he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies; I understand moreover upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England,——and other ventures he hath, squander'd abroad: But ships are but boards, sailors but men: there be land-rats, and water-rats, water-thieves, and land-thieves; I mean, pirates; and then, there is the peril of waters, winds, and rocks: The man is, notwithstanding, sufficient;—three thousand ducats;—I think I may take his bond.

Bass. Be assured you may.

Shy. I will be assured, I may; and, that I may be assured, I will bethink me: May I speak with Antonio?

Bass. If it please you to dine with us.

Shy. Yes, to smell pork: I will buy with you, sell with you, talk with you, walk with you, and so following; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you. What news on the Rialto?—Who is he comes here?

Enter Antonio.

Bass. This is signior Antonio.

Shy. [*Aside.*] How like a fawning publican he! I hate him for he is a Christian: [looks!] But more, for that, in low simplicity, He lends out money gratis, and brings down The rate of usance here with us in Venice. If I can catch him once upon the hip, I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him. He hates our sacred nation; and he rails, Even there where merchants most do congregate, On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift, Which he calls interest: Cursed be my tribe, If I forgive him!

Bass. Shylock, do you hear?

Shy. I am debating of my present store; And, by the near guess of my memory, I cannot instantly raise up the gross Of full three thousand ducats: What of that? Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe, Will furnish me: But soft; How many months Do you desire?—Rest you fair, good signior:

[*To Antonio.*]

Your worship was the last man in our mouths.
Ant. Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow, By taking, nor by giving of excess, Yet to supply the ripe¹ wants of my friend, I'll break a custom:—Is he yet possess'd,² How much you would?

Shy. Ay, ay, three thousand ducats.

Ant. And for three months.

Shy. I had forgot,—three months, you told me so.

1 Pressing.

2 Informed.

Well then, your bond; and, let me see,—But hear you;

Methought, you said, you neither lend nor borrow upon advantage.

Ant. I do never use it.

Shy. When Jacob graz'd his uncle Laban's This Jacob from our holy Abraham was [sheep, (As his wise mother wrought in his behalf,)] The third possessor; ay, he was the third.

Ant. And what of him? did he take interest?

S. No, not take interest; not, as you would say, Directly interest: mark what Jacob did.

When Laban and himself were compromis'd, That all the eanlings which were streak'd, and Should fall as Jacob's hire,

The skilful shepherd peel'd me certain wands,

And stuck them up before the fulsome ewes;

Who, then conceiving, did in eaning time

Fall partly colour'd lambs, and those were Jacob's.

This was a way to thrive, and he was blest;

And thrift is blessing, if men steal it not.

Ant. This was a venture, sir, that Jacob serv'd

A thing not in his power to bring to pass, [for; But sway'd, and fashion'd, by the hand of heaven.

Was this inserted to make interest good?

Or is your gold and silver, ewes and rams?

Shy. I cannot tell; I make it breed as fast:—

But note me, signior.

Ant. Mark you this, Bassanio,

The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

An evil soul, producing holy witness,

Is like a villain with a smiling cheek;

A goodly apple rotten at the heart;

O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!

Shy. Three thousand ducats,—'tis a good round sum,

Three months from twelve, then let me see the

A. Well, Shylock, shall we be beholden to you?

Shy. Signior Antonio, many a time and oft,

In the Rialto you have rated me

About my monies, and my usances¹.

Still have I borne it with a patient shrug;

For surffance is the badge of all our tribe:

You call me—misbeliever, cut-throat dog,

And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,²

And all for use of that which is mine own.

Well then, it now appears, you need my help:

Go to then; you come to me, and you say,

Shylock, we would have monies; You say so;

You, that did void your rheum upon my beard,

And foot me, as you spurn a stranger cur

Over your threshold; monies is your suit.

What should I say to you? Should I not say,

Hath a dog money? is it possible,

A cur can lend three thousand ducats? or

Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,

With' bated breath, and whispering humbleness,

Say this,—

Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last;

You spurn'd me such a day; another time

You call'd me—dog; and for these courtesies

I'll lend you thus much monies.

Ant. I am as like to call thee so again,

To spit on thee again, to spurn thee too.

If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not

As to thy friends; (for when did friendship take

A breed for barren metal of his friend?)

1 Usury.

2 Loose upper garment.

But lend it rather to thine enemy;
Who if he break, thou may'st with better face
Exact the penalty.

Shy. Why, look you, how you storm!
I would be friends with you, and have your love,
Forget the shames that you have stain'd me with,
Supply your present wants, and take no doit¹
Of usance for my monies, and you'll not hear me:
This is kind I offer.

Ant. This were kindness.

Shy. This kindness will I show:
Go with me to a notary, seal me there
Your single bond; and, in a merry sport,
If you repay me not on such a day,
In such a place, such sum, or sums, as are
Express'd in the condition, let the forfeit
Be nominated for an equal pound
Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken
In what part of your body pleaseth me.

Ant. Content, in faith; I'll seal to such a bond,
And say, there is much kindness in the Jew.

Bass. You shall not seal to such a bond for me,
I'll rather dwell in my necessity.

Ant. Why, fear not, man, I will not forfeit it;
Within these two months, that's a month before
This bond expires, I do expect return
Of thrice three times the value of this bond.

S.O. father Abraham, what these Christians are;
Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect
The thoughts of others! Pray you, tell me this;
If he should break his day, what should I gain
By the exaction of the forfeiture?

A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man,
Is not so estimable, profitable neither,
As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. I say
To buy his favour, I extend this friendship:
If he will take it, so; if not, adieu;

And, for my love, I pray you, wrong me not.
Ant. Yes, Shylock, I will seal unto this bond.

Shy. Then meet me forthwith at the notary's;
Give him direction for this merry bond,
And I will go and purse the ducats straight;
See to my house, left in the fearful² guard
Of an unthrifty knave; and presently
I will be with you. [Exit.]

Ant. Hie thee, gentle Jew.
This Hebrew will turn Christian; he grows kind.

Bass. I like not fair terms, and a villain's mind.

Ant. Come on: in this there can be no dismay,
My ships come home a month before the day. [Exeunt.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Flourish of Cornets. Enter the Prince of Morocco and his Train; Portia, Nerissa, and other of her Attendants.

Mor. Mislike me not for my complexion,
The shadow'd livery of the burnish'd sun,
To whom I am a neighbour, and near bred.
Bring me the fairest creature northward born,
Where Phœbus' fire scarce thaws the icicles,

¹ Smallest coin.

² Fearful to Shylock.

And let us make incision¹ for your love,
To prove whose blood is reddest, his, or mine.
I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine
Hath fear'd² the valiant; by my love, I swear,
The best regarded virgins of our clime
Have lov'd it too: I would not change this hue,
Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.

Por. In terms of choice I am not solely led
By nice direction of a maiden's eyes:
Besides, the lottery of my destiny
Bars me the right of voluntary choosing:
But, if my father had not scant'd³ me,
And hedg'd me by his wit, to yield myself
His wife, who wins me by that means I told you,
Yourself, renown'd prince, then stood as fair,
As any com'er I have look'd on yet,
For my affection.

Mor. Even for that I thank you;
Therefore, I pray you, lead me to the caskets,
To try my fortune. By this scimitar,—
That slew the Sophy, and a Persian prince,
That won three fields of sultan Solymán,—
I would out-stare the sternest eyes that look,
Out-brave the heart most daring on the earth,
Pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear,
Yea, mock the lion when he roars for prey,
To win thee, lady: But, alas the while!
If Hercules, and Lichas, play at dice
Which is the better man, the greater throw
May turn by fortune from the weaker hand:
So is Alcides beaten by his page;
And so may I, blind fortune leading me,
Miss that which one unworthy may attain,
And die with grieving.

Por. You must take your chance;
And either not attempt to choose at all,
Or swear, before you choose,—if you choose
Never to speak to lady afterward [wrong],
In way of marriage; therefore be advis'd.

Mor. Nor will not; come, bring me unto my chance.

Por. First, forward to the temple; after dinner
Your hazard shall be made.

Mor. Good fortune then! [Cornets.
To make me bless'd or curs'd 'st among men. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Launcelot Gobbo.

Laun. Certainly my conscience will serve me
to run from this Jew, my master: The fiend is
at mine elbow; and tempts me, saying to me,
Gobbo, Launcelot Gobbo, good Launcelot, or good
Gobbo, or good Launcelot Gobbo, use your legs,
take the start, run away: My conscience says
—No; take heed, honest Launcelot; take heed,
honest Gobbo; or, as aforesaid, honest Launcelot
Gobbo; do not run; scorn running with thy
heels: Well, the most courageous fiend bids me
pack; via! says the fiend; away! says the
fiend; rouse up a brave mind, says the fiend,
and run. Well, my conscience, hanging about
the neck of my heart, says very wisely to me,—
my honest friend, Launcelot, being an honest
man's son, budge not; budge, says the fiend;

¹ The Eastern custom of lovers cutting themselves
for their mistresses.

² Terrified.

³ Straitened.

budge not, says my conscience : Conscience, say I, you counsel well ; fiend, say I, you counsel well : to be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with the Jew my master, who is a kind of devil ; and, to run away from the Jew, I should be ruled by the fiend, who, saving your reverence, is the devil himself : Certainly, the Jew is the very devil incarnation ; and, in my conscience, my conscience is but a kind of hard conscience, to offer to counsel me to stay with the Jew : The fiend gives the more friendly counsel : I will run, fiend ; my heels are at your commandment, I will run.

Enter old Gobbo, with a basket.

Gob. Master, young man, you, I pray you ; which is the way to Master Jew's ?

Laun. [*Aside.*] O heavens, this is my true-begotten father ! who, being more than sand-blind, high-gravel blind, knows me not :—I will try conclusions¹ with him.

Gob. Master, young gentleman, I pray you, which is the way to master Jew's ?

Laun. Turn up on your right hand, at the next turning, but, at the next turning of all, on your left ; marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand, but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house.

Gob. 'Twill be a hard way to hit. Can you tell me whether one Launcelot, that dwells with him, dwell with him, or no ?

Laun. Talk you of young master Launcelot ?—Mark me now ; [*Aside.*] now will I raise the waters :—Talk you of young master Launcelot ?

Gob. No master, sir, but a poor man's son ; his father, though I say it, is an honest exceeding poor man, and, God be thanked, well to live.

Laun. Well, let his father be what he will, we talk of young master Launcelot.

G. Your worship's friend, and Launcelot, sir.

Laun. But I pray you *ergo*, old man, *ergo*, I beseech you ; Talk you of young master Launcelot ?

G. Of Launcelot, an't please your mastership.

Laun. *Ergo*, master Launcelot ; talk not of master Launcelot, father ; for the young gentleman (according to fates and destinies, and such odd sayings, the sisters three, and such branches of learning), is indeed deceased.

Gob. Marry, God forbid ! the boy was the very staff of my age, my very prop.

Laun. Do I look like a cudgel, or a hovel-post, a staff, or a prop ?—Do you know me, father ?

Gob. Alack the day, I know you not, young gentleman ; but, I pray you, tell me, is my boy alive or dead ?

Laun. Do you not know me, father ?

G. Alack, sir, I am sand-blind, I know you not.

Laun. Nay, indeed, if you had your eyes, you might fail of the knowing me : it is a wise father, that knows his own child. Well, old man, I will tell you news of your son : Give me your blessing : truth will come to light ; murder cannot be hid long, a man's son may ; but, in the end, truth will out.

Gob. Pray you, sir, stand up, I am sure, you are not Launcelot, my boy.

Laun. Pray you, let's have no more fooling about it, but give me your blessing ; I am Launcelot, your boy that was, your son that is, your child that shall be.

Gob. I cannot think, you are my son.

Laun. I know not what I shall think of that ; but I am Launcelot, the Jew's man ; and, I am sure, Margery, your wife, is my mother.

Gob. Her name is Margery, indeed : I'll be sworn, if thou be Launcelot, thou art mine own flesh and blood. What a beard hast thou got ! thou hast got more hair on thy chin, than Dobbin my thill-horse¹ has on his tail.

Laun. It should seem, then, that Dobbin's tail grows backward ; I am sure he had more hair on his tail, than I have on my face, when I last saw him.

Gob. How art thou changed ! How dost thou and thy master agree ? I have brought him a present ; How 'gree you now ?

Laun. Well, well ; but for mine own part, as I have set up my rest to run away, so I will not rest till I have run some ground : my master's a very Jew : Give him a present ! give him a halter : I am famish'd in his service ; you may tell every finger I have with my ribs. Father, I am glad you are come ; give me your present to one master Bassanio, who, indeed, gives rare new liveries ; if I serve not him, I will run as far as there is any ground.—O rare fortune ! here comes the man ;—to him, father ; for I am a Jew, if I serve the Jew any longer.

Enter Bassanio, with Leonardo, and other Followers.

Bass. You may do so ;—but let it be so hasted, that supper be ready at the farthest by five of the clock : See these letters deliver'd : put the liveries to making ; and desire Gratiano to come anon to my lodging. [*Exit a Servant.*]

Laun. To him, father.

Gob. God bless your worship !

B. Gramercy ; Wouldst thou aught with me ? Gob. Here's my son, sir, a poor boy.

Laun. Not a poor boy, sir, but the rich Jew's man ; that would, sir, as my father shall specify,——

Gob. He hath a great infection, sir, as one would say, to serve—

Laun. Indeed, the short and the long is, I serve the Jew, and I have a desire, as my father shall specify,——

Gob. His master and he (saving your worship's reverence), are scarce cater-cousins² ;

Laun. To be brief, the very truth is, that the Jew having done me wrong, doth cause me, as my father, being I hope, an old man, shall frutify unto you,——

Gob. I have here a dish of doves, that I would bestow upon your worship ; and my suit is,——

Laun. In very brief, the suit is impertinent to myself, as your worship shall know by this honest old man ; and, though I say it, though an old man, yet, poor man, my father.

Bass. One speak for both ;—What would you ?

Laun. Serve you, sir.

Gob. This is the very defect of the matter, sir.

¹ Experiment.

¹ Shaft-horse.

² Fourth cousins.

Bass. I know thee well, thou hast obtain'd thy suit:

Shylock, thy master, spoke with me this day, And hath preferr'd thee, if it be preferment, To leave a rich Jew's service, to become The follower of so poor a gentleman.

Laun. The old proverb is very well parted between my master *Shylock* and you, sir; you have grace, sir, and he hath enough.

Bass. Thou speak'st it well: Go, father, with thy son:—

Take leave of thy old master, and enquire My lodging out:—Give him a livery

[To his followers.

More guarded¹ than his fellows': See it done.

Laun. Father, in:—I cannot get a service, no:—I have ne'er a tongue in my head.—Well, father, come; I'll take my leave of the Jew in the twinkling of an eye.

[*Exeunt Launcelot and old Gobbo.*

B. I pray thee, good *Leonardo*, think on this; These things being bought, and orderly bestow'd, Return in haste, for I do feast to-night

My best esteem'd acquaintance; hie thee, go.

Leon. My best endeavours shall be done herein.

Enter Gratiano.

Gra. Where is your master?

Leon. Yonder, sir, he walks.

[*Exit Leonardo.*

Gra. Signior *Bassanio*,—

Bass. Gratiano!

Gra. I have a suit to you.

Bass. You have obtained it.

Gra. You must not deny me: I must go with you to Belmont.

Bass. Why, then you must;—But hear thee, Gratiano;

Thou art too wild, too rude, and bold of voice:—Parts, that become thee happily enough, And in such eyes as ours appear not faults; But where thou art not known, why, there they show

Something too liberal²;—pray thee take pain To allay with some cold drops of modesty Thy skipping spirit; lest through thy wild behaviour I be misconstrued in the place I go to, [viour, And lose my hopes.

Gra. Signior *Bassanio*, hear me: If I do not put on a sober habit, Talk with respect, and swear but now and then, Wear prayer-books in my pocket, look demurely; Nay more, while grace is saying, hood mine eyes Thus with my hat, and sigh, and say, amen; Use all the observance of civility, Like one well studied in a sad ostent³ To please his grandam, never trust me more.

Bass. Well, we shall see your bearing.

Gra. Nay, but I bar to-night; you shall not By what we do to-night. [gag me

Bass. No, that were pity; I would entreat you rather to put on Your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends That purpose merriment: But fare you well, I have some business.

Gra. And I must to *Lorenzo*, and the rest; But we will visit you at supper-time. [*Exeunt.*

1 Braided.

2 Free.

3 Sober demeanour.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN SHYLOCK'S HOUSE.

Enter Jessica and Launcelot.

Jes. I am sorry, thou wilt leave my father so: Our house is sad, but thou, a merry devil, Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness: But fare thee well; there is a ducat for thee. And, *Launcelot*, soon at supper shalt thou see *Lorenzo*, who is thy new master's guest: Give him this letter; do it secretly, And so farewell; I would not have my father See me talk with thee.

Laun. Adieu!—tears exhibit my tongue.—Most beautiful pagan,—most sweet Jew! If a Christian do not play the knave, and get thee, I am much deceiv'd: But, adieu! these foolish drops do somewhat drown my manly spirit; adieu! [*Exit.*

Jes. Farewell, good *Launcelot*.—Alack, what heinous sin it is in me, To be asham'd to be my father's child! But though I am a daughter to his blood, I am not to his manners: O *Lorenzo*, If thou keep promise, I shall end this strife; Become a Christian, and thy loving wife. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV.—A STREET.

Enter Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Salanio.

Lor. Nay, we will slink away in supper-time; Disguise us at my lodging, and return All in an hour.

Gra. We have not made good preparation.

Salar. We have not spoke us yet of torch-bearers.

Salan. 'Tis vile, unless it may be quaintly order'd, And better, in my mind, not undertook.

Lor. 'Tis now but four o'clock; we have two To furnish us:— [hours

Enter Launcelot, with a Letter.

Friend *Launcelot*, what's the news? *Laun.* An it shall please you to break up this; it shall seem to signify.

Lor. I know the hand: in faith, 'tis a fair hand: And whiter than the paper it writ on, Is the fair hand that writ it.

Gra. Love-news, in faith.

Laun. By your leave, sir.

Lor. Whither goest thou?

La. Marry, sir, to bid my old master the Jew to sup to-night with my new master the Christian.

Lor. Hold here, take this;—tell gentle *Jessica*, I will not fail her:—speak it privately; go.—Gentlemen, [*Exit Launcelot.* Will you prepare you for this mask to-night? I am provided of a torch-bearer.

Salar. Ay, marry, I'll be gone about it straight.

Salan. And so will I.

Lor. Meet me, and Gratiano, At Gratiano's lodging some hour hence.

Salar. 'Tis good we do so.

[*Exeunt Salar, and Salan.*

Gra. Was not that letter from fair *Jessica*? *Lor.* I must need tell thee all: She hath directed, How I shall take her from her father's house: What gold and jewels she is furnish'd with; What page's suit she hath in readiness.

If e'er the Jew her father come to heaven,
It will be for his gentle daughter's sake:
And never dare misfortune cross her foot,
Unless she do it under this excuse,—
That she is issue to a faithless Jew.
Come, go with me; peruse this, as thou goest:
Fair Jessica shall be my torch-bearer. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—BEFORE SHYLOCK'S HOUSE.

Enter Shylock and Launcelot.

Shy. Well, thou shalt see, thy eyes shall be thy judge,
The difference of old Shylock and Bassanio:—
What, Jessica!—thou shalt not gormandize,
As thou hast done with me;—What, Jessica!—
And sleep and snore, and rend apparel out;—
Why, Jessica, I say!

Laun. Why, Jessica!

S. Who bids thee call? I do not bid thee call.
Laun. Your worship was wont to tell me, I
could do nothing without bidding.

Enter Jessica.

Jes. Call you? What is your will?

Shy. I am bid forth to supper, Jessica;
There are my keys:—But wherefore should I go?
I am not bid for love; they flatter me:
But yet I'll go in hate, to feed upon
The prodigal Christian.—Jessica, my girl,
Look to my house:—I am right loth to go;
There is some ill a-brewing towards my rest,
For I did dream of money-bags to-night.

Laun. I beseech you, sir, go; my young master
doth expect your reproach.¹

Shy. So do I his.

Laun. And they have conspired together,—I
will not say, you shall see a masque; but if
you do, then it was not for nothing that my
nose fell a bleeding on Black-Monday last, at
six o'clock i' the morning. [*Jessica:*

Shy. What! are there masques? Hear you me,
Lock up my doors; and when you hear the drum,
And the vile squeaking of the wry-neck'd fife,
Clamber not you up to the casements then,
Nor thrust your head into the public street,
To gaze on Christian fools with varnish'd faces:
But stop my house's ears, I mean my casements;
Let not the sound of shallow foppery enter
My sober house.—By Jacob's staff, I swear
I have no mind of feasting forth to-night:
But I will go.—Go you before me, sirrah;
Say, I will come.

Laun. I will go before, sir.—
Mistress, look out at window, for all this;

There will come a Christian by,

Will be worth a Jewess' eye. [*Exit Laun.*]

S. What says that fool of Hagar's offspring, ha?

Jes. His words were, Farewell, mistress; no-
thing else. [*Feeder,*

Shy. The patch² is kind enough; but a huge
Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day
More than the wild-cat; drones hive not with me;
Therefore I part with him; and part with him
To one that I would have him help to waste
His borrow'd purse.—Well, Jessica, go in;
Perhaps, I will return immediately;

1 (Approach.) 2 Fellow.

Do, as I bid you,

Shut doors after you: Fast bind, fast find:
A proverb never stale in thrifty mind. [*Exit.*]
Jes. Farewell: and if my fortune be not crost,
I have a father, you a daughter, lost. [*Exit.*]

SCENE VI.—THE SAME.

Enter Gratiano and Salarino, masked.

Gra. This is the pent-house,¹ under which
Desir'd us to make stand. [*Lorenzo*

Salar. His hour is almost past.

Gra. And it is marvel he out-dwells his hour,
For lovers ever run before the clock.

Salar. O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly
To seal love's bonds new made, than they are
To keep obliged faith unforfeited! [*wont,*

Gra. That ever holds: Who riseth from a feast,
With that keen appetite that he sits down?
Where is the horse that doth untread again
His tedious measures with the unbated fire
That he did pace them first? All things that are,
Are with more spirit chased than enjoy'd.

How like a younker, or a prodigal,
The scarfed bark puts from her native bay.
How like the prodigal doth she return;
With over-weather'd ribs, and ragged sails.

Enter Lorenzo.

Salar. Here comes Lorenzo:—more of this
hereafter, [*abode;*

Lor. Sweet friends, your patience for my long
Not I, but my affairs, have made you wait;
When you shall please to play the thieves for
wives,

I'll watch as long for you then.—Approach;
Here dwells my father Jew:—Ho! who's within?

Enter Jessica, above, in Boy's clothes.

Jes. Who are you? Tell me for more certainty,
Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.

Lor. Lorenzo, and thy love.

Jes. Lorenzo, certain; and my love, indeed;
For who love I so much? And now who knows,
But you, Lorenzo, whether I am yours?

Lor. Heaven, and thy thoughts, are witness
that thou art. [*pains.*

Jes. Here, catch this casket, it is worth the
I am glad 'tis night, you do not look on me,
For I am much asham'd of my exchange:
But love is blind, and lovers cannot see
The pretty follies that themselves commit:
For if they could, Cupid himself would blush
To see me thus transformed to a boy.

L. Descend, for you must be my torch-bearer.

J. What! must I hold a candle to my shames?
They in themselves, good sooth, are too too light.
Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love;
And I should be obscur'd.

Lor. So are you, sweet,
Even in the lovely garnish of a boy.
But come at once;

For the close night doth play the runaway,
And we are staid for at Bassanio's feast.

Jes. I will make fast the doors, and gild myself
With some more ducats, and be with you straight.

[*Exit from above.*]

Gra. Now, by my hood, a Gentle, and no Jew.

1 Shed.

Lor. Beshrew me, but I love her heartily;
For she is wise, if I can judge of her;
And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true;
And true she is, as she hath prov'd herself;
And therefore, like herself, wise, fair, and true,
Shall she be placed in my constant soul.

Enter Jessica, below.

What, art thou come?—On, gentlemen, away;
Our masquing mates by this time for us stay.

[Exit with Jessica and Salarino.]

Enter Antonio.

Ant. Who's there?

Gra. Signior Antonio?

Ant. Fie, Gratiano! where are all the rest?
'Tis nine o'clock; our friends all stay for you—
No masque to-night: the wind is come about,
Bassanio presently will go aboard:
I have sent twenty out to seek for you.

Gra. I am glad on't; I desire no more delight,
Than to be under sail, and gone to-night. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VII.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Flourish of Cornets. *Enter Portio, with the Prince of Morocco, and both their Trains.*

Por. Go, draw aside the curtains, and discover
The several caskets to this noble prince—
Now make your choice.

Mor. The first, of gold, who this inscription
bears;— *[desire.]*

*Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men
The second, silver, which this promise carries;—
Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves.
This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt;—
Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he
How shall I know if I do choose the right? [hath.]*

Por. The one of them contains my picture,
prince;

If you choose that, then I am yours withal.

Mor. Some god direct my judgment! Let me
I will survey the inscriptions back again; [see,
What says this leaden casket? [hath.]
*Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he
Must give—For what? for lead? hazard for lead?
This casket threatens; Men, that hazard all,
Do it in hope of fair advantages:*

A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross;
I'll then nor give, nor hazard, aught for lead.
What says the silver, with her virgin hue?

*Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves.
As much as he deserves?—Pause there, Morocco,
And weigh thy value with an even hand:
If thou be'st rated by thy estimation,
Thou dost deserve enough; and yet enough
May not extend so far as to the lady;
And yet to be afraid of my deserving,
Were but a weak disabling of myself.*

As much as I deserve!—Why, that's the lady:
I do in birth deserve her, and in fortunes,
In graces, and in qualities of breeding;
But more than these, in love I do deserve.

What if I stray'd no further, but chose here?—
Let's see once more this saying grav'd in gold:
*Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men
desire.*

Why, that's the lady: all the world desires her:

From the four corners of the earth they come,
To kiss this shrine, this mortal breathing saint.
The Hyrcanian deserts, and the vasty wilds
Of wide Arabia, are as through-fares now,
For princes to come view fair Portia:
The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head
Spits in the face of heaven, is no bar
To stop the foreign spirits; but they come,
As o'er a brook, to see fair Portia.
One of these three contains her heavenly picture.
Is't like, that lead contains her? 'Twere a sin
To think so base a thought; it were too gross
To rib! her cerecloth in the obscure grave,
Or shall I think, in silver she's immured,
Being ten times undervalued to try'd gold?
O sinful thought! Never so rich a gem
Wasset in worse than gold. They have in England
A coin that bears the figure of an angel
Stamped in gold; but that's insculp'd upon;
But here an angel in a golden bed
Lies all within.—Deliver me the key;
Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may! [there,

Por. There, take it, prince, and if my form lie
Then I am yours. *[He unlocks the golden casket.]*

Mor. *Oh!* What have we here?
A carrion death, within whose empty eye
There is a written scroll? I'll read the writing.

*All that glisters is not gold,
Often have you heard that told:
Many a man his life hath sold,
But my outside to behold:
Gilded tombs do worms infold,
Had you been as wise as bold,
Young in limbs, in judgment old,
Your answer had not been inscrol'd:
Fare you well; your suit is cold.*

Cold, indeed; and labour lost:

Then, farewell, heat; and, welcome, frost.—
Portio, adieu! I have too griev'd a heart
To take a tedious leave: thus losers part. *[Exit.]*

Por. A gentle riddance:—Draw the curtains, go;—

Let all of his complexion choose me so. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VIII.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Salarino and Salanio.

Salar. Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail;
With him is Gratiano gone along;

And in their ship, I am sure, Lorenzo is not.

Salan. The villain Jew with outcries rais'd
the duke;

Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship.

Salar. He came too late, the ship was under sail;
But there the duke was given to understand,
That in a gondola were seen together
Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica:

Besides, Antonio certifi'd the duke,
They were not with Bassanio in his ship.

Salan. I never heard a passion so confus'd,
So strange, outrageous, and so variable,
As the dog Jew did utter in the streets:
*My daughter! O my ducats;—O my daughter!
Fled with a Christian?—O my Christian ducats—
Justice! the law! my ducats, and my daughter!
A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats,*

1 Enclosa. 2 Engraven.

*Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter!
And jewels; a stone, a rich and precious stone,
Stol'n by my daughter!—Justice! find the girl!
She hath the stone upon her, and the ducats!*

Salar. Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,
Crying,—his stone, his daughter, and his ducats.

Salan. Let good Antonio look he keep his day,
Or he shall pay for this.

Salar. Marry, well remember'd:
I reason'd¹ with a Frenchman yesterday;
Who told me,—in the narrow seas, that part
The French and English, there miscarried
A vessel of our country, richly fraught:
I thought upon Antonio, when he told me;
And wish'd in silence, that it were not his. [hear;

Salan. You were best to tell Antonio what you
Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him.

Salar. A kinder gentleman treads not the
I saw Bassanio and Antonio part: [earth.
Bassanio told him, he would make some speed
Of his return; he answer'd—*Do not so.*

*Slubber² not business for my sake, Bassanio,
But stay the very riping of the time;
And for the Jew's bond, which he hath of me,
Let it not enter in your mind of love:
Be merry; and employ your chiefest thoughts
To courtship, and such fair ostents³ of love
As shall conveniently become you there:*

And even there, his eye being big with tears,
Turning his face, he put his hand behind him,
And with affection wondrous sensible
He wrung Bassanio's hand, and so they parted.

Salan. I think he only loves the world for him.
I pray thee, let us go, and find him out,
And quicken his embraced⁴ heaviness
With some delight or other.

Salar. Do we so. [Exeunt.

SCENE IX.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Nerissa, with a Servant.

Ner. Quick, quick, I pray thee, draw the curtain straight;

The prince of Arragon hath ta'en his oath,
And comes to his election presently.

Flourish of Cornets. Enter the Prince of
Arragon, Portia, and their Trains.

Por. Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince:

If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,
Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemniz'd;
But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,
You must begone from hence immediately.

Ar. I am enjoin'd by oath to observe three
First, never to unfold to any one [things:
Which casket 'twas I chose; next, if I fail
Of the right casket, never in my life
To woo a maid in way of marriage; lastly,
If I do fail in fortune of my choice,
Immediately to leave you and be gone.

P. To these injunctions every one doth swear,
That comes to hazard for my worthless self.

Ar. And so have I address'd⁵ me: Fortune now
To my heart's hope!—Gold, silver, and base lead.

*Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he
You shall look fairer, ere I give, or hazard. [hath:
What says the golden chest? ha! let me see:—
Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men
desire. [meant*

What many men desire—That many may be
By the fool multitude, that choose by show,
Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach:
Which pries not to the interior, but, like the
martlet,

Builds in the weather on the outward wall,
Even in the force and road of casualty.
I will not choose what many men desire,
Because I will not jump¹ with common spirits,
And rank me with the barbarous multitudes.

Why, then to thee, thou silver treasure house;
Tell me once more what title thou dost bear;
*Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves;
And well said too; For who shall go about
To cozen² fortune, and be honourable
Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume
To wear an undeserved dignity.*

O, that estates, degrees, and offices, [honour
Were not deriv'd corruptly! and that clear
Were purchas'd by the merit of the wearer!
How many then should cover that stand bare?
How many be commanded, that command?
How much low peasantry would then be glean'd
From the true seed of honour? and how much
honour

Pick'd from the chaff and ruin of the times,
To be new varnish'd? Well, but to my choice:
*Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves:
I will assume desert;—Give me a key for this.
And instantly unlock my fortunes here. [there.*

Por. Too long a pause for that which you find
A. What's here? the portrait of a blinking idiot,
Presenting me a schedule! I will read it.

How much unlike art thou to Portia!
How much unlike my hopes, and my deservings!
*Who chooseth me shall have as much as he de-
did I deserve no more than a fool's head? [serves.*

Is that my prize? are my deserts no better?
Por. To offend, and judge, are distinct offices,
And of opposed natures.

Ar. What is here?

*The fire seven times tried this:
Seven times tried that judgment is,
That did never choose amiss:
Some there be, that shadows kiss:
Such have but a shadow's bliss:
There be fools alive, I wis,³
Silver'd o'er; and so was this.
Take what wife you will to bed,
I will ever be your head:
So begone, sir, you are sped.*

Still more fool I shall appear,
By the time I linger here:
With one fool's head I came to woo,
But I go away with two.
Sweet, adieu! I'll keep my oath,
Patiently to bear my wroth.

[Exeunt Arragon, and Train.
Por. Thus hath the candle sing'd the moth.
O these deliberate fools! when they do choose,
They have the wisdom by their wit to lose.

¹ Converted. ³ Shows. ⁵ Prepared.
² To do carelessly. ⁴ Which he indulges in.

¹ Agree. ² Beguile. ³ Know.

Ner. The ancient saying is no heresy;—
Hanging and wiving goes by destiny.

Por. Come, draw the curtain, Nerissa.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Where is my lady?

Por. Here; what would my lord?

Serv. Madam, there is alighted at your gate
A young Venetian, one that comes before
To signify the approaching of his lord:

From whom he bringeth sensible regrets¹;

To wit, besides commends and courteous breath,

Gifts of rich value; yet I have not seen

So likely an ambassador of love:

A day in April never came so sweet,

To show how costly summer was at hand,

As this fore-spurrer comes before his lord.

Por. No more, I pray thee; I am half afraid,

Thou wilt say anon, he is some kin to thee,

Thou spend'st such high-day wit in praising him.

Come, come, Nerissa; for I long to see

Quick Cupid's post, that comes so mannerly.

Ner. Bassanio lord love, if thy will it be.

[Exeunt]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Salanio and Salarino.

Salan. Now, what news on the Rialto?

Salar. Why, yet it lives there uncheck'd, that
Antonio hath a ship of rich lading wreck'd on
the narrow seas; the Goodwins, I think they
call the place; a very dangerous flat, and fatal,
where the carcasses of many a tall² ship lie
buried, as they say, if my gossip report be an
honest woman of her word.

Salan. I would she were as lying a gossip in
that as ever knapp'd ginger, or made her
neighbours believe she wept for the death of a
third husband: But it is true,—without any
slips of prolixity, or crossing the plain highway
of talk,—that the good Antonio, the honest
Antonio,—O that I had a title good enough
to keep his name company!—

Salar. Come, the full stop.

Salan. Ha,—what say'st thou?—Why the
end is, he hath lost a ship.

Salar. I would it might prove the end of his
losses!

Salan. Let me say amen betimes, lest the
devil cross my prayer; for here he comes in
the likeness of a Jew.—

Enter Shylock.

How now, Shylock? what news among the
merchants?

Shy. You knew, none so well, none so well
as you, of my daughter's flight.

Salar. That's certain; I, for my part, knew
the tailor that made the wings she flew withal.

Salan. And Shylock, for his own part, knew
the bird was fledg'd.

Shy. My own flesh and blood to rebel!

Salar. There is more difference between thy
flesh and hers, than between jet and ivory: more

1 Salutations.

2 Gallant.

between your bloods, than there is between red
wine and Rhenish:—But tell us, do you hear
whether Antonio have had any loss at sea or no?

Shy. There I have another bad match: a bank-
rupt, a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head
on the Rialto:—a beggar, that used to come so
smug upon the mart;—let him look to his bond:
he was wont to call me usurer;—let him look to
his bond: he was wont to lend money for a
Christian courtesy;—let him look to his bond.

Salar. Why, I am sure, if he forfeit, thou
wilt not take his flesh; What's that good for?

Shy. To bait fish withal; if it will feed nothing
else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced
me, and hindered me of half a million; laughed
at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my
nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends,
heated mine enemies; and what's his reason? I
am a Jew: Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a
Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affec-
tions, passions? fed with the same food, hurt
with the same weapons, subject to the same dis-
eases, healed by the same means, warmed and
cooled by the same winter and summer, as a
Christian is? if you prick us, do we not bleed?
if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison
us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall
we not revenge? if we are like you in the rest,
we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong
a Christian, what is his humility? revenge: If
a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his suffer-
ance be by Christian example? why, revenge.
The villainy you teach me, I will execute; and
it shall go hard, but I will better the instruction.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at
his house, and desires to speak with you both.

Salar. We have been up and down to seek him.

Enter Tubal.

Salan. Here comes another of the tribe; a
third cannot be matched, unless the devil himself
turn Jew. *[Exeunt Salan., Salar., and Servant.]*

Shy. How now, Tubal, what news from
Genoa? hast thou found my daughter?

Tub. I often came where I did hear of her,
but cannot find her.

Shy. Why, there, there, there! a diamond
gone, cost me two thousand ducats in Frankfort!
The curse never fell upon our nation till now; I
never felt it till now:—two thousand ducats in
that; and other precious, precious jewels.—I
would, my daughter were dead at my foot, and
the jewels in her ear! 'would she were hears'd
at my foot, and the ducats in her coffin! No news
of them?—Why, so:—and I know not what's
spent in the search: Why, thou loss upon loss!
the thief gone with so much, and so much to find
the thief; and no satisfaction, no revenge: nor
no ill luck stirring, but what lights o' my
shoulders; no sighs, but o' my breathing; no
tears, but o' my shedding.

Tub. Yes, other men have ill luck too; An-
tonio, as I heard in Genoa,—

Shy. What, what, what? ill luck, ill luck?

Tub.—hath an argosy cast away, coming
from Tripolis.

Shy. Is it true? is it true?

Tub. I spoke with some of the sailors that escaped the wreck.

Shy. I thank thee, good Tubal;—Good news, good news; ha! ha!—Where? in Genoa?

Tub. Your daughter spent in Genoa, as I heard, one night, fourscore ducats.

Shy. Thou stick'st a dagger in me:—I shall never see my gold again: Fourscore ducats at a sitting! fourscore ducats.

Tub. There came divers of Antonio's creditors in my company to Venice, that swear he cannot choose but break.

Shy. I am very glad of it: I'll plague him; I'll torture him; I am glad of it.

Tub. One of them showed me a ring, that he had of your daughter for a monkey.

Shy. Out upon her! Thou torturest me, Tubal: it was my torquise; I had it of Leah, when I was a bachelor: I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys.

Tub. But Antonio is certainly undone.

Shy. Nay, that's true, that's very true: Go, Tubal, fee me an officer, bespeak him a fortnight before: I will have the heart of him, if he forfeit; for were he out of Venice, I can make what merchandise I will; Go, go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue; go, good Tubal; at our synagogue, Tubal. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Bassanio, Portia, Gratiano, Nerissa, and Attendants. The caskets are set out.

Por. I pray you, tarry; pause a day or two, Before you hazard; for in choosing wrong, I lose your company; therefore, forbear a while: There's something tells me (but it is not love), I would not lose you; and you know yourself, Hate counsels not in such a quality: But lest you should not understand me well, (And yet a maiden hath no tongue but thought,) I would detain you here some month or two, Before you venture for me. I could teach you, How to choose right, but then I am forsworn; So will I never be: so you may miss me, But if you do, you will make me wish a sin That I had been forsworn; Beshrew your eyes, They have o'er-look'd me, and divided me; One half of me is yours; the other half yours,— Mine own, I would say; but if mine, then yours, And so all yours: O! these naughty times Put bars between the owners and their rights; And so, though yours, not yours.—Prove it so, Let fortune bear the blame of it,—not I. I speak too long: but 'tis to peize¹ the time; To eke it, and to draw it out in length, To stay you from election.

Bass. Let me choose; For, as I am, I live upon the rack.

Por. Upon the rack, Bassanio? then confess What treason there is mingled with your love.

Bass. None, but that ugly treason of mistrust, Which makes me fear the enjoying of my love: There may as well be amity and life

'Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love. *Por.* Ay, but I fear, you speak upon the rack, Where men enforced do speak any thing.

Bass. Promise me life, and I'll confess the *Por.* Well then, confess and live. *[Truth.]*

Bass. Confess and love,

Had been the very sum of my confession: O happy torment, when my torturer

Doth teach me answers for deliverance!

But let me to my fortune and the caskets.

Por. Away then: I am lock'd in one of them; If you do love me, you will find me out.—

Nerissa, and the rest, stand all aloof.— Let musick sound while he doth make his choice,

Then, if he lose, he makes a swan-like end,

Fading in musick: that the comparison May stand more proper, my eye shall be the

stream,

And wat'ry death-bed for him: He may win;

And what is musick then? then musick is

Even as the flourish when true subjects bow

To a new-crowned monarch: such it is,

As are those dulcet sounds in break of day,

That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear,

And summon him to marriage. Now he goes,

With no less presence,¹ but with much more love,

Than young Alcides, when he did redeem

The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy

To the sea-monster: I stand for sacrifice,

The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,

With bleared visages, come forth to view

The issue of the exploit. Go, Hercules! [may

Live thou, I live:—With much much more dis-

I view the fight, than thou that mak'st the fray.

Musick, whilst Bassanio comments on the caskets to himself.

SONG.

1. Tell me, where is fancy² bred,
Or in the heart or in the head?
How begot, how nourished?

Reply. 2. It is engender'd in the eyes,
With gazing fed; and fancy dies
In the cradle where it lies:

Let us all ring fancy's knell;

I'll begin it,—Ding, dong, bell.

All. — Ding, dong, bell.

Bass.—So may the outward shows be least themselves;

The world is still deceiv'd with ornament,

In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,

But, being season'd with a gracious voice,

Obscures the show of evil? In religion,

What dangerous error, but some sober brow

Will bless it, and approve it with a text,

Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?

There is no vice so simple, but assumes

Some mark of virtue on his outward parts.

How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false

As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins

The beards of Hercules, and frowning Mars;

Who, inward search'd, have livers white as milk?

And these assume but valour's countenance,

To render them redoubted. Look on beauty,

And you shall see 'tis purchas'd by the weight;

Which therein works a miracle in nature,

¹ Dignity of mien. ² Love.

Making them lightest that wear most of it :
 So are those crisped¹ snaky golden locks,
 Which make such wanton gambols with the wind,
 Upon supposed fairness, often known
 To be the dowry of a second head,
 The skull that bred them, in the sepulchre.
 Thus ornament is but the guiled² shore
 To a most dangerous sea ; the beauteous scarf
 Veiling an Indian beauty ; in a word,
 The seeming truth which cunning times put on
 To entrap the wisest. Therefore, thou gaudy gold,
 Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee :
 Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge
 'Tween man and man ; but thou, thou meagre
 lead,

Which rather threat'nest than dost promise
 Thy plainness moves me more than eloquence,
 And here choose I : Joy be the consequence !

Por. How all the other passions fleet to air,
 As doubtful thoughts and rash-embac'd despair,
 And shudd'ring fear and green-ey'd jealousy.
 O love, be moderate, allay thy ecstasy,
 In measure rein thy joy, scant this excess ;
 I feel too much thy blessing, make it less,
 For fear I surfeit !

Bass. What find I here ?

[Opening the leaden casket.]

Fair Portia's counterfeit ? What demi-god
 Hath come so near creation ? Move these eyes ?
 Or whether, riding on the balls of mine,
 Seem they in motion ? Here are sever'd lips,
 Parted with sugar breath ; so sweet a bar [hairs
 Should sunder such sweet friends : Here in her
 The painter plays the spider ; and hath woven
 A golden mesh to entrap the hearts of men,
 Faster than gnats in cobwebs : But her eyes,—
 How could he see to do them ? having made one,
 Methinks, it should have power to steal both his,
 And leave itself unfurnished : Yet look, how far
 The substance of my praise doth wrong this sha-
 In underprizing it, so far this shadow [dow
 Doth limp behind the substance,—Here's the
 scroll,

The continent and summary of my fortune.

*You that choose not by the view,
 Chance as fair and choose as true !
 Since this fortune falls to you,
 Be content and seek no new.
 If you be well pleased with this,
 And hold your fortune for your bliss,
 Turn you where your lady is,
 And claim her with a loving kiss.*

A gentle scroll ;—Fair lady, by your leave ;

[Kissing her.]

I come by note, to give and to receive.
 Like one of two contending in a prize,
 That thinks he hath done well in people's eyes,
 Hearing applause and universal shout,
 Giddy in spirit, still gazing, in a doubt
 Whether those peals of praise be his or no :
 So, thrice fair lady, stand I, even so ;
 As doubtful whether what I see be true,
 Until confirm'd, sign'd, ratified by you.

Por. You see me, lord Bassanio, where I stand,
 Such as I am, though, for myself alone,
 I would not be ambitious in my wish,

1 Curled.

2 Treacherous.

To wish myself much better ; yet, for you,
 I would be trebled twenty times myself ;
 A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times
 More rich ;

That only to stand high on your account,
 I might in virtues, beauties, livings, friends,
 Exceed account : but the full sum of me
 Is sum of something ; which, to term in gross,
 Is an unlesson'd girl, unschool'd, unpractis'd :
 Happy in this, she is not yet so old
 But she may learn ; and happier than this,
 She is not bred so dull but she can learn ;
 Happiest of all, is, that her gentle spirit
 Commits itself to yours to be directed,
 As from her lord, her governor, her king.
 Myself, and what is mine, to you, and yours
 Is now converted ; but now I was the lord
 Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,
 Queen o'er myself ; and even now, but now,
 This house, these servants, and this same myself,
 Are yours, my lord ; I give them with this ring ;
 Which, when you part from, lose, or give away,
 Let it presage the ruin of your love,
 And be my vantage to exclaim on you.

Bass. Madam, you have bereft me of all words,
 Only my blood speaks to you in my veins :
 And there is such confusion in my powers,
 As, after some oration fairly spoke
 By a beloved prince, there doth appear
 Among the buzzing pleased multitude ;
 Where every something, being blent together,
 Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy,
 Express'd and not express'd : But when this ring
 Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence ;
 O, then be bold to say, Bassanio's dead.

Ner. My lord and lady, it is now our time,
 That have stood by, and seen our wishes prosper,
 To cry, good joy ; Good joy, my lord and lady !

Gra. My lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady,
 I wish you all the joy that you can wish ;
 For, I am sure, you can wish none from me ;
 And, when your honours mean to solemnize
 The bargain of your faith, I do beseech you,
 Even at that time I may be married too.

B. With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.

G. I thank your lordship ; you have got me one
 My eyes, my lord, can look as swift as yours :
 You saw the mistress, I beheld the maid ;
 You lov'd, I lov'd ; for intermission
 No more pertains to me, my lord, than you.
 Your fortune stood upon the caskets there ;
 And so did mine too, as the matter falls :
 For wooing here, until I sweat again ;
 And swearing, till my very roof was dry
 With oaths of love ; at last,—if promise last,—
 I got a promise of this fair one here,
 To have her love, provided that your fortune
 Achiev'd her mistress.

Por. Is this true, Nerissa ?

Ner. Madam, it is, so you stand pleas'd withal.

Bass. And do you, Gratiano, mean good faith ?

Gra. Yes, 'faith, my lord. *[marriage.]*

Bass. Our feast shall be much honour'd in your
Gra. But who comes here ? Lorenzo, and his
 What, my old Venetian friend, Salerio ? *[infidel.]*

Enter Lorenzo, Jessica, and Salerio.

Bass. Lorenzo and Salerio, welcome hither ;

If that the youth of my new interest here
Have power to bid you welcome:—By your leave,
I bid my very friends and countrymen,
Sweet Portia, welcome.

Por. So do I, my lord;
They are entirely welcome.

L. I thank your honour:—For my part, my lord,
My purpose was not to have seen you here;
But meeting with Salerio by the way,
He did entreat me past all saying nay,
To come with him along.

Sal. I did, my lord,
And I have reason for it. Signior Antonio
Commends him to you. [*Gives Bassanio a letter.*]

Bas. Ere I ope this letter,

I pray you tell me how my good friend doth.

Sal. Not sick, my lord, unless it be in mind;
Nor well, unless in mind: his letter there
Will show you his estate. [*come.*]

Gra. Nerissa, cheer you' stranger; bid her wel-
Your hand, Salerio; What's the news from Venice?
How doth that royal merchant, good Antonio?
I know, he will be glad of our success;
We are the Jasons, we have won the fleece.

Sal. Would you had won the fleece that he
hath lost! [*paper,*]

P. There are some shrewd contents in you'same
That steal the colour from Bassanio's cheek:
Some dear friend dead; else nothing in the world
Could turn so much the constitution
Of any constant man. What, worse and worse?—
With leave, Bassanio; I am half yourself,
And I must freely have the half of anything
That this same paper brings you.

Bass. O sweet Portia,
Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words,
That ever blotted paper! Gentle lady,
When I did first impart my love to you,
I freely told you, all the wealth I had
Ran in my veins, I was a gentleman;
And then I told you true: and yet, dear lady,
Rating myself at nothing, you shall see
How much I was a braggart: When I told you,
My state was nothing, I should then have told you
That I was worse than nothing; for, indeed,
I have engag'd myself to a dear friend,
Engag'd my friend to his mere enemy,
To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady;
The paper as the body of my friend,
And every word in it a gaping wound,
Issuing life-blood.—But is it true, Salerio?
Have all his ventures failed? What, not one hit?
From Tripolis, from Mexico, and England,
From Lisbon, Barbary, and India?
And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch
Of merchant-marring rocks?

Sal. Not one, my lord.
Besides, it should appear, that if he had
The present money to discharge the Jew,
He would not take it: never did I know
A creature, that did bear the shape of man,
So keen and greedy to confound a man;
He plies the duke at morning, and at night;
And doth impeach the freedom of the state,
If they deny him justice: twenty merchants,
The duke himself, and the magnificoes¹
Of greatest port, have all persuaded with him;

¹ Grandees.

But none can drive him from the envious plea
Of forfeiture, of justice, and his bond. [*swear,*]

Jes. When I was with him, I have heard him
To Tubal, and to Chus, his countrymen,
That he would rather have Antonio's flesh,
Than twenty times the value of the sum
That he did owe him: and I know, my lord,
If law, authority, and power deny not,
It will go hard with poor Antonio. [*trouble?*]

Por. Is it your dear friend, that is thus in
B. The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,

The best condition'd and unwearied spirit
In doing courtesies; and one in whom
The ancient Roman honour more appears
Than any that draws breath in Italy.

Por. What sum owes he the Jew?

Bass. For me, three thousand ducats.

Por. What, no more?

Pay him six thousand, and deface the bond;
Double six thousand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this description
Shall lose a hair through my Bassanio's fault.
First, go with me to church, and call me wife:
And then away to Venice to your friend;
For never shall you lie by Portia's side
With an unquiet soul. You shall have gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times over;
When it is paid, bring your true friend along:
My maid Nerissa, and myself, mean time,
Will live as maids and widows. Come, away;
For you shall hence upon your wedding-day:
Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheer!
Since you are dear bought, I will love you dear.—
But let me hear the letter of your friend.

Bass [*Reads.*] *Sweet Bassanio, my ships have
all miscarried, my creditors grow cruel, my estate
is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfeit: and
since, in paying it, it is impossible I should live,
all debts are cleared between you and I, if I
might but see you at my death: notwithstanding,
use your pleasure: if your love do not
persuade you to come, let not my letter.*

Por. O love, despatch all business, and be gone.

Bass. Since I have your good leave to go away,

I will make haste: but till I come again,
No bed shall e'er be guilty of my stay,

No rest be interposer 'twixt us twain.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Shylock, Salanio, Antonio, and Gaoler.

Shy. Gaoler, look to him;—Tell not me of
mercy;—

This is the fool that lent out money gratis;—
Gaoler, look to him.

Ant. Hear me yet, good Shylock.

S. I'll have my bond; speak not against my
bond;

I have sworn an oath, that I will have my bond:
Thou call'st me dog, before thou hadst a cause:
But, since I am a dog, beware my fangs:

The duke shall grant me justice.—I do wonder,
Thou naughty gaoler, that thou art so fond²

To come abroad with him at his request.

Ant. I pray thee, hear me speak. [*speak:*]

S. I'll have my bond; I will not hear thee
I'll have my bond; and therefore speak no more.

¹ Face.

² Foolish.

I'll not be made a soft and dull-ey'd fool,
To shake the head, relent and sigh, and yield
To Christian intercessors; Follow not;
I'll have no speaking; I'll have my bond.

[Exit Shylock.

Salan. It is the most impenetrable cur,
That ever kept with men.

Ant. Let him alone;
I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers.
He seeks my life; his reason well I know;
I oft deliver'd from his forfeitures
Many that have at times made moan to me,
Therefore he hates me.

Salan. I am sure the duke
Will never grant this forfeiture to hold.

Ant. The duke cannot deny the course of law;
For the commodity that strangers have
With us in Venice, if it be denied,
Will much impeach the justice of the state;
Since that the trade and profit of the city
Consisteth of all nations. Therefore, go:
These griefs and losses have so 'bated me,
That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
To-morrow to my bloody creditor.—
Well, gaoler, on:—Pray God, Bassanio come
To see me pay his debt, and then I care not!

[Exit.

SCENE IV.

BELMONT. A ROOM IN PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Portia, Nerissa, Lorenzo, Jessica, and
Balthazar.

L. Madam, although I speak in your presence,
You have a noble and a true conceit
Of god-like amity; which appears most strongly
In bearing thus the absence of your lord.
But if you knew to whom you show this honour,
How true a gentleman you send relief,
How dear a lover of my lord your husband,
I know, you would be prouder of the work,
Than customary bounty can enforce you.

Por. I never did repent for doing good,
Nor shall not now: for in companions
That do converse and waste the time together,
Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,
There must be needs a like proportion
Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit;
Which makes me think, that this Antonio,
Being the bosom lover of my lord,
Must needs be like my lord; If it be so,
How little is the cost I have bestow'd,
In purchasing the semblance of my soul
From out the state of hellish cruelty?

This comes too near the praising of myself;
Therefore, no more of it: hear other things.—

Lorenzo, I commit into your hands
The husbandry and manage of my house,
Until my lord's return; for mine own part,
I have toward heaven breath'd a secret vow,
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Only attended by Nerissa here,
Until her husband and my lord's return:
There is a monastery two miles off,
And there we will abide. I do desire you,
Not to deny this imposition.
The which my love, and some necessity,
Now lays upon you.

Lor. Madam, with all my heart;
I shall obey you in all fair commands.

Por. My people do already know my mind,
And will acknowledge you and Jessica
In place of lord Bassanio and myself.
So fare you well, till we shall meet again.

Lor. Fair thoughts, and happy hours, attend
on you.

Jes. I wish your ladyship all heart's content.

Por. I thank you for your wish, and am well
pleas'd

To wish it back on you; fare you well, Jessica.—

[Exit Jessica and Lorenzo.

Now, Balthazar,
As I have ever found thee honest, true,
So let me find thee still: Take this same letter,
And use thou all the endeavour of a man,
In speed to Padua; see thou render this
Into my cousin's hand, doctor Bellario;
And, look what notes and garments he doth give
thee,

Bring them, I pray thee, with imagin'd speed
Unto the tranect, to the common ferry
Which trades to Venice:—waste no time in words,
But get thee gone; I shall be there before thee.

Balt. Madam, I go with all convenient speed.

[Exit.

Por. Come on, Nerissa; I have work in hand,
That you yet know not of: we'll see our husbands,
Before they think of us.

Ner. Shall they see us?

Por. They shall, Nerissa; but in such a habit,
That they shall think we are accomplished
With what we lack. I'll hold thee any wager,
When we are both accoutred like young men,
I'll prove the prettier fellow of the two,
And wear my dagger with the braver grace;
And speak, between the change of man and boy,
With a reed voice; and turn two mincing steps
Into a manly stride; and speak of frays,
Like a fine bragging youth; and tell quaint lies,
How honourable ladies sought my love,
Which I denying, they fell sick and died;
I could not do without:—then I'll repent,
And wish, for all that, that I had not kill'd them;
And twenty of these puny lies I'll tell,
That men shall swear, I have discontinued school
Above a twelvemonth:—I have within my mind
A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Jacks
Which I will practise.

But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device,
When I am in my coach, which stays for us
At the park gate; and therefore haste away,
For we must measure twenty miles to-day.

[Exit.

SCENE V.—A GARDEN.

Enter Lorenzo, Jessica, and Launcelot.

Lor. Go in, sirrah; bid them prepare for dinner.

Lawn. That is done, sir; they have all stomachs.

Lor. What a wit-snapper are you! then bid
them prepare dinner.

Lawn. That is done too, sir; only, cover is
the word. I know my duty.

Lor. Yet more quarreling with occasion! Wilt
thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an in-
stant! I pray thee, understand a plain man in

his plain meaning: go to thy fellows; bid them cover the table, serve in the meat, and we will come in to dinner.

Laun. For the table, sir, it shall be served in; for the meat, sir, it shall be covered; for your coming in to dinner, sir, why, let it be as humours and conceits shall govern. *[Exit Launcelot.]*

L. O dear discretion, how his words are suited! The fool hath planted in his memory An army of good words; And I do know A many fools, that stand in better place, Garnish'd like him, that for a tricky word Defy the matter. How cheer'st thou, Jessica? And now, good sweet, say thy opinion, How dost thou like the lord Bassanio's wife?

Jes. Past all expressing: It is very meet, The lord Bassanio live an upright life; For, having such a blessing in his lady, He finds the joys of heaven here on earth; And, if on earth he do not mean it, it Is reason he should never come to heaven. Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match,

And on the wager lay two earthly women, And Portia one, there must be something else Pawn'd with the other; for the poor rude world Hath not her fellow.

Lor. *[To Portia.]* Even such a husband Hast thou of me, as she is for a wife.

Jes. Nay, but ask my opinion too of that.

Lor. I will anon; first, let us go to dinner.

Jes. Nay, let me praise you, while I have a stomach.

Lor. No, pray thee, let it serve for table-talk; Then, howsoever thou speak'st, 'mong other I shall digest it. *[Things.]*

Jes. Well, I'll set you forth.

[Exeunt.]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—VENICE. A COURT OF JUSTICE.

Enter the Duke, the Magnificoes, Antonio, Bassanio, Gratiano, Salarino, Salanio, and others.

Duke. What, is Antonio here?

Ant. Ready, so please your grace. *[answer]*

Duke. I am sorry for thee; thou art come to A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch Uncapable of pity, void and empty From any dram of mercy.

Ant. I have heard, Your grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate and that no lawful means can carry me [rate, Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose My patience to his fury; and am arm'd To suffer, with a quietness of spirit, The very tyranny and rage of his.

Duke. Go one, and call the Jew into the court. S. He's ready at the door: he comes, my lord.

Enter Shylock.

Duke. Make room, and let him stand before our face.— Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too, That thou but lead'st this fashion of thy malice

To the last hour of act; and then, 'tis thought, Thou'lt show thy mercy, and remorse,¹ more Than is thy strange apparent cruelty: [strange And where thou now exact'st the penalty, (Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,) Thou wilt not only lose the forfeiture, But touch'd with human gentleness and love, Forgive a moiety of the principal; Glancing an eye of pity on his losses, That have of late so huddled on his back; Enough to press a royal merchant down, And pluck commiseration of his state From brassy bosoms, and rough hearts of flint, From stubborn Turks, and Tartars, never train'd To offices of tender courtesy.

We all expect a gentle answer, Jew. *[purpose:]*

Shy. I have possess'd your grace of what I And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn, To have the due and forfeit of my bond: If you deny it, let the danger light Upon your charter, and your city's freedom. You'll ask me, why I rather choose to have A weight of carrion flesh, than to receive Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that: But, say, it is my humour; Is it answer'd? What if my house be troubled with a rat, And I be pleas'd to give ten thousand ducats To have it baned?² What, are you answer'd yet? Some men there are, love not a gaping pig; Some, that are mad, if they behold a cat;— As there is no firm reason to be render'd, Why he cannot abide a gaping pig; Why he, a harmless necessary cat; So can I give no reason, nor I will not, More than a lodg'd hate, and a certain loathing, I bear Antonio, that I follow thus

A losing suit against him. Are you answer'd?

Bass. This is no answer, thou unfeeling man, To excuse the current of thy cruelty. *[answer.]*

Shy. I am not bound to please thee with my B. Do all men kill the things they do not love? S. Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

Bass. Every offence is not a hate at first.

Shy. What, would'st thou have a serpent sting thee twice? *[Jew:]*

Ant. I pray you, think you question with the You may as well go stand upon the beach, And bid the main flood bate his usual height; You may as well use question with the wolf, Why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb; You may as well forbid the mountain pines To wag their high tops, and to make no noise, When they are fretted with the gusts of heaven; You may as well do anything most hard, As seek to soften that (than which what's harder?) His Jewish heart:—Therefore, I do beseech you, Make no more offers, use no further means, But, with all brief and plain conveniency, Let me have judgment, and the Jew his will.

B. For thy three thousand ducats here are six.

Shy. If every ducat in six thousand ducats Were in six parts, and every part a ducat, I would not draw them, I would have my bond.

Duke. How shalt thou hope for mercy, render'ing none? *[wrong?]*

Shy. What judgment shall I dread, doing no You have among you many a purchas'd slave,

1 Pity.

2 Poisoned.

Which, like your asses, and your dogs, and mules,
You use in abject and in slavish parts,
Because you bought them:—Shall I say to you,
Let them be free, marry them to your heirs?
Why sweat they under burdens? let their beds
Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates
Be season'd with such viands? You will answer,
The slaves are ours:—So do I answer you:
The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,
Is dearly bought, is mine, and I will have it:
If you deny me, fie upon your law!

There is no force in the decrees of Venice:
I stand for judgment: answer; shall I have it?

Duke. Upon my power, I may dismiss this
Unless Bellario, a learned doctor, [court,
Whom I have sent for to determine this,
Come here to-day.

Salar. My lord, here stays without
A messenger with letters from the doctor,
New come from Padua.

Duke. Bring us the letters; Call the messenger.

Bass. Good cheer, Antonio! What, man?
courage yet! [all,

The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and
Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood.

Ant. I am a tainted wether of the flock,
Meetest for death; the weakest kind of fruit
Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me:
You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio,
Than to live still, and write mine epitaph.

Enter Nerissa, dressed like a Lawyer's Clerk.

Duke. Came you from Padua, from Bellario?

Ner. From both, my lord: Bellario greets
your grace. [Presents a letter.

B. Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

Shy. To cut the forfeiture from that bank-
rupt there. [Jew,

Gra. Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh
Thou mak'st thy knife keen: but no metal can,
No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness
Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

S. No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.

Gra. O, be thou curst, inexorable dog!

And for thy life let justice be accus'd.

Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith,

To hold opinion with Pythagoras,

That souls of animals infuse themselves

Into the trunks of men: thy currish spirit

Govern'd a wolf, who, hang'd for human

slaughter,

Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,

And, whilst thou lay'st in thy unhallow'd dam,

Infus'd itself in thee; for thy desires

Are wolfish, bloody, starv'd, and ravenous.

Shy. Till thou canst rail the seal from off my

bond,

Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud:

Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall

To cureless ruin.—I stand here for law.

Duke. This letter from Bellario doth commend

A young and learned doctor to our court:—

Where is he?

Ner. He attendeth here hard by,

To know your answer, whether you'll admit him.

Duke. With all my heart:—some three or

four of you,

Go give him courteous conduct to this place,—

Mean time, the court shall hear Bellario's letter.

[*Clerk reads.*] Your grace shall understand,
that, at the receipt of your letter, I am very sick:
but in the instant that your messenger came, in
loving visitation was with me a young doctor of
Rome; his name is Balthasar: I acquainted him
with the cause in controversy between the Jew
and Antonio the merchant: we turned o'er many
books together: he is furnish'd with my opinion;
which, better'd with his own learning (the great-
ness whereof I cannot enough commend), comes
with him at my importunity, to fill up your
grace's request in my stead. I beseech you, let
his lack of years be no impediment to let him
lack a reverend estimation: for I never knew
so young a body with so old a head. I leave
him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial
shall better publish his commendation.

D. You hear the learn'd Bellario, what he writes:
And here, I take it, is the doctor come.—

Enter Portia, dressed like a Doctor of Laws.

Give me your hand: Came you from old Bellario?

Por. I did, my lord.

Duke. You are welcome: take your place.
Are you acquainted with the difference
That holds this present question in the court?

Por. I am informed thoroughly of the cause.

Which is the merchant here, and which the Jew?

D. Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth,

Por. Is your name Shylock?

Shy. Shylock is my name.

P. Of a strange nature is the suit you follow;
Yet in such rule, that the Venetian law
Cannot impugn you as you do proceed.—

[*To Antonio.*] You stand within his danger,¹
do you not?

Ant. Ay, so he says.

Por. Do you confess the bond?

Ant. I do.

Por. Then must the Jew be merciful.

Shy. On what compulsion must I? tell me that.

Por. The quality of mercy is not strain'd;

It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven,

Upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd;

It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes

The throned monarch better than his crown:

His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,

Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above his scepter'd sway,

It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,

It is an attribute to God himself;

And earthly power doth then show lik'st God's

When mercy seasons justice: Therefore, Jew,

Though justice be thy plea, consider this,—

That, in the course of justice, none of us

Should see salvation; we do pray for mercy;

And that same prayer doth teach us all to render

The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much,

To mitigate the justice of thy plea;

Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice

Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant

there.

Shy. My deeds upon my head! I crave the law,

The penalty and forfeit of my bond.

¹ Power.

Por. Is he not able to discharge the money?

Bass. Yes, here I tender it for him in the court; Yea, twice the sum: if that will not suffice, I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er, On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart: If this will not suffice, it must appear: [you, That malice bears down truth. And I beseech Wrest once the law to your authority: To do a great right, do a little wrong: And curb this cruel devil of his will.

Por. It must not be: there is no power in Can alter a decree established: [Venice 'Twill be recorded for a precedent; And many an error, by the same example, Will rush into the state: it cannot be.

S. A Daniel come to judgment! yea a Daniel!—O wise young judge, how do I honour thee!

Por. I pray you, let me look upon the bond.

Shy. Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.
Por. Shylock, there's thrice thy money offered thee.

S. An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven: Shall I lay perjury upon my soul? No, not for Venice.

Por. Why, this bond is forfeit; And lawfully by this the Jew may claim A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off Nearest the merchant's heart:—Be merciful; Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.

Shy. When it is paid according to the tenour,—It doth appear you are a worthy judge; You know the law, your exposition Hath been most sound: I charge you by the law, Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar, Proceed to judgment; by my soul I swear, There is no power in the tongue of man To alter me; I stay here on my bond.

Ant. Most heartily I do beseech the court To give the judgment.

Por. Why then, thus it is. You must prepare your bosom for his knife:

Shy. O noble judge! O excellent young man!

Por. For the intent and purpose of the law Hath full relation to the penalty, Which here appeareth due upon the bond.

Shy. 'Tis very true: O wise and upright judge! How much more elder art thou than thy looks!

Por. Therefore, lay bare your bosom.

Shy. Ay, his breast; So says the bond;—Doth it not, noble judge?—Nearest his heart, these are the very words.

Por. It is so. Are there balance here to weigh The flesh?

Shy. I have them ready: [charge,

Por. Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.

Shy. Is it so nominated in the bond?

Por. It is not so expressed: But what of that?

Twe. Good you do so much for charity.

Shy. I cannot find it; 'tis not in the bond.

P. Come, merchant, have you any thing to say?

A. But little; I am arm'd, and well prepar'd.—

Give me your hand, Bassanio; fare you well;

Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you;

For herein fortune shows herself more kind

Than is her custom: it is still her use,

To let the wretched man out-live his wealth

To view with hollow eye, and wrinkled brow,

An age of poverty; from which lingering penance Of such a misery doth she cut me off.

Commend me to your honourable wife:

Tell her the process of Antonio's end,

Say, how I lov'd you, speak me fair in death;

And, when the tale is told, bid her be judge,

Whether Bassanio had not once a love.

Repent not you that you shall lose your friend,

And he repents not that he pays your debt;

For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,

I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.

Bass. Antonio, I am married to a wife,

Which is as dear to me as life itself;

But life itself, my wife, and all the world,

Are not with me esteem'd above thy life:

I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all

Here to this devil, to deliver you.

Por. Your wife would give you little thanks

for that,

If she were by, to hear you make the offer.

Gra. I have a wife, whom, I protest, I love;

I would she were in heaven, so she could

Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

Ner. 'Tis well you offer it behind her back;

The wish would make else an unquiet house.

Shy. These be the Christian husbands: I have

a daughter;

'Would, any of the stock of Barrabas

Had been her husband, rather than a Christian!

[*Aside,*

We trifle time; I pray thee, pursue sentence.

Por. A pound of that same merchant's flesh

is thine;

The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

Shy. Most rightful judge!

Por. And you must cut this flesh from off his

breast;

The law allows it, and the court awards it.

Shy. Most learned judge!—A sentence; come,

prepare.

Por. Tarry a little;—there is something else.

This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood;

The words expressly are a pound of flesh;

Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh;

But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed

One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods

Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate

Unto the state of Venice.

Gra. O upright judge!—Mark, Jew;—O

learned judge!

Shy. Is that the law?

Por. Thyself shall see the act:

For, as thou urgest justice, be assur'd,

Thou shalt have justice, more than thou desir'st.

Gra. O learned judge!—Mark, Jew;—a

learned judge!

S. I take this offer then;—pay the bond thrice,

And let the Christian go.

Bass. Here is the money.

Por. Soft;

The Jew shall have all justice;—soft!—no

Heshall have nothing but the penalty. [haste;—

Gra. O Jew! an upright judge, a learned

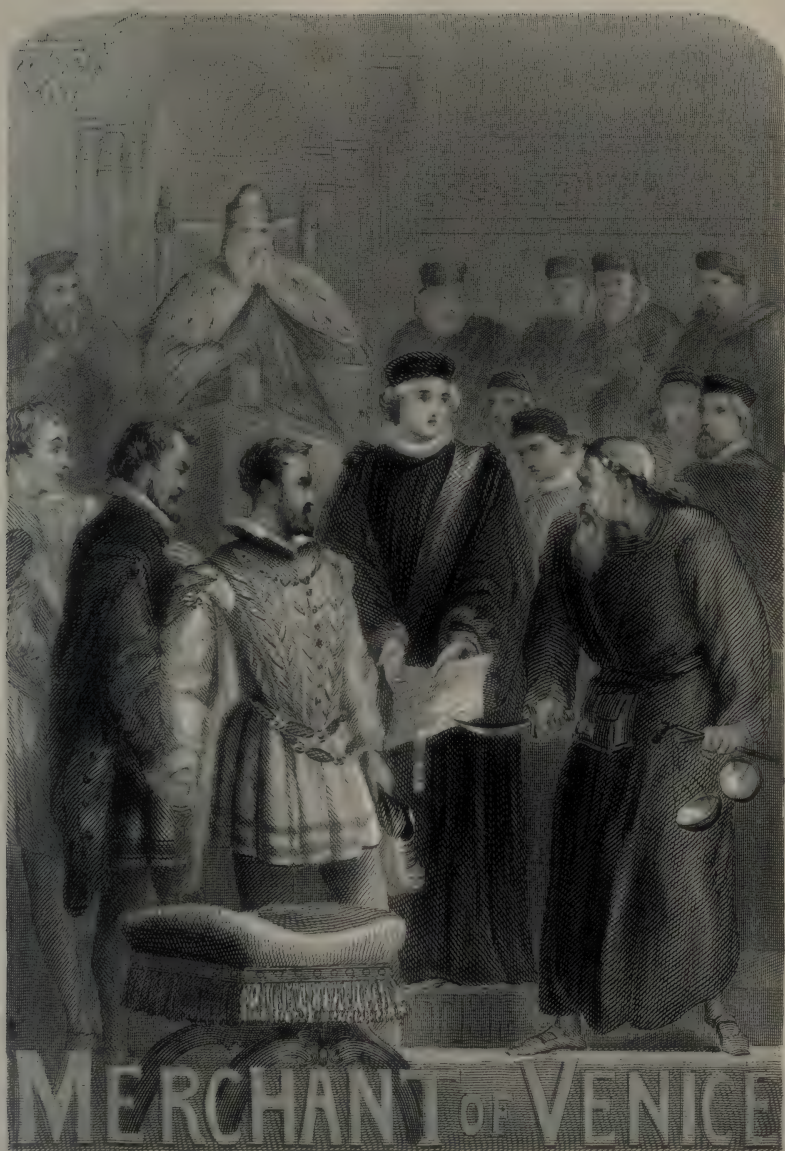
judge! [flesh.

Por. Therefore, prepare thee to cut off the

Shed thou no blood; nor cut thou less, nor more,

But just a pound of flesh: if thou tak'st more,

Or less, than a just pound,—be it but so much



Por. Why, this bond is forfeit
 And lawfully by this the Jew may claim
 A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off
 Nearest the merchant's heart: be merciful:
 Take thrice thy money: bid me tear the bond. p 196.

As makes it light, or heavy, in the substance,
Or the division of the twentieth part
Of one poor scruple; nay, if the scale do turn
But in the estimation of a hair,—
Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate.

Gra. A second Daniel! a Daniel, Jew!

Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip.

Por. Why doth the Jew pause? take thy forfeiture.

Shy. Give me my principal, and let me go.

Bass. I have it ready for thee; here it is.

Por. He hath refus'd it in the open court;
He shall have merely justice, and his bond.

Gra. A Daniel, still say I; a second Daniel—
I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.

Shy. Shall I not have barely my principal?

P. Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,
To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

Shy. Why then the devil give him good of it!
I'll stay no longer question.

Por. Tarry, Jew;

The law hath yet another hold on you.

It is enacted in the laws of Venice,—

If it be prov'd against an alien,

That by direct, or indirect attempts,

He seek the life of any citizen,

The party, 'gainst the which he doth contrive,

Shall seize one half his goods; the other half

Comes to the privy coffer of the state;

And the offender's life lies in the mercy

Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice.

In which predicament, I say, thou stand'st:

For it appears by manifest proceeding,

That, indirectly, and directly too,

Thou hast contriv'd against the very life

Of the defendant: and thou hast incurr'd

The danger formerly by me rehears'd.

Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the duke.

Gra. Beg, that thou mayst have leave to hang
thyself:

And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state,

Thou hast not left the value of a cord;

Therefore thou must be hang'd at the state's
charge.

Duke. That thou shalt see the difference of our
I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it: [spirit,
For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's:

The other half comes to the general state,

Which humbleness may drive into a fine.

Por. Ay, for the state; not for Antonio.

Shy. Nay, take my life and all, pardon not that:

You take my house, when you do take the prop

That doth sustain my house: you take my life,

When you do take the means whereby I live.

Por. What mercy can you render him, Antonio?

Gra. A halter gratis; nothing else, I hope.

Ant. So please my lord the duke, and all the
court,

To quit the fine for one half of his goods;

I am content, so he will let me have

The other half in use,—to render it,

Upon his death, unto the gentleman

That lately stole his daughter:

Two things provided more—that for this favour

He presently become a Christian:

The other, that he do record a gift,

Here in the court, of all he dies possess'd

Unto his son Lorenzo, and his daughter.

Duke. He shall do this; or else I do recant
The pardon, that I late pronounced here.

Por. Art thou contented, Jew, what dost thou

Shy. I am content. [say?

Por. Clerk, draw a deed of gift.

Shy. I pray you, give me leave to go from hence:

I am not well; send the deed after me,

And I will sign it.

Duke. Get thee gone, but do it.

Gra. In christening thou shalt have two
godfathers, [more,

Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten
To bring thee to the gallows, not to the font.

[Exit Shylock.

Duke. Sir, I entreat you home with me to
dinner.

Por. I humbly do desire your grace of pardon;

I must away this night toward Padua,

And it is meet, I presently set forth. [not.

Duke. I am sorry that your leisure serves you
Antonio, gratify this gentleman;

For, in my mind, you are much bound to him.

[Exeunt Duke, Magnificoes, and Train.

Bass. Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend,
Have by your wisdom been this day acquitted

Of grievous penalties; in lieu whereof,

Three thousand ducats, due unto the Jew,

We freely cope your courteous pains withal.

Ant. And stand indebted, over and above,

In love and service to you evermore.

Por. He is well paid, that is well satisfied;

And I, delivering you, am satisfied,

And therein do account myself well paid:

My mind was never yet more mercenary.

I pray you, know me, when we meet again;

I wish you well, and so I take my leave.

Bass. Dear sir, of force I must attempt you
further;

Take some remembrance of us, as a tribute,

Not as a fee; grant me two things, I pray you,

Not to deny me, and to pardon me.

P. You press me far, and therefore I will yield.

Give me your gloves, I'll wear them for your
sake; [you:—

And, for your love, I'll take this ring from

Do not draw back your hand: I'll take no more;

And you in love shall not deny me this.

Bass. This ring, good sir,—alas, it is a trifle;

I will not shame myself to give you this.

Por. I will have nothing else but only this;

And now, methinks, I have a mind to it.

Bass. There's more depends on this, than on
the value.

The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,

And find it out by proclamation;

Only for this, I pray you, pardon me.

Por. I see, sir, you are liberal in offers:

You taught me first to beg; and now, methinks,
You teach me how a beggar should be answer'd.

B. Good sir, this ring was given me by my
And, when she put it on, she made me vow, [wife:
That I should neither sell, nor give, nor lose it.

P. That 'scuse serves many men to save their
An if your wife be not a mad woman, [gifts;

And know how well I have deserved this ring,
She would not hold out enemy for ever,

For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you!

[Exeunt Portia and Nerissa.

Ant. My lord Bassanio, let him have the ring;
Let his deservings, and my love withal,
Be valued 'gainst your wife's commandment.

Bass. Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him,
Give him the ring; and bring him if thou canst,
Unto Antonio's house:—away, make haste.

[*Exit Gratiano.*]

Come, you and I will thither presently;
And in the morning early will we both
Fly toward Belmont: Come, Antonio.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter Portia and Nerissa.

Por. Inquire the Jew's house out, give him
this deed,

And let him sign it: we'll away to-night,
And be a day before our husbands home:
This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo.

Enter Gratiano.

Gra. Fair sir, you are well overtaken:
My lord Bassanio, upon more advice,¹
Hath sent you here this ring; and doth entreat
Your company at dinner.

Por. That cannot be:
This ring I do accept most thankfully,
And so, I pray you tell him; Furthermore,
I pray you show my youth old Shylock's house.

Gra. That will I do.

Ner. Sir, I would speak with you:—
[*To Portia.*] I'll see if I can get my husband's
ring,

Which I did make him swear to keep for ever.

Por. Thou may'st I warrant: We shall have
old swearing,

That they did give the rings away to men;
But we'll outface them, and outswear them too.
Away, make haste; thou know'st where I will
tarry.

Ner. Come, good sir, will you show me to this
house? [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

BELMONT. AVENUE TO PORTIA'S HOUSE.

Enter Lorenzo and Jessica.

Lor. The moon shines bright:—In such a night
as this,

When the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees,
And they did make no noise; in such a night,
Troilus, methinks, mounted the Trojan walls,
And sigh'd his soul toward the Grecian tents,
Where Cressid lay that night.

Jes. In such a night,
Did Thisbe fearfully o'ertrip the dew;
And saw the lion's shadow ere himself,
And ran dismay'd away.

Lor. In such a night,
Stood Dido with a willow in her hand
Upon the wild sea-banks, and wav'd her love
To come again to Carthage.

¹ Reflection.

Jes. In such a night,
Medea gather'd the enchanted herbs
That did renew old Æson.

Lor. In such a night,
Did Jessica steal from the wealthy Jew;
And with an unthrift love did run from Venice,
As far as Belmont.

Jes. And in such a night,
Did young Lorenzo swear he lov'd her well;
Stealing her soul with many vows of faith,
And ne'er a true one.

Lor. And in such a night,
Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,
Slander her love, and he forgave it her.

Jes. I would out-night you, did no body come:
But, hark, I hear the footing of a man.

Enter Stephano.

L. Who comes so fast in silence of the night?

Ste. A friend. [you, friend?]

L. A friend? what friend? your name, I pray

Steph. Stephano is my name; and I bring word,
My mistress will before the break of day
Be here at Belmont: she doth stray about
By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays
For happy wedlock hours.

Lor. Who comes with her?
Steph. None, but a holy hermit, and her maid.
I pray you, is my master yet return'd?

Lor. He is not, nor we have not heard from
But go we in, I pray thee, Jessica, [him:—
And ceremoniously let us prepare
Some welcome for the mistress of the house.

Enter Launcelot.

Launc. Sola, sola, wo ha, ho, sola, sola!

Lor. Who calls?

Launc. Sola! did you see master Lorenzo,
and mistress Lorenzo? sola, sola!

Lor. Leave hollaing, man; here.

Launc. Sola! where? where?

Lor. Here.

Launc. Tell him, there's a post come from
my master, with his horn full of good news;
my master will be here ere morning. [*Exit.*]

Lor. Sweet soul, let's in, and there expect
their coming.

And yet no matter;—Why should we go in?
My friend Stephano, signify, I pray you,
Within the house, your mistress is at hand;
And bring your musick forth into the air.—

[*Exit Stephano.*]

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of musick
Creep in our ears; soft stillness, and the night,
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

Sit, Jessica: Look, how the floor of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patines¹ of bright gold;
There's not the smallest orb, which thou beholdest
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-ey'd cherubins:
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.—

Enter Musicians.

Come, ho, and wake Diana with a hymn;

¹ Plates.

With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,
And draw her home with musick.

Jes. I am never merry, when I hear sweet musick.

Lor. The reason is, your spirits are attentive :
For do but note a wild and wanton herd,
Or race of youthful, and unhandled colts,
Fetching hard bounds, bellowing, and neighing loud,

Which is the hot condition of their blood ;
If they but hear perchance a trumpet sound,
Or any air of musick touch their ears,
You shall perceive them make a mutual stand,
Their savage eyes turn'd to a modest gaze,
By the sweet power of musick : Therefore, the poet

Did feign that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and
Since nought so stockish, hard, and full of rage,
But musick for the time doth change his nature :
The man that hath no musick in himself,
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils :
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus :
Let no such man be trusted.—Mark the musick.

Enter Portia and Nerissa, at a distance.

Por. That light we see, is burning in my hall.
How far that little candle throws his beams !
So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

Ner. When the moon shone, we did not see the candle.

Por. So doth the greater glory dim the less :
A substitute shines brightly as a king,
Until a king be by ; and then his state
Empties itself, as doth an inland brook
Into the main of waters. Musick ! hark !

Ner. It is your musick, madam, of the house.

Por. Nothing is good, I see, without respect ;
Methinks, it sounds much sweeter than by day.

Ner. Silence bestows that virtue on it, madam.

Por. The crow doth sing as sweetly as the lark,
When neither is attended ; and, I think,
The nightingale, if she should sing by day,
When every goose is cackling, would be thought
No better a musician than the wren.

How many things by season season'd are
To their right praise and true perfection !—
Peace, ho ! the moon sleeps with Endymion,
And would not be awak'd ! [*Musick ceases.*]

Lor. That is the voice,
Or I am much deceiv'd, of Portia.

Por. He knows me, as the blind man knows
By the bad voice. [*The cuckoo.*]

Lor. Dear lady, welcome home.

Por. We have been praying for our husbands' welfare,

Which speed, we hope, the better for our words ;
Are they return'd ?

Lor. Madam, they are not yet ;
But there is come a messenger before,
To signify their coming.

Por. Go in, Nerissa,
Give order to my servants, that they take
No note at all of our being absent hence ;
Nor you, Lorenzo ;—Jessica, nor you.

[*A tucket¹ sounds.*]

1 A flourish on a trumpet.

L. Your husband is at hand, I hear his trumpet :
We are no tell-tales, madam ; fear you not.

Por. This night, methinks, is but the daylight
It looks a little paler ; 'tis a day, [sick,
Such as the day is when the sun is hid.

Enter Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano, and their followers.

Bass. We should hold day with the Antipodes,
If you would walk in absence of the sun.

Por. Let me give light, but let me not be light ;
For a light wife doth make a heavy husband,
And never be Bassanio so for me ;
You are welcome home, my lord.

B. I thank you, madam : give welcome to my
This is the man, this is Antonio, [friend,—
To whom I am so infinitely bound. [him.

P. You should in all sense be much bound to
For, as I hear, he was much bound for you.

Ant. No more than I am well acquitted of.

Por. Sir, you are very welcome to our house ;
It must appear in other ways than words,
Therefore, I scant¹ this breathing² courtesy.

[*Gratiano and Nerissa seem to talk apart.*]

G. By yonder moon, I swear, you do me wrong ;
In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk.

Por. A quarrel, ho, already ? what's the matter ?

Gra. About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring
That she did give me ; whose posy was
For all the world, like cutler's poetry³
Upon a knife, *Love me, and leave me not.*

Ner. What talk you of the posy, or the value ?
You swore to me, when I did give it you,
That you would wear it till your hour of death ;
And that it should lie with you in your grave :
Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,
You should have been respective,⁴ and have kept it.

Gave it a judge's clerk !—but well I know,
The clerk will ne'er wear hair on his face, that

Gra. He will, an if he live to be a man. [had it.

Ner. Ay, if a woman live to be a man.

Gra. Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth,—
A kind of boy ; a little scrubbed boy,
No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk ;
A prating boy, that begg'd it as a fee ;
I could not for my heart deny it him.

P. You were to blame, I must be plain with you,
To part so slightly with your wife's first gift ;
A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger,
And riveted so with faith upon your flesh.

I gave my love a ring, and made him swear
Never to part with it ; and here he stands ;
I dare be sworn for him, he would not leave it,
Nor pluck it from his finger, for the wealth
That the world masters. Now, in faith, Gratiano,
You give your wife too unkind a cause of grief ;
An 'twere to me, I should be mad at it.

Bass. Why, I were best to cut my left hand off,
And swear, I lost the ring defending it. [*Aside.*]

Gra. My lord Bassanio gave his ring away
Unto the judge that begg'd it, and indeed,
Deserv'd it too ; and then the boy his clerk,
That took some pains in writing, he begg'd mine :
And neither man, nor master, would take aught
But the two rings.

1 Spare. 3 Formerly inscribed on knives by aqua-
2 Verbal. 4 Particular. [fortis.

Por. What ring gave you, my lord?
Not that, I hope, which you receiv'd of me.

Bass. If I could add a lie unto a fault,
I would deny it; but you see my finger
Hath not the ring upon it, it is gone.

Por. Even so void is your false heart of truth.
By heaven, I will ne'er come in your bed
Until I see the ring.

Ner. Nor I in yours,
Till I again see mine.

Bass. Sweet Portia,
If you did know to whom I gave the ring,
If you did know for whom I gave the ring,
And would conceive for what I gave the ring,
And how unwillingly I left the ring,
When nought would be accepted but the ring,
You would abate the strength of your displeasure.

Por. If you had known the virtue of the ring,
Or half her worthiness that gave the ring,
Or your own honour to contain the ring,
You would not then have parted with the ring.
What man is there so much unreasonable,
If you had pleas'd to have defended it
With any terms of zeal, wanted the modesty
To urge the thing held as a ceremony?
Nerissa teaches me what to believe;
I'll die for't, but some woman had the ring.

B. No, by mine honour, madam, by my soul,
No woman had, but a civil doctor,
Which did refuse three thousand ducats of me,
And begg'd the ring; the which I did deny him,
And suffer'd him to go displeas'd away;
Even he that had held up the very life
Of my dear friend. What should I say, sweet
I was enforc'd to send it after him; [lady?
I was beset with shame and courtesy;
My honour would not let ingratitude
So much besmear it: Pardon me, good lady;
For, by these blessed candles of the night,
Had you been there, I think, you would have
begg'd

The ring of me to give the worthy doctor.

Por. Let not that doctor e'er come near my house:

Since he hath got the jewel that I lov'd,
And that which you did swear to keep for me,
I will become as liberal as you:
I'll not deny him any thing I have,
Know him I shall, I am well sure of it:
Lie not a night from home; watch me, like
If you do not, if I be left alone, [Argus:
Now, by mine honour, which is yet my own,
I'll have that doctor for my bedfellow.

Ner. And I his clerk; therefore, be well advis'd,
How you do leave me to mine own protection.

Gra. Well, do you so; let not me take him then.

Ant. I am the unhappy subject of these quarrels.

Por. Sir, grieve not you; You are welcome notwithstanding.

Bass. Portia, forgive me this enforced wrong;
And in the hearing of these many friends,
I swear to thee, even by thine own fair eyes,
Wherein I see myself,—

Por. Mark you but that
In both mine eyes he doubly sees himself:
In each eye, one:—swear by your double self,
And there's an oath of credit.

Bass. Nay, but hear me:
Pardon this fault, and by my soul I swear,
I never more will break an oath with thee.

Ant. I once did lend my body for his wealth:
Which, but for him that had your husband's ring,

[To Portia,

Had quite miscarried: I dare be bound again,
My soul upon the forfeit, that your lord
Will never more break faith advisedly.

P. Then you shall be his surety: Give him this;
And bid him keep it better than the other.

Ant. Here, lord Bassanio, swear to keep this ring.

Bass. By heaven, it is the same I gave the doctor.

Por. I had it of him.—You are all amazed:
Here is a letter, read it at your leisure;
It comes from Padua, from Bellario:
There you shall find, that Portia was the doctor;
Nerissa there, her clerk: Lorenzo here
Shall witness, I set forth as soon as you,
And but even now returned; I have not yet
Enter'd my house.—Antonio, you are welcome;
And I have better news in store for you,
Than you expect; unseal this letter soon;
There you shall find, three of your argosies
Are richly come to harbour suddenly:
You shall not know by what strange accident
I chanced on this letter.

Ant. I am dumb.

B. Were you the doctor, and I knew you not?
Sweet doctor, you shall be my bedfellow;
When I am absent, then lie with my wife.

Ant. Sweet lady, you have given me life, and living;

For here I read for certain, that my ships
Are safely come to road.

Por. How now, Lorenzo?
My clerk hath some good comforts too for you.

Ner. And I'll give them him without a fee.—

There do I give to you, and Jessica,
From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift,
After his death, of all he died possess'd of.

Lor. Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way
Of starved people.

Por. It is almost morning,
And yet, I am sure, you are not satisfied
Of these events at full: Let us go in;
And charge us there upon inter'gatories,
And we will answer all things faithfully.

[Exeunt.

As You Like It.

Persons Represented.

DUKE, *living in exile.*
 FREDERICK, *brother to the Duke, and Usurper of his dominions.*
 AMIENS, } *Lords attending upon the Duke in*
 JAQUES, } *his banishment.*
 LE BEAU, *a Courtier attending upon Frederick.*
 CHARLES, *his Wrestler.*
 OLIVER, }
 JAQUES, } *Sons of Sir Rowland de Bois.*
 ORLANDO, }
 ADAM, } *Servants to Oliver.*
 DENNIS, }
 TOUCHSTONE, *a Clown.*

SIR OLIVER MAR-TEXT, *a Vicar.*
 CORIN, } *Shepherds.*
 SYLVIVS, }
 WILLIAM, *a country fellow, in love with Audrey.*
 A Person representing Hymen.
 ROSALIND, *Daughter to the banished Duke.*
 CELIA, *Daughter to Frederick.*
 PHEBE, *a Shepherdess.*
 AUDREY, *a country Girl.*
 Lords belonging to the two Dukes; Pages,
 Foresters, and other Attendants.

The Scene lies, first, near Oliver's House; afterwards, partly in the Usurper's Court, and partly in the Forest of Arden.

Act First.

SCENE I.

AN ORCHARD, NEAR OLIVER'S HOUSE.

Enter Orlando and Adam.

Oli. As I remember, Adam, it was upon this fashion bequeath'd me: By will, but a poor thousand crowns; and, as thou say'st, charged my brother, on his blessing, to breed me well: and there begins my sadness. My brother Jaques he keeps at school, and report speaks goldenly of his profit; for my part, he keeps me rustically at home, or, to speak more properly, stays me here at home unkept: For call you that keeping for a gentleman of my birth that differs not from the stalling of an ox? His horses are bred better: for, besides that they are fair with their feeding, they are taught their manage, and to that end riders dearly hired; but I, his brother, gain nothing under him but growth; for the which his animals on his dunghills are as much bound to him as I. Besides this nothing that he so plentifully gives me, the something that nature gave me, his countenance seems to take from me: he lets me feed with his hinds, bars me the place of a brother, and, as much as in him lies, mines my gentility with my education. This is it, Adam, that grieves me; and the spirit of my father, which I think is within me, begins to mutiny against this servitude: I will no longer endure it, though yet I know no wise remedy how to avoid it.

Enter Oliver.

Adam. Yonder comes my master, your brother.

Oli. Go apart, Adam, and thou shalt hear how he will shake me up.

Oli. Now, sir, what make you here?

Oli. Nothing: I am not taught to make any

Oli. What mar you then, sir? *Nothing.*

Oli. Marry, sir, I am helping you to mar that which God made, a poor unworthy brother of yours, with idleness.

Oli. Marry, sir, be better employ'd, and be naught awhile.

Oli. Shall I keep your hogs, and eat husks with them? What prodigal portion have I spent, that I should come to such penury?

Oli. Know you where you are, sir?

Oli. O, sir, very well: here in your orchard.

Oli. Know you before whom, sir?

Oli. Ay, better than he I am before knows me. I know you are my eldest brother; and, in the gentle condition of blood, you should so know me: The courtesy of nations allows you my better, in that you are the first-born; but the same tradition takes not away my blood, were there twenty brothers betwixt us; I have as much of my father in me, as you; albeit, I confess your coming before me is nearer to his reverence.

Oli. What, boy!

Oli. Come, come, elder brother, you are too young in this.

Oli. Wilt thou lay hands on me, villain?

Oli. I am no villain! I am the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Bois; he was my father, and he is thrice a villain, that says, such a father begot villains: Wert thou not my brother, I would not take this hand from thy throat, till this other hand pulled out thy tongue for saying so; thou hast railled on thyself.

Adam. Sweet masters, be patient; for your father's remembrance, be at accord.

Oli. Let me go, I say.

Oli. I will not, till I please: you shall hear me. My father charged you in his will to give me good education: you have trained me like a peasant, obscuring and hiding from me all gentleman-like qualities: the spirit of my father grows strong in me, and I will no longer endure it; therefore allow me such exercises as may become a gentleman, or give me the poor allottery my father left me by testament; with that I will go buy my fortunes.

1 Playing on the double meaning of the word, — a worthless fellow — and a man of low extraction.

Oli. And what wilt thou do? beg, when that is spent? Well, sir, get you in: I will not long be troubled with you: you shall have some part of your will: I pray you, leave me.

Orl. I will no further offend you than becomes me for my good.

Oli. Get you with him, you old dog.

Adam. Is old dog my reward? most true, I have lost my teeth in your service.—God be with my old master! he would not have spoke such a word.

[*Exeunt Orlando and Adam.*]

Oli. Is it even so? begin you to grow upon me? I will physick your rankness, and yet give no thousand crowns neither. Hola, Dennis!

Enter Dennis.

Den. Calls your worship?

Oli. Was not Charles, the duke's wrestler, here, to speak with me?

Den. So please you, he is here at the door, and importunes access to you.

Oli. Call him in. [*Exit Dennis.*].—'Twill be a good way; and to-morrow the wrestling is.

Enter Charles.

Cha. Good morrow to your worship.

Oli. Good monsieur Charles!—what's the new news at the new court?

Cha. There's no news at the court, sir, but the old news: that is, the old duke is banished by his younger brother the new duke; and three or four loving lords have put themselves into voluntary exile with him, whose lands and revenues enrich the new duke; therefore he gives them good leave to wander.

Oli. Can you tell, if Rosalind, the duke's daughter, be banished with her father?

C. O, no; for the duke's daughter, her cousin, so loves her,—being ever from their cradles bred together,—that she would have followed her exile, or have died to stay behind her. She is at the court, and no less beloved of her uncle than his own daughter; and never two ladies loved as they do.

Oli. Where will the old duke live?

Cha. They say he is already in the forest of Arden, and a many merry men with him; and there they live like the old Robin Hood of England: they say, many young gentlemen flock to him every day; and fleet the time carelessly, as they did in the golden world.

Oli. What, you wrestle to-morrow before the new duke?

Cha. Marry, do I, sir; and I came to acquaint you with a matter. I am given, sir, secretly to understand, that your younger brother, Orlando, hath a disposition to come in disguis'd against me to try a fall: To-morrow, sir, I wrestle for my credit; and he that escapes me without some broken limb, shall acquit him well. Your brother is but young and tender; and, for your love, I would be loth to foil him, as I must for my own honour, if he come in: therefore out of my love to you, I came hither to acquaint you withal; that either you might stay him from his intendment,¹ or brook such disgrace well as he shall run into; in that it is a thing of his own search, and altogether against my will.

¹ Design.

Oli. Charles, I thank thee for thy love to me, which thou shalt find I will most kindly requite. I had myself notice of my brother's purpose herein, and have by underhand means laboured to dissuade him from it; but he is resolute. I'll tell thee, Charles,—it is the stubbornest young fellow of France; full of ambition, an envious emulator of every man's good parts, a secret and villainous contriver against me, his natural brother; therefore use thy discretion; I had as lief¹ thou didst break his neck as his finger: And thou wert best look to't; for if thou dost him any slight disgrace, or if he do not mightily grace himself on thee, he will practice against thee by poison, entrap thee by some treacherous device, and never leave thee till he hath ta'en thy life by some indirect means or other; for, I assure thee, and almost with tears I speak it, there is not one so young and so villainous this day living. I speak but brotherly of him; but should I anatomise him to thee as he is, I must blush and weep, and thou must look pale and wonder.

Cha. I am heartily glad, I came hither to you: If he come to-morrow, I'll give him his payment: If ever he go alone again, I'll never wrestle for prize more: And so, heaven keep your worship!

[*Exit.*]

Oli. Farewell, good Charles.—Now will I stir this gamster²: I hope I shall see an end of him; for my soul, yet I know not why, hates nothing more than he. Yet he's gentle; never school'd and yet learned; full of noble device; of all sorts³ enchantingly beloved; and, indeed, so much in the heart of the world, and especially of my own people, who best know him, that I am altogether misprised; but it shall not be so long; this wrestler shall clear all; nothing remains, but that I kindle the boy thither, which now I'll go about.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

A LAWN BEFORE THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Rosalind and Celia.

Cel. I pray thee, Rosalind, sweet my coz, be merry.

Ros. Dear Celia, I show more mirth than I am mistress of: and would you yet I were merrier? Unless you could teach me to forget a banished father, you must not learn me how to remember any extraordinary pleasure.

Cel. Herein, I see, thou lovest me not with the full weight that I love thee: if my uncle, thy banished father, had banish'd thy uncle, the duke my father, so thou hadst been still with me, I could have taught my love to take thy father for mine; so wouldst thou, if the truth of thy love to me were so righteously temper'd as mine is to thee.

Ros. Well, I will forget the condition of my estate, to rejoice in yours.

Cel. You know, my father hath no child but I, nor none is like to have; and, truly, when he dies, thou shalt be his heir: for what he hath taken away from thy father perforce, I will render thee again in affection: by mine honour, I will; and when I break that oath, let me turn

¹ Rather.

² Frolicsome fellow.

³ Rank.

monster: therefore, my sweet Rose, my dear Rose, be merry.

Ros. From henceforth I will, coz, and devise sports; let me see; What think you of falling in love?

C. Marry, I pr'ythee, do, to makesport withal; but love no man in good earnest; nor no further in sport neither, than with safety of a pure blush thou may'st in honour come off again.

Ros. What shall be our sport then?

Cel. Let us sit and mock the good housewife, Fortune, from her wheel, that her gifts may henceforth be bestowed equally.

Ros. I would, we could do so; for her benefits are mightily misplaced: and the bountiful blind woman doth most mistake in her gifts to women.

Cel. 'Tis true: for those, that she makes fair, she scarce makes honest; and those, that she makes honest, she makes very ill-favour'dly.

Ros. Nay, now thou goest from fortune's office to nature's; fortune reigns in gifts of the world, not in the lineaments of nature.

Enter Touchstone.

Cel. No? When nature hath made a fair creature, may she not by fortune fall into the fire?—Though nature hath given us wit to flout at fortune, hath not fortune sent in this fool to cut off the argument?

Ros. Indeed, there is fortune too hard for nature: when fortune makes nature's natural the cutter off of nature's wit.

Cel. Peradventure, this is not fortune's work neither, but nature's; who perceiving our natural wits too dull to reason of such goddesses, hath sent this natural for our whetstone: for always the dullness of the fool is the whetstone of his wits.—How now, wit? whither wander you?

Touch. Mistress, you must come away to your father.

Cel. Were you made the messenger?

Touch. No, by mine honour; but I was bid to come for you.

Ros. Where learned you that oath, fool?

Touch. Of a certain knight, that swore by his honour they were good pancakes, and swore by his honour the mustard was naught: now, I'll stand to it, the pancakes were naught, and the mustard was good; and yet was not the knight forsworn.

Cel. How prove you that, in the great heap of your knowledge?

Ros. Ay, marry; now unmuzzle your wisdom.

Touch. Stand you both forth now; stroke your chins, and swear by your beards that I am a knave.

Cel. By our beards, if we had them, thou art.

Touch. By my knavery, if I had it, then I were: but if you swear by that that is not, you are not forsworn: no more was this knight, swearing by his honour, for he never had any; or if he had, he had sworn it away, before ever he saw those pancakes or that mustard.

Cel. Pr'ythee, who is't that thou mean'st?

Touch. One that old Frederick your father loves.

Cel. My father's love is enough to honour him.

Enough! speak no more of him; you'll be whipp'd for taxation,¹ one of these days.

Touch. The more pity that fools may not speak wisely, what wise men do foolishly.

Cel. By my troth, thou say'st true: for since the little wit, that fools have, was silenced, the little foolery, that wise men have, makes a great show. Here comes monsieur Le Beau.

Enter Le Beau.

Ros. With his mouth full of news.

Cel. Which he will put on us, as pigeons feed their young.

Ros. Then shall we be news-cramm'd.

Cel. All the better; we shall be the more marketable. *Bon jour, monsieur Le Beau:* What's the news?

Le Beau. Fair princess, you have lost much good sport.

Cel. Sport? Of what colour?

Le Beau. What colour, madam? How shall I answer you?

Ros. As wit and fortune will.

Touch. Or as the destinies decree.

Cel. Well said; that was laid on with a trowel.

Le Beau. You amaze me, ladies; I would have told you of good wrestling, which you have lost the sight of.

Ros. Yet tell us the manner of the wrestling.

Le Beau. I will tell you the beginning, and, if it please your ladyships, you may see the end; for the best is yet to do; and here, where you are, they are coming to perform it.

Cel. Well,—the beginning, that is dead and buried.

Le Beau. There comes an old man, and his three sons,—

Cel. I could match this beginning with an old tale.

Le Beau. Three proper young men, of excellent growth and presence;—

Ros. With bills on their necks,—*Be it known unto all men by these presents,*—

Le Beau. The eldest of the three wrestled with Charles, the duke's wrestler; which Charles in a moment threw him, and broke three of his ribs, that there is little hope of life in him: so he served the second, and so the third: Yonder they lie; the poor old man, their father, making such pitiful dole over them, that all the beholders take his part with weeping.

Ros. Alas!

Touch. But what is the sport, monsieur, that the ladies have lost?

Le Beau. Why, this that I speak of.

Touch. Thus men may grow wiser every day! it is the first time that I ever heard, breaking of ribs was sport for ladies.

Cel. Or I, I promise thee.

Ros. But is there any else longs to see this broken musick in his sides? is there yet another dotes upon rib-breaking?—Shall we see this wrestling, cousin?

Le Beau. You must, if you stay here; for here is the place appointed for the wrestling, and they are ready to perform it.

Cel. Yonder, sure, they are coming; Let us now stay and see it.

Flourish. Enter Duke Frederick, Lords, Orlando, Charles, and Attendants.

Duke F. Come on; since the youth will not be entreated, his own peril on his forwardness.

Ros. Is yonder the man?

Le Beau. Even he, madam.

Cel. Alas, he is too young: yet he looks successfully.¹

Duke F. How now, daughter, and cousin? are you crept hither to see the wrestling.

Ros. Ay, my liege! so please you give us leave.

Duke F. You will take little delight in it, I can tell you, there is such odds in the men: In pity of the challenger's youth, I would fain dissuade him, but he will not be entreated: Speak to him, ladies; see if you can move him.

Cel. Call him hither, good monsieur Le Beau.

Duke F. Do so: I'll not be by.

[Duke goes apart.]

Le Beau. Monsieur the challenger, the princesses call for you.

Orl. I attend them, with all respect and duty.

Ros. Young man, have you challenged Charles the wrestler?

Orl. No, fair princess; he is the general challenger: I come but in, as others do, to try with him the strength of my youth.

Cel. Young gentleman, your spirits are too bold for your years: You have seen cruel proof of this man's strength; if you saw yourself with your eyes, or knew yourself with your judgment, the fear of your adventure would counsel you to a more equal enterprise. We pray you, for your own sake, to embrace your own safety, and give over this attempt.

Ros. Do, young sir; your reputation shall not therefore be misprised: we will make it our suit to the duke, that the wrestling might not go forward.

Orl. I beseech you, punish me not with your hard thoughts; wherein I confess me much guilty, to deny so fair and excellent ladies any thing. But let your fair eyes, and gentle wishes, go with me to my trial: wherein if I be foiled, there is but one shamed that is never gracious; if killed, but one dead that is willing to be so: I shall do my friends no wrong, for I have none to lament me: the world no injury, for in it I have nothing; only in the world I fill up a place, which may be better supplied when I have made it empty.

Ros. The little strength that I have, I would it were with you.

Cel. And mine, to eke out hers.

Ros. Fare you well. Pray heaven, I be deceived in you!

Cel. Your heart's desires be with you.

Cha. Come, where is this young gallant, that is so desirous to lie with his mother earth?

Orl. Ready, sir.

Duke F. You shall try but one fall.

Cha. No, I warrant your grace; you shall not entreat him to a second, that have so mightily persuaded² him from a first.

Orl. You mean to mock me after; you should not have mocked me before; but come your ways.

Ros. Now, Hercules be thy speed, young man!
Cel. I would I were invisible, to catch the strong fellow by the leg.

[Charles and Orlando wrestle.]

Ros. O excellent young man!

Cel. If I had a thunderbolt in mine eye, I can tell who should down.

[Charles is thrown. Shout.]

Duke F. No more, no more.

Orl. Yes, I beseech your grace; I am not yet well breathed.

Duke F. How dost thou, Charles?

Le Beau. He cannot speak, my lord.

Duke F. Bear him away. *[Charles is borne out.]*
What is thy name, young man?

Orl. Orlando, my liege; the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Bois.

Duke F. I would thou hadst been son to some man else.

The world esteem'd thy father honourable, But I did find him still mine enemy;—[deed, Thou shouldst have better pleas'd me with this Hadst thou descended from another house. But fare thee well; thou art a gallant youth; I would thou hadst told me of another father.]

[Exeunt Duke Fred., Train, and Le Beau.]

Cel. Were I my father, coz, would I do this?

Orl. I am more proud to be Sir Rowland's son, His youngest son;—and would not change that To be adopted heir to Frederick. *[calling]*

Ros. My father lov'd Sir Rowland as his soul, And all the world was of my father's mind: Had I before known this young man his son, I should have given him tears unto entreaties, Ere he should thus have ventur'd.

Cel. Gentle cousin, Let us go thank him, and encourage him: My father's rough and envious disposition Sticks meat heart.—Sir, you have well deserv'd. If you do keep your promises in love, But justly, as you have exceeded promise, Your mistress shall be happy.

Ros. I and my father's child. Gentleman,

[Giving him a chain from her neck.]
Wear this for me; one out of suits with fortune; That could give more, but that her hand lacks Shall we go, coz? *[means.]*

Cel. Ay:—Fare you well, fair gentleman.

O. Can I not say I thank you? My better parts Are all thrown down; and that which herestands Is but a quintain,¹ a mere lifeless block. *[up]*

Ros. He calls us back: My pride fell with my fortunes:

I'll ask him what he would:—Did you call, sir?—Sir, you have wrestled well, and overthrown More than your enemies.

Cel. Will you go, coz?

Ros. Have with you:—Fare you well.

[Exeunt Rosalind and Celia.]

Orl. What passion hangs these weights upon my tongue?

I cannot speak to her, yet she urg'd conference.

Re-enter Le Beau.

O, poor Orlando! thou art overthrown; Or Charles, or something weaker, masters thee.

Le B. Good sir, I do in friendship counsel you

1 The object to tilt at with the lance.

1 As expecting success.

2 Dissuaded.

To leave this place: Albeit you have deserv'd
High commendation, true applause, and love;
Yet such is now the duke's condition,¹
That he misconstrues all that you have done.
The duke is humorous; what he is, indeed,
More suits you to conceive, than me to speak of.

O. I thank you, sir; and pray you tell me this;
Which of the two was daughter of the duke,
That here was at the wrestling?

Le Beau. Neither his daughter, if we judge
by manners;

But yet, indeed, the shorter is his daughter:
The other is daughter to the banish'd duke,
And here detain'd by her usurping uncle,
To keep his daughter company; whose loves
Are dearer than the natural bond of sisters.
But I can tell you, that of late this duke
Hath ta'en displeasure 'gainst his gentle niece;
Grounded upon no other argument,
But that the people praise her for her virtues,
And pity her for her good father's sake:
And, on my life, his malice 'gainst the lady
Will suddenly break forth.—Sir, fare you well,
Hereafter, in a better world than this,
I shall desire more love and knowledge of you.

O. I rest much bounden to you: fare you well.

[*Exit Le Beau.*]

Thus must I from the smoke into the smother;
From tyrant duke, unto a tyrant brother:—
But heavenly Rosalind!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Celia and Rosalind.

Cel. Why, cousin; why, Rosalind;—Cupid,
have mercy!—Not a word?

Ros. Not one to throw at a dog.

Cel. No, thy words are too precious to be cast
away upon curs, throw some of them at me;
come, lame me with reasons.

Ros. Then there were two cousins laid up;
when the one should be lamed with reasons, and
the other mad without any.

Cel. But is all this for your father?

Ros. No, some of it for my father's child: O,
how full of briars is this working-day world!

C. They are but burs, cousin, thrown upon thee
in holiday foolery; if we walk not in the trodden
paths, our very petticoats will catch them.

Ros. I could shake them off my coat; these
burs are in my heart.

Cel. Hem them away.

Ros. I would try; if I could cry hem, and
have him.

Cel. Come, come, wrestle with thy affections.

Ros. O, they take the part of a better wrestler
than myself.

Cel. O, a good wish upon you!—But, turning
these jests out of service, let us talk in good
earnest: Is it possible, on such a sudden, you
should fall into so strong a liking with old Sir
Rowland's youngest son?

R. The duke my father lov'd his father dearly.

Cel. Doth it therefore ensue, that you should
love his son dearly? By this kind of chase, I
should hate him, for my father hated his father
dearly; yet I hate not Orlando.

1 Disposition.

Ros. No; hate him not for my sake. [well?
Cel. Why should I not? doth he not deserve
R. Let me love him for that; and do you love
him, because I do:—Look, here comes the duke.

Cel. With his eyes full of anger.

Enter Duke Frederick, with Lords.

Duke F. Mistress, despatch you with your
And get you from our court. [safest haste,

Ros. Me, uncle?

Duke F. You, cousin;

Within these ten days if that thou be'st found
So near our public court as twenty miles,
Thou diest for it.

Ros. I do beseech your grace,
Let me the knowledge of my fault bear with me:
If with myself I hold intelligence,
Or have acquaintance with mine own desires;
If that I do not dream, or be not frantick,
(As I do trust I am not,) then, dear uncle,
Never, so much as in a thought unborn,
Did I offend your highness.

Duke F. Thus do all traitors;
If their purgation did consist in words,
They are as innocent as grace itself:—
Let it suffice thee, that I trust thee not.

R. Yet your mistrust cannot make me a traitor:
Tell me whereon the likelihood depends.

Duke F. Thou art thy father's daughter, there's
enough. [dukedom;

Ros. So was I, when your highness took his
So was I, when your highness banish'd him:
Treason is not inherited, my lord;
Or, if we did derive it from our friends,
What's that to me? my father was no traitor:
Then, good my liege, mistake me not so much,
To think my poverty is treacherous.

Cel. Dear sovereign, hear me speak.

Duke F. Ay, Celia; westay'd her for your sake.
Else had she with her father rang'd along.

Cel. I did not then entreat to have her stay,
It was your pleasure, and your own remorse;¹
I was too young that time to value her,
But now I know her: if she be a traitor,
Why so am I; we still have slept together;
Rose at an instant, learned, played, eat together;
And wheresoe'er we went, like Juno's swans,
Still we went coupled, and inseparable.

Duke F. She is too subtle for thee; and her
Her very silence, and her patience, [smoothness,
Speak to the people, and they pity her.
Thou art a fool: she robs thee of thy name;
And thou wilt show more bright, and seem more
virtuous,

When she is gone: then open not thy lips;
Firm and irrevocable is my doom

Which I have pass'd upon her; she is banished.

Cel. Pronounce that sentence then on me, my
I cannot live out of her company. [liege;

Duke F. You are a fool:—You, niece, provide
yourself;

If you out-stay the time, upon mine honour,
And in the greatness of my word, you die.

[*Exeunt Duke Frederick and Lords.*]

Cel. O my poor Rosalind! whither wilt thou go?
Wilt thou change fathers? I will give thee mine.
I charge thee, be not thou more griev'd than I am.

Ros. I have more cause.

1 Compassion.

Cel. Thou hast not, cousin ;
Pr'ythee, becheerful : know'st thou not, the duke
Hath banished me his daughter ?

Ros. That he hath not.

Cel. No ? hath not ? Rosalind lacks then the
love

Which teacheth thee that thou and I am one :
Shall we be sunder'd ? shall we part, sweet girl ?
No ; let my father seek another heir.

Therefore devise with me, how we may fly,
Whither to go, and what to bear with us :

And do not seek to take your change upon you,
To bear your griefs yourself, and leave me out ;
For, by this heaven, now at our sorrows pale,
Say what thou canst, I'll go along with thee.

Ros. Why, whither shall we go ?

Cel. To seek my uncle in the forest of Arden.

Ros. Alas, what danger will it be to us,
Maid as we are, to travel forth so far ?

Beauty provoketh thieves sooner than gold.

Cel. I'll put myself in poor and mean attire,
And with a kind of umber¹ smirch² my face ;
The like do you ; so shall we pass along,
And never stir assaillants.

Ros. Were it not better,

Because that I am more than common tall,
That I did suit me all points like a man ?

A gallant curtle-ax³ upon my thigh,
A boar spear in my hand ; and (in my heart

Lie there what hidden woman's fear there will,)
We'll have a swashing⁴ and a martial outside ;

As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances.

C. What shall I call thee, when thou art a man ?

Ros. I'll have no worse a name than Jove's
own page,

And therefore look you call me, Ganymede.
But what will you be call'd ?

Cel. Something that hath a reference to my
state ;

No longer Celia, but Allena.

Ros. But, cousin, what if we essay'd to steal
The clownish fool out of your father's court ?

Would he not be a comfort to our travel ?

C. He'll go along o'er the wide world with me :
Leave me alone to woo him : Let's away,

And get our jewels and our wealth together ;
Devise the fittest time, and safest way

To hide us from pursuit that will be made
After my flight : Now go we in content.

To liberty, and not to banishment. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—THE FOREST OF ARDEN.

*Enter Duke Senior, Amiens, and other Lords,
in the dress of foresters.*

Duke S. Now, my co-mates, and brothers in
exile,

Hath not old custom made this life more sweet
Than that of painted pomp ? Are not these woods

More free from peril than the envious court ?
Here feel we but the penalty of Adam,

1 Yellow. 3 Cutlass. 5 Manlike.
2 Smear. 4 Swaggering.

The seasons' difference ; as, the icy fang,
And churlish chiding of the winter's wind ;
Which when it bites and blows upon my body,
Even till I shrink with cold, I smile, and say, —
This is no flattery : these are counsellors

That feelingly persuade me what I am.
Sweet are the uses of adversity ;

Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head ;

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running

brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.

Am. I would not change it : Happy is your
grace,

That can translate the stubbornness of fortune
Into so quiet and so sweet a style.

Duke S. Come, shall we go and kill us venison ?
And yet it irks me, the poor dappled fools, —

Being native burghers of this desert city, —
Should in their own confines, with forked heads¹

Have their round haunches gord'd.

1 Lord. Indeed, my lord,
The melancholy Jaques grieves at that ;

And, in that kind, swears you do more usurp
Than doth your brother that hath banish'd you.

To-day, my lord of Amiens, and myself,
Did steal behind him, as he lay along

Under an oak, whose antique root peeps out
Upon the brook that brawls along this wood :

To the which place a poor sequester'd stag,
That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,

Did come to languish ; and, indeed, my lord,
The wretched animal heav'd forth such groans,

That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat
Almost to bursting ; and the big round tears

Cours'd one another down his innocent nose
In piteous chase ; and thus the hairy fool,

Much marked of the melancholy Jaques,
Stood on the extremest verge of the swift brook,

Augmenting it with tears.

Duke S. But what said Jaques ?
Did he not moralize this spectacle ?

1 Lord. O, yes, into a thousand similes.
First, for his weeping in the needless stream ;

Poor deer, quoth he, *thou mak'st a testament
As worldlings do, giving thy sum of more*

To that which had too much : Then, being alone,
Left and abandoned of his velvet friends ;

'Tis right, quoth he ; *thus misery doth part
The flux of company :* Anon, a careless herd,

Full of the pasture, jumps along by him,
And never stays to greet him : *Ay,* quoth Jaques,

*Sweep on, you fat and greasy citizens ;
'Tis just the fashion : Wherefore do you look*

Upon that poor and broken bankrupt there ?
Thus most invectively he pierceth through

The body of the country, city, court,
Yea, and of this our life : swearing, that we

Are mere usurpers, tyrants, and what's worse
To fright the animals, and to kill them up,
In their assign'd and native dwelling-place.

Duke S. And did you leave him in this con-
templation ?

2 Lord. We did, my lord, weeping and com-
ing upon the sobbing deer.

Duke S. Show me the place ;
1 Barbed arrows.

I love to cope¹ him in these sullen fits,
For then he's full of matter.

2 *Lord.* I'll bring you to him straight. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Duke Frederick, Lords, and Attendants.

Duke F. Can it be possible, that no man saw
It cannot be: some villains of my court (them?)
Are of consent and sufferance in this.

1 *Lord.* I cannot hear of any that did see her.
The ladies, her attendants of her chamber,
Saw her a-bed; and, in the morning early,
They found the bed untreasur'd of their mistress.

2 *L.* My lord, the roynish² clown, at whom so oft
Your grace was wont to laugh, is also missing.
Hesperia, the princess' gentlewoman,
Confesses, that she secretly o'erheard
Your daughter and her cousin much commend
The parts and graces of the wrestler
That did but lately foil the sinewy Charles;
And she believes, wherever they are gone,
That duke is surely in their company.

Duke F. Send to his brother; fetch that
gallant hither;

If he be absent, bring his brother to me,
I'll make him find him: do this suddenly;
And let not search and inquisition quail³
To bring again these foolish runaways. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—BEFORE OLIVER'S HOUSE.

Enter Orlando and Adam, meeting.

Orl. Who's there?

Ad. What! my young master?—O, my gentle
O, my sweet master, O you memory⁴ [master,
Of old Sir Rowland! why, what make you here?
Why are you virtuous? Why do people love you?
And wherefore are you gentle, strong, and
valiant?

Why should you be so fond⁵ to overcome
The bony prizer of the humorous duke?
Your praise is come too swiftly home before you.
Know you not, master, to some kind of men
Their graces serve them but as enemies!
No more do yours; your virtues, gentle master,
Are sanctified and holy traitors to you.
O, what a world is this, when what is comely
Envenoms him that bears it?

Orl. Why, what's the matter?

Adam. O unhappy youth,
Come not within these doors; within this roof
The enemy of all your graces lives:
Your brother—(no, no brother; yet the son—
Yet not the son;—I will not call him son—
Of him I was about to call his father,)—
Hath heard your praises; and this night he means
To burn the lodging where you used to lie,
And you within it: if he fall of that,
He will have other means to cut you off:
I overheard him, and his practices.
This is no place, this house is but a butchery;
Abhor it, fear it, do not enter it. [He goes]

Orl. Why, whither, Adam, wouldst thou have
A. No matter whither, so you come not here.

Orl. What, wouldst thou have me go and beg
my food?

Or, with a base and boisterous sword, enforce
A thievish living on the common road?
This I must do, or know not what to do:
Yet this I will not do, do how I can;
I rather will subject me to the malice
Of a diverted blood, and bloody brother.

A. But do not so: I have five hundred crowns,
The thrifty hire I sav'd under your father,
Which I did store, to be my foster-nurse,
When service should in my old limbs lie lame,
And unregarded age in corners thrown:
Take that; and He that doth the ravens feed,
Yea, providently caters for the sparrow,
Be comfort to my age! Here is the gold;
All this I give you: Let me be your servant;
Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty:
For in my youth I never did apply
Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood;
Therefore my age is as a lusty winter,
Frosty, but kindly: let me go with you;
I'll do the service of a younger man
In all your business and necessities.

Orl. O good old man; how well in thee appears
The constant service of the antique world,
When service sweet for duty, not for need!
Thou art not for the fashion of these times,
Where none will sweat, but for promotion;
And having that, do choke their service up
Even with the having: it is not so with thee.
But, poor old man, thou prun'st a rotten tree,
That cannot so much as a blossom yield,
In lieu of all thy pains and husbandry;
But come thy ways, we'll go along together;
And ere we have thy youthful wages spent,
We'll light upon some settled low content.

Adam. Master, go on; and I will follow thee,
To the last gasp, with truth and loyalty.—
From seventeen years till now almost fourscore
Here lived I, but now live here no more.
At seventeen years many their fortunes seek;
But at fourscore, it is too late a week:
Yet fortune cannot recompense me better,
Than to die well, and not my master's debtor.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—THE FOREST OF ARDEN.

*Enter Rosalind in Boy's clothes, Celia drest
like a Shepherdess, and Touchstone.*

Ros. O Jupiter! how weary are my spirits!

Touch. I care not for my spirits, if my legs
were not weary.

Ros. I could find in my heart to disgrace my
man's apparel, and to cry like a woman; but I
must comfort the weaker vessel, as doublet and
hose ought to show itself courageous to petticoat;
therefore, courage, good Aliena.

C. I pray you, bear with me; I can go no further.

Touch. For my part I had rather bear with
you than bear you: yet I should bear no cross,¹
if I did bear you: for, I think, you have no
money in your purse.

Ros. Well, this is the forest of Arden.

Touch. Ay, now am I in Arden: the more
fool I; when I was at home I was in a better
place; but travellers must be content.

Ros. Ay, be so, good Touchstone:—Look you,

1 Money stamped with a cross,

1 Encounter.

8 Flag.

5 Imprudent.

2 Scurvy.

4 Memorial.

who comes here; a young man and an old, in solemn talk.

Enter Corin and Silvius.

Cor. That is the way to make her scorn you still.

S. O Corin, that thou knew'st how I do love her!

Cor. I partly guess; for I have lov'd ere now.

Sil. No, Corin, being old thou canst not guess;

Though in thy youth thou wast as true a lover

As ever sigh'd upon a midnight pillow:

But if thy love were ever like to mine,

(As sure I think did never man love so,)

How many actions most ridiculous

Hast thou been drawn to by thy fantasy?

Cor. Into a thousand that I have forgotten.

Sil. O, thou didst then ne'er love so heartily:

If thou remember'st not the slightest folly

That ever love did make thee run into,

Thou hast not lov'd:

Or if thou hast not sat as I do now,

Wearing thy hearer in thy mistress' praise,

Thou hast not lov'd:

Or if thou hast not broke from company,

Abruptly, as my passion now makes me,

Thou hast not lov'd: O Phebe, Phebe, Phebe!

[*Exit Silvius.*]

Ros. Alas, poor shepherd! searching of thy wound,

I have by hard adventure found my own.

Touch. And I mine: We, that are true lovers, run into strange capers; but as all is mortal in nature, so is all nature in love mortal in folly.

Ros. Thou speak'st wiser than thou art ware of.

Touch. Nay, I shall ne'er be 'ware of mine own wit, till I break my shins against it.

Ros. Jove! Jove! this shepherd's passion

Is much upon my fashion.

Touch. And mine; but it grows something stale with me.

Cel. I pray you, one of you question yond' man, If he for gold will give us any food;

I faint almost to death.

Touch. Holla; you, clown!

Ros. Peace, fool, he's not thy kinsman.

Cor. Who calls?

Touch. Your betters, sir.

Cor. Else are they very wretched.

Ros. Peace, I say:—

Good even to you, friend.

Cor. And to you, gentle sir, and to you all.

Ros. I pr'ythee, shepherd, if that love, or gold, Can in this desert place buy entertainment, Bring us where we may rest ourselves, and feed: Here's a young maid with travail much oppress'd, And faints for succour.

Cor. Fair sir, I pity her, And wish for her sake, more than for mine own, My fortunes were more able to relieve her: But I am shepherd to another man, And do not shear the fleeces that I graze; My master is of churlish disposition, And little recks¹ to find the way to heaven By doing deeds of hospitality: Besides, his cote, his flocks, and bounds of feed, Are now on sale, and at our sheepcote now, By reason of his absence, there is nothing That you will feed on: but what is, come see, And in my voice most welcome shall you be.

1 Cares.

Ros. What is he that shall buy his flock and pasture?

Cor. That young swain that you saw here but That little cares for buying any thing.

Ros. I pray thee, if it stands with honesty, Buy thou the cottage, pasture, and the flock, And thou shalt have to pay for it of us. [place,

Cel. And we will mend thy wages: I like this And willingly could waste my time in it.

Cor. Assuredly, the thing is to be sold;

Go with me; if you like upon report,

The soil, the profit, and this kind of life,

I will your very faithful feeder be,

And buy it with your gold right suddenly.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—THE SAME.

Enter Amiens, Jaques, and others.

SONG.

AMI. Under the greenwood tree,

Who loves to lie with me,

And tune his merry note,

Unto the sweet bird's throat,

Come hither, come hither, come hither;

Here shall he see

No enemy,

But winter and rough weather.

Jaques. More, more, I pr'ythee, more.

Ami. It will make you melancholy, monsieur Jaques.

Jaques. I thank it. More, I pr'ythee, more. I can suck melancholy out of a song, as a weazel sucks eggs: More, I pr'ythee, more.

Ami. My voice is ragged¹; I know, I cannot please you.

Jaques. I do not desire you to please me, I do desire you to sing: Come, more; another stanza: Call you them stanzas?

Ami. What you will, monsieur Jaques.

Jaques. Nay, I care not for their names; they owe me nothing: Will you sing?

A. More at your request, than to please myself.

Jaques. Well then, if ever I thank any man, I'll thank you; but that they call compliment, is like the encounter of two dog-apes; and when a man thanks me heartily, methinks, I have given him a penny, and he renders me the beggarly thanks. Come, sing; and you that will not, hold your tongues.

Ami. Well, I'll end the song.—Sirs, cover the while; the duke will drink under this tree:—he hath been all this day to look you.

Jaques. And I have been all this day to avoid him. He is too disputable² for my company: I think of as many matters as he; but I give heaven thanks, and make no boast of them. Come, warble, come.

SONG.

Who doth ambition shun, [All together here,

And loves to live a' the sun,

Seeking the food he eats,

And pleas'd with what he gets,

Come hither, come hither, come hither;

Here shall he see

No enemy,

But winter and rough weather.

1 Rough.

2 Disputatious.

Jaq. I'll give you a verse to this note, that I made yesterday in despite of my invention.

Ami. And I'll sing it.

Jaq. Thus it goes:—

*If it do come to pass,
That any man turn ass,
Leaving his wealth and ease,
A stubborn will to please.
Ducdame, ducdame, ducdame;
Here shall he see
Gross fools as he,
And if he will come to me.*

Ami. What's that ducdame?

Jaq. 'Tis a Greek invocation, to call fools into a circle. I'll go sleep if I can; if I cannot, I'll rail against all the first-born of Egypt.

Ami. And I'll go seek the duke; his banquet is prepared. *[Exeunt severally.]*

SCENE VI.—THE SAME.

Enter Orlando and Adam.

Adam. Dear master, I can go no further: O, I die for food! Here lie I down, and measure out my grave. Farewell, kind master.

Orl. Why, how now, Adam! no greater heart in thee? Live a little; comfort a little; cheer thyself a little: If this uncouth forest yield any thing savage, I will either be food for it, or bring it for food to thee. Thy conceit is nearer death than thy powers. For my sake, be comfortable; hold death awhile at the arm's end: I will here be with thee presently; and if I bring thee not something to eat, I'll give thee leave to die; but if thou diest before I come, thou art a mocker of my labour. Well said! thou lookest cheerly: and I'll be with thee quickly.—Yet thou liest in the bleak air: come, I will bear thee to some shelter; and thou shalt die not for lack of a dinner, if there live any thing in this desert. Cheerly, good Adam! *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VII.—THE SAME.

A Table set out. Enter Duke Senior, Amiens, Lords, and others.

Duke S. I think he be transform'd into a beast; For I can no where find him like a man.

1 Lord. My lord, he is but even now gone hence; Here was he merry, hearing of a song.

Duke S. If he, compact of jays, grow musical, We shall have shortly discord in the spheres:—Go, seek him; tell him, I would speak with him.

Enter Jaques.

1 L. He saves my labour by his own approach.

Duke S. Why, how now, monsieur! what a life, is this,

That your poor friends must woo your company? What! you look merrily.

Jaq. A fool, a fool!—I met a fool i' the forest, A motley fool;—a miserable world!—

As I do live by food, I met a fool;

Who laid him down and bask'd him in the sun,
And rail'd on lady Fortune in good terms,
In good set terms,—and yet a motley fool.

1 Made up of discords.

*Good morrow, fool, quoth I: No, sir, quoth he,
Call me not fool, till heaven hath sent me fortune:*

And then he drew a dial from his poke;

And looking on it with lack-lustre eye,

Says, very wisely, *It is ten o'clock:*

Thus may we see, quoth he, how the world wags:

'Tis but an hour ago, since it was nine;

And after an hour more, 'twill be eleven;

And so, from hour to hour, we ripe and ripe,

And then from hour to hour, we rot and rot,

And thereby hangs a tale. When I did hear

The motley fool thus moral on the time,

My lungs began to crow like chanticleer,

That fools should be so deep contemplative;

And I did laugh, sans intermission,

An hour by his dial.—O noble fool!

A worthy fool! motley's¹ the only wear.

Duke S. What fool is this?

Jaq. O worthy fool!—One that hath been courtier;

And says, if ladies be but young, and fair,
They have the gift to know it: and in his brain,—

Which is as dry as the remainder bisket

After a voyage,—he hath strange places cramm'd

With observation, the which he vents

In mangled forms;—O, that I were a fool!

I am ambitious for a motley coat.

Duke S. Thou shalt have one.

Jaq. It is my only suit;

Provided, that you weed your better judgments

Of all opinion that grows rank in them,

That I am wise. I must have liberty

Withal, as large a charter as the wind,

To blow on whom I please; for so fools have:

And they that are most galled with my folly,

They most must laugh: And why, sir, must they

The why is plain as way to parish church: [so?

He, that a fool doth very wisely hit,

Doth very foolishly, although he smart,

Not to seem senseless of the bob: if not,

The wise man's folly is anatomiz'd

Even by the squand'ring glances of the fool.

Invest me in my motley; give me leave

To speak my mind, and I will through and through

Cleanse the foul body of the infected world,

If they will patiently receive my medicine.

Duke S. Fie on thee! I can tell what thou would'st do.

Jaq. What, for a counter, would I do, but good?

Duke S. Most mischievous foul sin, in chiding

For thou thyself hast been a libertine. [sin:

Jaq. Why, who cries out on pride,

That can therein tax any private party?

Doth it not blow as hugely as the sea,

Till that the very means do ebb?

What woman in the city do I name,

When that I say, The city-woman bears

The cost of princes on unworthy shoulders?

Who can come in, and say, that I mean her,

When such a one as she, such is her neighbour?

Or what is he of basest function,

That says, his bravery³ is not on my cost,

(Thinking that I mean him,) but therein suits

His folly to the mettle of my speech?

There then; How, what then? Let me see wherein

My tongue hath wrong'd him: if it do him right,

Then he hath wrong'd himself; if he be free,

1 Party-colour.

2 Blow.

3 Finery.

Why then, my taxing like a wild goose flies,
Unclaim'd of any man.—But who comes here?

Enter Orlando, with his sword drawn.

Orl. Forbear, and eat no more.

Jaq. Why, I have eat none yet.

Orl. Nor shalt not, till necessity be serv'd.

Jaq. Of what kind should this cock come of?

Duke S. Art thou thus bolden'd, man, by thy distress;

Or else a rude despiser of good manners,

That in civility thou seem'st so empty?

Orl. You touch'd my vein at first; the thorny point

Of bare distress hath ta'en from me the show

Of smooth civility: yet am I inland bred,

And know some nurture: But forbear, I say:

He dies, that touches any of this fruit,

Till I and my affairs are answered.

Jaq. An you will not be answered with reason,
I must die. [shall force

Du. S. What would you have? Your gentleness
More than your force move us to gentleness.

Orl. I almost die for food, and let me have it.

Duke S. Sit down and feed, and welcome to
our table. [you,

O. Speak you so gently? Pardon me, I pray
I thought that all things had been savage here;

And therefore put I on the countenance

Of stern commandment: But whate'er you are,
That in this desert inaccessible,

Under the shade of melancholy boughs,

Lose and neglect the creeping hours of time;

If ever you have look'd on better days;

If ever been where bells have knoll'd to church;

If ever sat at any good man's feast;

If ever from your eyelids wip'd a tear,

And know what 'tis to pity, and be pitied;

Let gentleness my strong enforcement be:

In the which hope, I blush, and hide my sword.

Du. S. True is it that we have seen better days.

And have with holy bell been knoll'd to church;

And sat at good men's feasts; and wiped our eyes

Of drops that sacred pity hath engender'd:

And therefore sit you down in gentleness,

And take upon command what help we have,

That to your wanting may be minister'd.

Orl. Then, but forbear your food a little while,

Whiles, like a doe, I go to find my fawn,

And give it food. There is an old poor man,

Who after me hath many a weary step

Limp'd in pure love; till he be first suffic'd,—

Oppressed with two weak evils, age and hun-
I will not touch a bit. [ger,—

Duke S. Go find him out,
And we will nothing waste till you return.

Orl. I thank ye; and be bless'd for your good
comfort! [Exit.

Duke S. Thou seest, we are not all alone un-
this wide and universal theatre [happy:

Presents more woeful pageants than the scene
Wherein we play in.

Jaq. All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:

They have their exits, and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms:

And then, the whining school-boy, with his
satchel,

And shining morning face, creeping like snail

Unwillingly to school: And then, the lover;

Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad

Made to his mistress' eyebrow: Then, a soldier;

Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,

Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,

Seeking the bubble reputation [justice;

Even in the cannon's mouth: And then, the

In fair round belly, with good capon lin'd,

With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,

Full of wise saws and modern¹ instances,

And so he plays his part: The sixth age shifts

Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon;

With spectacles on nose, and pouch on side;

His youthful hose well sav'd, a world too wide

For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,

Turning again toward childish treble, pipes

And whistles in his sound: Last scene of all

That ends this strange eventful history,

Is second childishness, and mere oblivion;

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing.

Re-enter Orlando, with Adam.

Duke S. Welcome: set down your venerable
And let him feed. [burden,

Orl. I thank you most for him.

Adam. So had you need;

I scarce can speak to thank you for myself.

Du. S. Welcome, fall to: I will not trouble you

As yet, to question you about your fortunes:—

Give us some musick; and, good cousin, sing.

Amiens sings.

SONG.

I.

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,

Thou art not so unkind

As man's ingratitude:

Thy tooth is not so keen,

Because thou art not seen,

Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh, ho! sing, heigh, ho! unto the green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere

Then heigh, ho, the holly! [folly:

This life is most jolly.

II.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,

That dost not bite so nigh

As benefits forgot:

Though thou the waters warp,

Thy sting is not so sharp

As friend remember'd² not,

Heigh, ho! sing, heigh, ho! &c.

Duke S. If that you were the good Sir Row-
land's son,—

As you have whisper'd faithfully, you were;

And as mine eye doth his effigies witness

Most truly limn'd, and living in your face,—

Be truly welcome hither: I am the duke,

That lov'd your father: The residue of your
fortune

Go to my cave and tell me.—Good old man,

Thou art right welcome as thy master is:

¹ Trite. ² Remembering.

Support him by the arm.—Give me your hand,
And let me all your fortunes understand.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Duke Frederick, Oliver, Lords, and Attendants.

Duke F. Not see him since? Sir, sir, that cannot be:

But were I not the better part made mercy,
I should not seek an absent argument
Of my revenge, thou present: But look to it;
Find out thy brother, wheresoe'er he is:
Seek him with candle; bring him dead or living,
Within this twelvemonth, or turn thou no more
To seek a living in our territory. [thine,
Thy lands, and all things that thou dost call
Worth seizure, do we seize into our hands;
Till thou canst quit thee by thy brother's mouth,
Of what we think against thee.

O. O, that your highness knew my heart in
I never lov'd my brother in my life. [this!

Du. F. More villain thou.—Well, push him out
And let my officers of such a nature [of doors;
Make an extent¹ upon his house and lands:
Do this expediently,² and turn him going.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE FOREST.

Enter Orlando, with a paper.

O. Hang there, my verse, in witness of my
love: [survey
And thou, thrice-crowned queen of night,
With thy chaste eye, from thy pale sphere above,
Thy huntress' name, that my full life doth sway.
O Rosalind! these trees shall be my books,
And in their barks my thoughts I'll character;
That every eye, which in this forest looks,
Shall see thy virtue witness'd every where.
Run, run, Orlando; carve, on every tree,
The fair, the chaste, and unexpressive³ she. [*Exit.*]

Enter Corin and Touchstone.

Cor. And how like you this shepherd's life,
master Touchstone?

Touch. Truly, shepherd, in respect of itself,
it is a good life; but in respect that it is a shep-
herd's life, it is naught. In respect that it is
solitary, I like it very well; but in respect that
it is private, it is a very vile life. Now in respect
it is in the fields, it pleaseth me well; but in re-
spect it is not in the court, it is tedious. As it
is a spare life, look you, it fits my humour well;
but as there is no more plenty in it, it goes much
against my stomach. Hast any philosophy in
thee, shepherd?

Cor. No more, but that I know, the more one
sickens, the worse at ease he is; and that he that
wants money, means, and content, is without
three good friends:—That the property of rain
is to wet, and fire to burn: That good pasture
makes fat sheep; and that a great cause of the
night, is lack of the sun: That he, that hath

learned no wit by nature nor art, may complain
of good breeding, or comes of a very dull kindred.

Touch. Such a one is a natural philosopher.
Wast ever in court, shepherd?

Cor. No, sir; I am a true labourer; I earn
that I eat, get that I wear; owe no man hate,
envy no man's happiness; glad of other men's
good, content with my harm: and the greatest
of my pride is, to see my ewes graze, and my
lambs suck.—Here comes your young master Gany-
mede, my new mistress's brother.

Enter Rosalind, reading a paper.

Ros. From the east to western Ind,
No jewel is like Rosalind,
Her worth, being mounted on the wind,
Through all the world bears Rosalind.
All the pictures, fairest lin'd,¹
Are but black to Rosalind.
Let no face be kept in mind,
But the fair of Rosalind.

Touch. I'll rhyme you so, eight years together;
dinners and suppers, and sleeping hours excepted:
it is the right butter-woman's rank to market.

Ros. Out, fool!

Touch. For a taste:—

If a hart do lack a hind,
Let him seek out Rosalind.
If the cat will after kind,
So, be sure, will Rosalind.
They that reap must shear and bind;
Then to cart with Rosalind.
Sweetest nut hath sourest rind,
Such a nut is Rosalind.

This is the very false gallop of verses; Why do
you infect yourself with them?

Ros. Peace, you dull fool; I found them on
a tree.

Touch. Truly the tree yields bad fruit.

Ros. I'll graft it with you, and then I shall
graft it with a medlar: then it will be the earliest
fruit in the country: for you'll be rotten ere
you be half ripe, and that's the right virtue of
the medlar.

Touch. You have said; but whether wisely
or no, let the forest judge.

Enter Celia, reading a paper.

Ros. Peace!

Here comes my sister, reading; stand aside.

CEL. Why should this desert silent be?

For it is unpeopled? No;
Tongues I'll hang on every tree.
That shall civil² sayings show.
Some, how brief the life of man!
Runs his erring pilgrimage;
That the stretching of a span
Buckles in his sum of age.
Some, of violated vows

'Twixt the souls of friend and friend:
But upon the fairest boughs
Or at every sentence' end,
Will I Rosalinda write;
Teaching all that read, to know
The quintessence of every sprite
Heaven would in little show.

1 Delineated.

2 Elegant.

1 Seizure. 2 Expeditiously. 3 Inexpressible.

*Therefore, heaven nature charg'd
That one body should be fill'd
With all graces wide enlarg'd:
Nature presently distill'd
Helen's cheek, but not her heart;
Cleopatra's majesty;
Atalanta's better part;
Sad Lucretia's modesty.
Thus Rosalind of many parts
By heavenly synod was devis'd;
Of many faces, eyes, and hearts,
To have the touches¹ dearest priz'd.
Heaven would that she these gifts should have,
And I to live and die her slave.*

Ros. O most gentle Jupiter!—what tedious homily of love have you wearied your parishioners withal, and never cry'd, *Have patience, good people!*

Cel. How now! back friends;—Shepherd, go off a little:—Go with him, sirrah.

Touch. Come, shepherd, let us make an honourable retreat; though not with bag and baggage, yet with scrip and scrippage.

[*Exeunt Corin and Touchstone.*]

Cel. Did'st thou hear these verses?

Ros. O yes, I heard them all, and more too; for some of them had in them more feet than the verses would bear.

Cel. That's no matter; the feet might bear the verses.

Ros. Ay, but the feet were lame, and could not bear themselves without the verse, and therefore stood lamely in the verse.

Cel. But didst thou hear, without wondering how thy name should be hang'd and carved upon these trees?

Ros. I was seven of the nine days out of the wonder, before you came; for look here what I found on a palm tree: I was never so be-rhymed since Pythagoras' time, that I was an Irish rat, which I can hardly remember.

Cel. Trow you, who hath done this?

Ros. Is it a man?

Cel. And a chain, that you once wore, about his neck: Change you colour?

Ros. I prythee, who?

Cel. O lord, lord! it is a hard matter for friends to meet: but mountains may be removed with earthquakes, and so encounter.

Ros. Nay, but who is it?

Cel. Is it possible?

Ros. Nay, I pray thee now, with most petitionary vehemence, tell me who it is.

Cel. O wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful wonderful, and yet again wonderful, and after that out of all whooping!

Ros. Good my complexion! dost thou think, though I am caparison'd like a man, I have a doublet and hose in my disposition? One inch of delay more is a South-sea-off discovery. I prythee, tell me, who is it? quickly, and speak apace: I would thou couldst stammer, that thou mightst pour this concealed man out of thy mouth, as wine comes out of narrow-mouth'd bottle; either too much at once, or none at all. I prythee take the cork out of thy mouth, that

I may drink thy tidings.—What manner of man? Is his head worth a hat, or his chin worth a beard?

Cel. Nay, he hath but a little beard.

Ros. Why, let me stay the growth of his beard, if thou delay me not the knowledge of his chin.

Cel. It is young Orlando; that tripp'd up the wrestler's heels, and your heart, both in an instant.

Ros. Nay, no mocking; speak sad brow,¹ and

Cel. I' faith, coz, 'tis he. [true maid.²]

Ros. Orlando?

Cel. Orlando.

Ros. Alas the day! what shall I do with my doublet and hose?—What did he, when thou saw'st him? What said he? How look'd he? Wherein went he?³ What makes he here? Did he ask for me? Where remains he? How parted he with thee? and when shalt thou see him again? Answer me in one word.

C. You must borrow me Garagantua's⁴ mouth first: 'tis a word too great for any mouth of this age's size: To say, ay, and no, to these particulars, is more than to answer in a catechism.

Ros. But doth he know that I am in this forest, and in man's apparel? Looks he as freshly as he did the day he wrestled?

Cel. It is as easy to count atomies,⁵ as to resolve the propositions of a lover:—but take a taste of my finding him, and relish it with a good observance, I found him under a tree, like a dropp'd acorn.

Ros. It may well be call'd Jove's tree, when it drops forth such fruit.

Cel. Give me audience, good madam.

Ros. Proceed.

Cel. There lay he, stretch'd along like a wounded knight.

Ros. Though it be pity to see such a sight, it well becomes the ground.

Cel. Cry, holla! to thy tongue, I prythee; it curvets very unseasonably. He was furnish'd like a hunter.

Ros. O ominous! he comes to kill my heart.

Cel. I would sing my song without a burden: thou bring'st me out of tune.

Ros. Do you not know I am a woman? when I think, I must speak. Sweet, say on.

Enter Orlando and Jaques.

Cel. You bring me out:—Soft! comes he not here?

Ros. 'Tis he; slink by, and note him.

[*Celia and Rosalind retire.*]

Jaqu. I thank you for your company; but, good faith, I had as lief have been myself alone.

Orl. And so had I; but yet, for fashion sake, I thank you too for your society.

Jaqu. Peace be with you; let's meet as little as we can.

Orl. I do desire we may be better strangers.

Jaqu. I pray you, mar no more trees with writing love-songs in their barks.

Orl. I pray you, mar no more of my verses with reading them ill-favouredly.

Jaqu. Rosalind is your love's name?

Orl. Yes, just.

1 Seriously. 3 How was he dressed. 5 Atoms,

2 Honestly. 4 The giant of Rabbelais.

1 Features,

Jaq. I do not like her name.

Orl. There was no thought of pleasing you, when she was christen'd.

Jaq. What stature is she of?

Orl. Just as high as my heart.

Jaq. You are full of pretty answers: Have you not been acquainted with goldsmiths' wives, and cann'd them out of rings?

Orl. Not so; but I answer you right painted cloth,¹ from whence you have studied your questions.

Jaq. You have a nimble wit; I think it was made of Atalanta's heels. Will you sit down with me? and we two will rail against our mistress the world, and all our misery.

Orl. I will chide no breather in the world, but myself; against whom I know most faults.

Jaq. The worst fault you have is to be in love.

Orl. 'Tis a fault I will not change for your best virtue. I am weary of you.

Jaq. By my troth, I was seeking for a fool, when I found you.

Orl. He is drown'd in the brook; look but in, and you shall see him.

Jaq. There shall I see mine own figure.

Orl. Which I take to be either a fool, or a cipher.

Jaq. I'll tarry no longer with you: farewell, good signior love.

Orl. I am glad of your departure; adieu, good monsieur melancholy.

[Exit Jaques.—*Celia and Rosalind come forward.*]

Ros. I will speak to him like a saucy lacquey, and under that habit play the knave with him.—Do you hear, forester?

Orl. Very well; what would you?

Ros. I pray you, what is't o'clock?

Orl. You should ask me what time o' day; there's no clock in the forest.

Ros. Then there is no true lover in the forest; else sighing every minute, and groaning every hour, would detect the lazy foot of time, as well as a clock.

Orl. And why not the swift foot of time? had not that been as proper?

Ros. By no means, sir: Time travels in divers paces with divers persons: I'll tell you who time ambles withal, who time trots withal, who time gallops withal, and who he stands still withal.

Orl. I pr'ythee, who doth he trot withal?

Ros. Marry, he trots hard with a young maid, between the contract of her marriage, and the day it is solemnized: if the interim be but a se'nnight,² time's pace is so hard that it seems the length of seven years.

Orl. Who ambles time withal?

Ros. With a priest that lacks Latin, and a rich man that hath not the gout; for the one sleeps easily, because he cannot study; and the other lives merrily, because he feels no pain: the one lacking the burden of lean and wasteful learning; the other knowing no burden of heavy tedious penury: These time ambles withal.

Orl. Who doth he gallop withal?

Ros. With a thief to the gallows; for though he go as softly as foot can fall, he thinks himself too soon there.

Orl. Who stays it still withal?

Ros. With lawyers in the vacation: for they sleep between term and term, and then they perceive not how time moves.

Orl. Where dwell you, pretty youth?

Ros. With this shepherdess, my sister; here in the skirts of the forest.

Orl. Are you a native of this place?

Ros. As the rabbit, that you see dwell where she is kindled.

Orl. Your accent is something finer than you could purchase in so removed a dwelling.

Ros. I have been told so of many; but, indeed, an old religious uncle of mine taught me to speak, who was in his youth an inland man; one that knew courtship too well, for there he fell in love. I have heard him read many lectures against it; and I thank fortune, I am not a woman, to be touch'd with so many giddy offences as he hath generally tax'd their whole sex withal.

Orl. Can you remember any of the principal evils, that he laid to the charge of women?

Ros. There were none principal; they were all like one another, as half-pence are: every one fault seeming monstrous, till his fellow fault came to match it.

Orl. I pr'ythee recount some of them.

Ros. No; I will not cast away my physick, but on those that are sick. There is a man haunts the forest, that abuses our young plants with carving Rosalind on their barks; hangs odes upon hawthorns, and elegies on brambles; all, forsooth, deifying the name of Rosalind: if I could meet that fancymonger, I would give him some good counsel, for he seems to have the quotidian¹ of love upon him.

Orl. I am he that is so love-shaked; I pray you, tell me your remedy.

Ros. There is none of my uncle's marks upon you: he taught me how to know a man in love; in which cage of rushes, I am sure, you are not prisoner.

Orl. What were his marks?

Ros. A lean cheek; which you have not: a blue eye, and sunken; which you have not: an unquestionable spirit;² which you have not: a beard neglected; which you have not:—but I pardon you for that; for, simply, your having³ in beard is a younger brother's revenue:—Then your hose should be ungarter'd, your bonnet unbanded, your sleeve unbuttoned, your shoe untied, and every thing about you demonstrating a careless desolation. But you are no such man; you are rather point-device⁴ in your accoutrements; as loving yourself, than seeming the lover of any other.

Orl. Fair youth, I would I could make thee believe I love.

Ros. Me believe it? you may as soon make her that you love believe it; which, I warrant, she is apter to do, than to confess she does: that is one of the points in the which women still give the lie to their consciences. But, in good sooth, are you

¹ Moral sentences in the mouths of figures on old tapestry.

² Seven-night = a week.

¹ Intermittent fever.

² Averse to conversations.

³ Possessions.

⁴ Over-exact.

he that hangs the verses on the trees, wherein Rosalind is so admired?

Orl. I swear to thee, youth, by the white hand of Rosalind, I am that he, that unfortunate he.

Ros. But are you so much in love as your rhymes speak?

Orl. Neither rhyme nor reason can express how much.

Ros. Love is merely a madness; and, I tell you, deserves as well a dark house and a whip, as madmen do; and the reason why they are not so punish'd and cured, is, that the lunacy is so ordinary, that the whippers are in love too: Yet I profess curing it by counsel.

Orl. Did you ever cure any so?

Ros. Yes, one; and in this manner. He was to imagine me his love, his mistress; and I set him every day to woo me: At which time would I, being but a moonish¹ youth, grieve, be effeminate, changeable, longing, and liking; proud, fantastical, apish, shallow, inconstant, full of tears, full of smiles; for every passion something, and for no passion truly any thing, as boys and women are for the most part cattle of this colour; would now like him, now loath him; then entertain him, then forswear him; now weep for him, then laugh at him, that I drave my suitor from his mad humour of love, to a living humour of madness; which was, to forswear the full stream of the world, and to live in a nook merely monastick: And thus I cured him; and this way will I take upon me to wash your liver as clean as a sound sheep's heart, that there shall not be one spot of love in't.

Orl. I would not be cured, youth.

Ros. I would cure you, if you would but call me Rosalind, and come every day to my cote, and woo me.

Orl. Now by the faith of my love, I will; tell me where it is.

Ros. Go with me to it, and I'll show it you; and, by the way, you shall tell me where in the forest you live: Will you go?

Orl. With all my heart, good youth.

Ros. Nay, you must call me Rosalind:—Come, sister, will you go? *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter Touchstone and Audrey; Jaques at a distance, observing them.

Touch. Come apace, good Audrey: I will fetch up your goats, Audrey: And how, Audrey, am I the man yet? Doth my simple feature content you?

Aud. Your features! what features?

Touch. I am here with thee and thy goats, as the most capricious poet, honest Ovid, was among the Goths.

Jaq. *[Aside.]* O knowledge ill-inhabited! worse than Jove in a thatch'd house!

Touch. When a man's verses cannot be understood, nor a man's good wit seconded with the forward child, understanding, it strikes a man more dead than a great reckoning in a little room:—Truly, I would the gods had made thee poetical.

Aud. I do not know what poetical is: Is it honest in deed, and word? Is it a true thing?

Touch. No, truly; for the truest poetry is the most feigning; and lovers are given to poetry; and what they swear in poetry, may be said, as lovers, they do feign.

Aud. Do you wish, then, that the gods had made me poetical?

Touch. I do, truly: for thou swearest to me, thou art honest; now, if thou wert a poet, I might have some hope thou didst feign.

Aud. Would you not have me honest?

Touch. No, truly, unless thou wert hard-favour'd: for honesty coupled to beauty, is to have honey a sauce to sugar.

Jaq. *[Aside.]* A material fool!

Aud. Well, I am not fair; and therefore I pray the gods make me honest!

Touch. Truly, and to cast away honesty upon a foul slut, were to put good meat into an unclean dish.

Aud. I am not a slut, though I thank the gods I am foul.¹

Touch. Well, praise be the gods for thy foulness! sluttishness may come hereafter. But be as it may be, I will marry thee: and to that end, I have been with Sir Oliver Mar-text, the vicar of the next village; who hath promised to meet me in this place of the forest, and to couple us.

Jaq. *[Aside.]* I would fain see this meeting.

Aud. Well, the gods give us joy!

Touch. Amen. A man may, if he were of a fearful heart, stagger in this attempt; for here we have no temple but the wood, no assembly but horn-beasts. But what though? Courage! As horns are odious, they are necessary. It is said,—Many a man knows no end of his goods: right; many a man has good horns, and knows no end of them. Well, that is the dowry of his wife; 'tis none of his own getting. Horns? Even so:—Poor men alone;—No, no; the noblest deer hath them as huge as the rascal.² Is the single man therefore blessed? No: as a wall'd town is more worthier than a village, so is the forehead of a married man more honourable than the bare brow of a bachelor: and by how much defence³ is better than no skill, by so much is a horn more precious than to want.

Enter Sir Oliver Mar-text.

Here comes Sir Oliver:—Sir Oliver Mar-text, you are well met: Will you despatch us here under this tree, or shall we go with you to your chapel?

Sir Oli. Is there none here to give the woman?

Touch. I will not take her on gift of any man.

Sir Oli. Truly, she must be given, or the marriage is not lawful.

Jaq. *[Discovering himself.]* Proceed, proceed; I'll give her.

Touch. Good even, good master *What ye call't*: How do you, sir? You are very well met: I am very glad to see you:—Even a toy in hand here, sir:—Nay; pray be cover'd.

Jaq. Will you be married, motley?

Touch. As the ox hath his bow,⁴ sir, the

¹ Playing on the word, which means also homely.

² Lean deer.

³ The art of fencing.

⁴ Yoke.

horse his curb, and the falcon her bells, so man hath his desire towards wedlock.

Jaq. And will you, being a man of your breeding, be married under a bush, like a beggar? Get you to church, and have a good priest that can tell you what marriage is: this fellow will but join you together as they join wainscot; then one of you will prove a shrunk pannel, and, like green timber, warp, warp.

Touch. I am not in the mind but I were better to be married of him than of another: for he is not like to marry me well; and not being well married, it will be a good excuse for me hereafter to leave my wife. [*Aside.*]

Jaq. Go thou with me, and let me counsel thee.

Touch. Come, sweet Audrey; we must be married.

Farewell, good master Oliver!

Not—O sweet Oliver,

O brave Oliver,

Leave me not behi¹ thee;

But—Wind away,

Begone, I say,

I will not to wedding wi¹ thee.

[*Exeunt Jaq., Touch., and Audrey.*]

Sir Oli. 'Tis no matter; ne'er a fantastical knave of them all shall flout me out of my calling. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—BEFORE A COTTAGE.

Enter Rosalind and Celia.

Ros. Never talk to me, I will weep.

Cel. Do, I pry thee; but yet have the grace to consider, that tears do not become a man.

Ros. But have I not cause to weep!

Cel. As good cause as one would desire; therefore weep.

Ros. Why did he swear he would come this morning, and comes not?

Cel. Nay certainly, there is no truth in him.

Ros. Do you think so?

Cel. Yes: I think he is not a pick-purse, nor a horse-stealer; but for his verity in love, I do think him as concave as a cover'd goblet, or a worm-eaten nut.

Ros. Not true in love?

C. Yes, when he is in; but, I think he is not in.

Ros. You have heard him swear downright, he was.

Cel. Was is not is: besides the oath of a lover is no stronger than the word of a tapster; they are both the confirmers of false reckonings: He attends here in the forest on the duke your father.

Ros. I met the duke yesterday, and had much question¹ with him: He asked me, of what parentage I was: I told him, of as good as he; so he laugh'd, and let me go. But what talk we of fathers, when there is such a man as Orlando?

Cel. O, that's a brave man! he writes brave verses, speaks brave words, swears brave oaths, and breaks them bravely, quite traverse, athwart the heart of his lover; as a puny tilter, that spurs his horse but on one side, breaks his staff like a noble goose; but all's brave, that youth mounts, and folly guides:—Who comes here?

¹ Conversation.

Enter Corin.

Cor. Mistress, and master, you have oft enquired

After the shepherd that complain'd of love;
Who you saw sitting by me on the turf,
Praising the proud disdainful shepherdess
That was his mistress.

Cel. Well, and what of him?

Cor. If you will see a pageant truly play'd,
Between the pale complexion of true love
And the red glow of scorn and proud disdain,
Go hence a little, and I shall conduct you,
If you will mark it.

Ros. O, come, let us remove;
The sight of lovers feedeth those in love:—
Bring us unto this sight, and you shall say
I'll prove a busy actor in their play. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

Enter Silvius and Phebe.

Sil. Sweet Phebe, do not scorn me; do not,
Phebe:

Say, that you love me not; but say not so
In bitterness: The common executioner,
Whose heart the accustom'd sight of death
makes hard,
Falls not the axe upon the humbled neck,
But first begs pardon: Will you sterner be
Than he that dies and lives by bloody drops?

Enter Rosalind, Celia, and Corin, at a distance.

Phe. I would not be thy executioner;
I fly thee, for I would not injure thee.
Thou tell'st me, there is murder in mine eye:
'Tis pretty, sure, and very probable, [things,
That eyes,—that are the frail'st and softest
Who shut their coward gates on atomies,—
Should be call'd tyrants, butchers, murderers!
Now I do frown on thee with all my heart:
And, if mine eyes can wound, now let them
kill thee:

Now counterfeit to swoon; why now fall down;
Or, if thou canst not, O, for shame, for shame,
Lie not, to say mine eyes are murderers.

Now show the wound mine eye hath made in thee:
Scratch thee but with a pin, and there remains
Some scar of it; lean but upon a rush,
The cicatrice and capable impressure [eyes,
Thy palm some moment keeps: but now mine
Which I have darted at thee, hurt thee not;
Nor, I am sure, there is no force in eyes
That can do hurt.

Sil. O dear Phebe,
If ever, (as that ever may be near,)
You meet in some fresh cheek the power of fancy¹
Then shall you know the wounds invisible
That love's keen arrows make.

Phe. But, till that time,
Come not thou near me; and, when that time
Afflict me with thy mocks, pity me not; [comes,
As, till that time, I shall not pity thee.

Ros. And why, I pray you? [*Advancing.*]
Who might be your mother,
That you insult, exult, and all at once,
Over the wretched? What though you have
more beauty,

¹ Love.

(As, by my faith, I see no more in you
Than without candle may go dark to bed,)
Must you be therefore proud and pitiless!
Why, what means this? Why do you look on me?
I see no more in you, than in the ordinary
Of nature's sale-work:—O'd's my little life!
I think, she means to tangle my eyes too:—
No, faith, proud mistress, hope not after it;
'Tis not your inky brows, your black silk hair,
Your bugle eye-balls, nor your cheek of cream,
That can entame my spirits to your worship.—
You foolish shepherd, wherefore do you follow
her,

Like foggy south, puffing with wind and rain?
You are a thousand times a properer man,
Than she a woman: 'Tis such fools as you,
That make the world full of ill-favoured children:
'Tis not her glass, but you that flatters her;
And out of you she sees herself more proper,
Than any of her lineaments can show her.—
But, mistress, know yourself; down on your
knees,

And thank heaven, fasting, for a good man's love:
For I must tell you friendly in your ear,—
Sell when you can; you are not for all markets:
Cry the man mercy; love him; take his offer;
Foul is most foul, being foul to be a scoffer.
So take her to thee, shepherd:—fare you well.

Phe. Sweet youth, I pray you chide a year
together;

I had rather hear you chide, than this man woo.

Ros. He's fallen in love with her foulness, and
she'll fall in love with my anger: If it be so, as
fast as she answers thee with frowning looks,
I'll sauce her with bitter words.—Why look
you so upon me?

Phe. For no ill will I bear you.

Ros. I pray you, do not fall in love with me,
For I am falsher than vows made in wine:
Besides, I like you not: If you will know my
house,

'Tis at the tuft of olives, here hard by:—
Will you go, sister?—Shepherd, ply her hard:—
Come, sister:—Shepherdess, look on him better,
And be not proud: though all the world could see,
None could be so abus'd in sight as he.
Come to our flock.

[*Exeunt Rosalind, Celia, and Corin.*]

Phe. Dead shepherd! now I find thy saw¹ of
might;

Who ever lov'd, that lov'd not at first sight²?

Sil. Sweet Phebe,—

Phe. Ha! what say'st thou, Silvius?

Sil. Sweet Phebe, pity me.

Phe. Why, I am sorry for thee, gentle Silvius.

Sil. Wherever sorrow is, relief would be;

If you do sorrow at my grief in love,

By giving love, your sorrow and my grief

Were both extermind.

Phe. Thou hast my love: Is not that neigh-

Sil. I would have you. [bourly?]

Phe. Why, that were covetousness.

Silvius, the time was, that I hated thee;

And yet it is not, that I bear thee love;

But, since that thou canst talk of love so well,

Thy company, which erst was irksome to me,

I will endure; and I'll employ thee too:

But do not look for further recompense,
Than thine own gladness that thou art employ'd.

Sil. So holy, and so perfect is my love,
And I in such a poverty of grace,
That I shall think it a most plenteous crop
To glean the broken ears after the man
That the main harvest reaps: lose now and then
A scatter'd smile, and that I'll live upon.

Phe. Know'st thou the youth that spoke to
me ere while?

Sil. Not very well, but I have met him oft;
And he hath bought the cottage, and the bounds,
That the old carlot¹ once was master of.

P. Think not I love him, though I ask for him;
'Tis but a peevish² boy:—yet he talks well;—
But what care I for words? yet words do well,
When he that speaks them pleases those that
It is a pretty youth:—not very pretty:—[hear.
But, sure, he's proud; and yet his pride be-
comes him:

He'll make a proper man: the best thing in him
Is his complexion; and faster than his tongue
Did make offence, his eye did heal it up.
He is not tall; yet for his years he's tall:
His leg is but so so; and yet 'tis well:
There was a pretty redness in his lip:
A little ripier and more lusty red
Than that mixed in his cheek; 'twas just the
difference

Between the constant red, and mingled damask.
There besome women, Silvius, had they mark'd
In parcels as I did, would have gone near [him
To fall in love with him: but, for my part,
I love him not, nor hate him not; and yet
I have more cause to hate him than to love him:
For what had he to do to chide at me?

He said, mine eyes were black, and my hair black;
And, now I am remember'd, scorn'd at me:

I marvel, why I answer'd not again:
But that's all one; omittance is no quittance.

I'll write to him a very taunting letter,
And thou shalt bear it: Wilt thou Silvius?

Sil. Phebe, with all my heart.

Phe. I'll write it straight;
The matter's in my head, and in my heart:
I will be bitter with him, and passing short:
Go with me, Silvius. [Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Rosalind, Celia, and Jaques.

Jaq. I pr'ythee, pretty youth, let me be better
acquainted with thee.

Ros. They say you are a melancholy fellow.

Jaq. I am so; I do love it better than laughing.

Ros. Those that are in extremity of either, are
abominable fellows; and betray themselves to
every modern censure, worse than drunkards.

Jaq. Why, 'tis good to be sad and say nothing.

Ros. Why then, 'tis good to be a post.

Jaq. I have neither the scholar's melancholy,
which is emulation; nor the musician's, which is proud;
fantastical; nor the courtier's, which is proud;
nor the soldier's, which is ambitious; nor the

¹ Proverb. ² From Marlowe's 'Hero and Leander.'

¹ Rustic.

² Silly.

lawyer's, which is politick : nor the lady's, which is nice ;¹ nor the lover's, which is all these : but it is a melancholy of mine own, compounded of many simples, extracted from many objects : and, indeed, the sundry contemplation of my travels, in which my often rumination wraps me, is a most humorous sadness.

Ros. A traveller ! By my faith, you have great reason to be sad : I fear, you have sold your own lands, to see other men's ; then, to have seen much, and to have nothing, is to have rich eyes and poor hands.

Jaq. Yes, I have gained my experience.

Enter Orlando.

Ros. And your experience makes you sad : I had rather have a fool to make me merry, than experience to make me sad ; and to travel for it too.

Orl. Good day, and happiness, dear Rosalind !

Jaq. Nay, then, farewell, an you talk in blank verse. [Exit.]

Ros. Farewell, monsieur traveller : Look, you lisp, and wear strange suits ; disable² all the benefits of your own country ; be out of love with your nativity, or I will scarce think you have swam in a gondola. — Why, how now, Orlando ! where have you been all this while ? You a lover ? — An you serve me such another trick, never come in my sight more.

Orl. My fair Rosalind, I come within an hour of my promise.

Ros. Break an hour's promise in love ? He that will divide a minute into a thousand parts, and break but a part of the thousandth part of a minute in the affairs of love, it may be said of him, that Cupid hath clapp'd him o' the shoulder, but I warrant him heart whole.

Orl. Pardon me, dear Rosalind.

Ros. Nay, an you be so tardy, come no more in my sight ; I had as lief³ be woo'd of a snail.

Orl. Of a snail ?

Ros. Ay, of a snail ; for though he comes slowly, he carries his house on his head ; a better jointure, I think, than you can make a woman : Besides, he brings his destiny with him.

Orl. What's that ?

Ros. Why, horns.

Orl. Virtue is no horn-maker ; and my Rosalind is virtuous.

Ros. And I am your Rosalind.

Cel. It pleases him to call you so ; but he hath a Rosalind of a better leer⁴ than you.

Ros. Come, woo me, woo me ; for now I am in a holiday humour, and like enough to consent ; What would you say to me now, an I were your very very Rosalind ?

Orl. I would kiss, before I spoke.

Ros. Nay, you were better speak first ; and when you were gravelled⁵ for lack of matter, you might take occasion to kiss.

Orl. How, if the kiss be denied ?

Ros. Then she puts you to entreaty, and there begins new matter.

Orl. Who could be out, being before his beloved mistress ?

Ros. Marry, that should you, if I were your mistress.

Orl. What, of my suit ?

Ros. Out of your suit. Am not I your Rosalind ?

Orl. I take some joy to say you are, because I would be talking of her.

Ros. Well, in her person, I say—I will not have you.

Orl. Then, in mine own person, I die.

Ros. No, faith, die by attorney. The poor world is almost six thousand years old, and in all this time there was not any man died in his own person, *videlicet*, in a love cause. Troilus had his brains dashed out with a Grecian club ; yet he did what he could to die before ; and he is one of the patterns of love. Leander, he would have lived many a fair year, though Hero had turned nun, if it had not been for a hot midsummer night : for, good youth, he went but forth to wash him in the Hellespont, and being taken with the cramp, was drowned ; and the foolish chroniclers of that age found it was—Hero of Sestos. But these are all lies ; men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love.

Orl. I would not have my right Rosalind of this mind ; for, I protest, her frown might kill me.

Ros. By this hand, it will not kill a fly : But come, now I will be your Rosalind in a more coming-on disposition ; and ask me what you will, I will grant it.

Orl. Then love me, Rosalind.

Ros. Yes, faith will I, Fridays, and Saturdays, and all.

Orl. And wilt thou have me ?

Ros. Ay, and twenty such.

Orl. What say'st thou ?

Ros. Are you not good ?

Orl. I hope so.

Ros. Why then, can one desire too much of a good thing ? — Come, sister, you shall be the priest, and marry us. — Give me your hand, Orlando : — What do you say, sister ?

Orl. Pray thee, marry us.

Cel. I cannot say the words.

Ros. You must begin, — *Will you, Orlando,* —

Cel. Go to : Will you, Orlando, have to wife this Rosalind ?

Orl. I will.

Ros. Ay, but when ?

Orl. Why now ; as fast as she can marry us.

Ros. Then you must say, — *I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.*

Orl. I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.

Ros. I might ask you for your commission ; but, — I do take thee, Orlando, for my husband : There a girl goes before the priest ; and, certainly, a woman's thought runs before her actions.

Orl. So do all thoughts ; they are winged.

Ros. Now tell me how long you would have her, after you have married her.

Orl. For ever and a day.

Ros. Say a day, without the ever : No, no, Orlando ; men are April when they woo, December when they wed : maids are May when they are maids, but the sky changes when they are wives. I will be more jealous of thee than a Barbary cock-pigeon over his hen ; more clamorous than a parrot against rain ; more new-fangled than an

1 Trifling. 2 Willingly. 3 Nonplussed.
4 Undervalued. 5 Face.

ape; more giddy than a monkey: I will weep for nothing, like Diana in the fountain, and I will do that when you are disposed to be merry; I will laugh like a hyen,¹ and that when thou art inclined to sleep.

Orl. But will my Rosalind do so?

Ros. By my life, she will do as I do.

Orl. O, but she is wise.

Ros. Or else she could not have the wit to do this: the wiser, the waywarder: Make² the doors upon a woman's wit, and it will out at the case-ment; shut that, and 'twill out at the key-hole; stop that, 'twill fly with the smoke out at the chimney.

Orl. A man that had a wife with such a wit, he might say,—*Wit whither wilt?*

Ros. You shall never take her without her answer, unless you take her without her tongue.

Orl. For these two hours, Rosalind, I will leave thee. [hours.]

Ros. Alas, dear love, I cannot lack thee two

Orl. I must attend the duke at dinner; by two o'clock I will be with thee again.

Ros. Ay, go your ways, go your ways;—I knew what you would prove; my friends told me as much, and I thought no less:—that flattering tongue of yours won me:—'tis but one cast away, and so,—come, death.—Two o'clock is your hour?

Orl. Ay, sweet Rosalind.

Ros. By my troth, and in good earnest, and by all pretty oaths that are not dangerous, if you break one jot of your promise, or come one minute behind your hour, I will think you the most pathological break-promise, and the most hollow lover, and the most unworthy of her you call Rosalind, that may be chosen out of the gross band of the unfaithful: therefore, beware my censure, and keep your promise.

Orl. With no less religion, than if thou wert indeed my Rosalind: So adieu.

Ros. Well, time is the old justice that examines all such offenders, and let time try: Adieu. [Exit Orlando.]

Cel. You have simply misus'd our sex in your love prate: we must have your doublet and hose plucked over your head, and show the world what the bird hath done to her own nest.

Ros. O coz, coz, coz, my pretty little coz, that thou did'st know how many fathom deep I am in love! But it cannot be sounded; my affection hath an unknown bottom, like the bay of Portugal.

Cel. Or rather, bottomless; that as fast as you pour affection in, it runs out.

Ros. No, that same wicked boy of Venus, that was begot of thought, conceived of spleen, and born of madness; that blind rascally boy, that abuses every one's eyes, because his own are out, let him be judge, how deep I am in love:—I'll tell thee, Aliena, I cannot be out of the sight of Orlando: I'll go find a shadow, and sigh till he come.

Cel. And I'll sleep. [Exit.]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

Enter Jaques and Lords, in the habit of Foresters.

Jaq. Which is he that killed the deer?

1 *Lord.* Sir, it was I.

1 Hyena.

2 Close.

J. Let's present him to the duke, like a Roman conqueror; and it would do well to set the deer's horns upon his head, for a branch of victory:—Have you no song, forester, for this purpose?

2 *Lord.* Yes, sir.

Jaq. Sing it; 'tis no matter how it be in tune, so it make noise enough.

SONG.

1. *What shall he have that kill'd the deer?*
2. *His leather skin and horns to wear.*

1. *Then sing him home:*

Take thou no scorn, to wear the horn; } *The rest shall bear this burden.*

It was a crest ere thou wast born.

1. *Thy father's father wore it;*

2. *And thy father bore it:*

All. *The horn, the horn, the lusty horn,*
Is not a thing to laugh to scorn. [Exit.]

SCENE III.—THE FOREST.

Enter Rosalind and Celia.

Ros. How say you now? Is it not past two o'clock? and here much Orlando!

Cel. I warrant you, with pure love, and troubled brain, he hath ta'en his bow and arrows, and is gone forth—to sleep: Look, who comes here.

Enter Silvius.

Sil. My errand is to you, fair youth;—My gentle Phebe bid me give you this;

[Giving a letter.]

I know not the contents; but, as I guess, By the stern brow, and waspish action Which she did use as she was writing of it, It bears an angry tenour: pardon me, I am but as a guiltless messenger.

R. Patience herself would startle at this letter, And play the swaggerer; bear this, bear all: She says, I am not fair; that I lack manners; She calls me proud; and, that she could not love me

Were man as rare as phoenix; Od's my will!

Her love is not the hare that I do hunt:

Why writes she so to me?—Well, shepherd, well, This is a letter of your own device.

Sil. No, I protest, I know not the contents; Phebe did write it.

Ros. Come, come, you are a fool, And turn'd into the extremity of love.

I saw her hand: she has a leathern hand, A freestone colour'd hand; I verily did think That her old gloves were on, but 'twas her hands; She has a housewife's hand; but that's no matter; I say, she never did invent this letter; This is a man's invention, and his hand.

Sil. Sure it is hers.

Ros. Why, 'tis a boisterous and cruel style, A style for challengers; why she defies me, Like Turk to Christian: woman's gentle brain Could not drop forth such giant-rude invention, Such Ethiop words, blacker in their effect [letter?] Than in their countenance:—Will you hear the
Sil. So please you, for I never heard it yet; Yet heard too much of Phebe's cruelty.

R. She Phebes me: Mark how the tyrant writes.

Art thou god to shepherd turn'd, [Reads]
That a maiden's heart hath burn'd?—

Can a woman rail thus?

Stl. Call you this railing?—

Ros. Why, thy godhead laid apart,
Warr'st thou with a woman's heart?

Did you ever hear such railing?—

*Whiles the eye of man did woo me,
That could do no vengeance to me.—*

Meaning me a beast.—

*If the scorn of your bright eyne
Have power to raise such love in mine,
Alack, in me what strange effect
Would they work in mild aspect?
Whiles you chid me, I did love;
How then might your prayers move?
He, that brings this love to thee,
Little knows this love in me:
And by him seal up thy mind;
Whether that thy youth and kind¹
Will the faithful offer take
Of me, and all that I can make;
Or else by him my love deny,
And then I'll study how to die.*

Stl. Call you this chiding?

Cel. Alas, poor shepherd!

Ros. Do you pity him? no, he deserves no pity.
—Wilt thou love such a woman?—What, to make
thee an instrument, and play false strains upon
thee! not to be endured!—Well, go your way to
her (for I see, love hath made thee a tamesnake),
and say this to her:—That if she love me, I
charge her to love thee: if she will not, I will
never have her, unless thou entreat for her.—If
you be a true lover, hence, and not a word; for
here comes more company. [*Exit Silvius.*]

Enter Oliver.

Oli. Good-morrow, fair ones; Pray you, if
you know

Where, in the purlieus of this forest, stands
A sheep-cote fenc'd about with olive trees?

Cel. West of this place, down in the neigh-
bour bottom,
The rank² of osiers, by the murmuring stream,
Left on your right hand, brings you to the place:
But at this hour the house doth keep itself,
There's none within.

Oli. If that an eye may profit by a tongue,
Then I should know you by description:
Such garments, and such years: *The boy is fair,
Of female favour, and bestows himself
Like a ripe sister: but the woman low,
And browner than her brother.* Are not you
The owner of the house I did inquire for?

Cel. It is no boast, being ask'd, to say, we are.

Oli. Orlando doth commend him to you both;
And to that youth, he calls his Rosalind,
He sends this bloody napkin; Are you he?

Ros. I am: What must we understand by this?

Oli. Some of my shame; if you will know of me
What man I am, and how, and why, and where
This handkerchief was stain'd.

Cel. I pray you tell it.

Oli. When last the young Orlando parted from
you,

He left a promise to return again

1 Nature.

2 Row.

Within an hour; and, pacing through the forest,
Chewing the food of sweet and bitter fancy,
Lo, what befell! he threw his eye aside,
And, mark, what object did present itself!
Under an oak, whose boughs were moss'd with age
And high top bald with dry antiquity,
A wretched ragged man, o'ergrown with hair,
Lay sleeping on his back: about his neck
A green and gilded snake had wreathed itself,
Who with her head, nimble in threats, approach'd
The opening of his mouth; but suddenly
Seeing Orlando, it unlink'd itself,
And with indented glides did slip away
Into a bush: under which bush's shade
A lioness, with udders all drawn dry, [watch,
Lay couching head on ground, with cat-like
When that the sleeping man should stir; for 'tis
The royal disposition of that beast,
To prey on nothing that doth seem as dead:
This seen, Orlando did approach the man,
And found it was his brother, his elder brother.

Cel. O, I have heard him speak of that same
brother;

And he did render¹ him the most unnatural
That liv'd 'mongst men.

Oli. And well he might so do,

For well I know he was unnatural.

Ros. But to Orlando;—Did he leave him there,
Food to the suck'd and hungry lioness?

O. Twice did he turn his back, and purpos'd so:
But kindness, nobler ever than revenge,
And nature, stronger than his just occasion,
Made him give battle to the lioness,
Who quickly fell before him; in which hurtling²
From miserable slumber I awak'd.

Cel. Are you his brother?

Ros. ~~and his brother~~ Was it you he rescu'd?

C. Was't you that did so oft contrive to kill him?

Oli. 'Twas I; but 'tis not I; I do not shame
To tell you what I was, since my conversion
So sweetly tastes, being the thing I am.

Ros. But for the bloody napkin?—

Oli. By and by.

When from the first to last, betwixt us two,
Tears our recountments had most kindly bath'd,
As, how I came into that desert place;—
In brief, he led me to the gentle duke,
Who gave me fresh array, and entertainment,
Committing me unto my brother's love;
Who led me instantly unto his cave.

There stripp'd himself, and here upon his arm
The lioness had torn some flesh away, [fainted,
Which all this while had bled; and now he
And cry'd, in fainting, upon Rosalind.
Brief, I recover'd him; bound up his wound;
And, after some small space, being strong at
He sent me hither, stranger as I am, [heart,
To tell this story, that you might excuse
His broken promise, and to give this napkin,
Dy'd in his blood, unto the shepherd youth
That he in sport doth call his Rosalind.

Cel. Why how now, Ganymede? sweet Gany-
mede? [*Rosalind faints.*]

O. Many will swoon whey they do look on blood.

Cel. There is more in it:—Cousin—Ganymede!

Oli. Look, he recovers.

Ros. I would, I were at home.

1 Describe.

2 Encounter.

Cel. We'll lead you thither:—

I pray you, will you take him by the arm?

Oli. Be of good cheer, youth:—You a man?—
You lack a man's heart.

Ros. I do so, I confess it. Ah, sir, a body would think this was well counterfeited: I pray you, tell your brother how well I counterfeited. —Heigh ho!—

Oli. This was not counterfeit; there is too great testimony in your complexion, that it was a passion of earnest.

Ros. Counterfeit, I assure you.

Oli. Well then, take a good heart, and counterfeit to be a man.

Ros. So I do; but, i' faith I should have been a woman by right.

Cel. Come, you look paler and paler; pray you, draw homewards:—Good sir, go with us.

Oli. That will I, for I must bear answer back, How you excuse my brother, Rosalind.

Ros. I shall devise something: But, I pray you, commend my counterfeiting to him:—Will you go? [Exeunt.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Touchstone and Audrey.

Touch. We shall find a time, Audrey; patience, gentle Audrey.

Aud. 'Faith, the priest was good enough, for all the old gentleman's saying.

Touch. A most wicked Sir Oliver, Audrey, a most vile Mar-text. But Audrey, there is a youth here in the forest lays claim to you.

Aud. Ay, I know who 'tis; he hath no interest in me in the world: here comes the man you mean.

Enter William.

Touch. It is meat and drink to me to see a clown; By my troth, we that have good wits, have much to answer for; we shall be flouting; we cannot hold.

Will. Good even, Audrey.

Aud. Good even, William.

Will. And good even to you, sir.

Touch. Good even, gentle friend: Cover thy head, cover thy head; nay, prythee, be covered. How old are you, friend?

Will. Five and twenty, sir.

Touch. A ripe age: Is thy name William?

Will. William, sir.

Touch. A fair name; Wast born i' the forest here?

Will. Ay, sir.

Touch. Art rich?

Will. Faith, sir, so so.

Touch. So, so, is good, very good, very excellent good:—and yet it is not; it is but so, so. Art thou wise?

Will. Ay, sir, I have a pretty wit.

Touch. Why, thou say'st well. I do now remember a saying; *The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.* The heathen philosopher, when he had a desire to eat a grape, would open his lips when he put it into his mouth; meaning thereby, that grapes

were made to eat, and lips to open. You do love this maid?

Will. I do, sir.

Touch. Give me your hand: Art thou learned?

Will. No, sir.

Touch. Then learn this of me; To have, is to have: For it is a figure in rhetoric, that drink, being poured out of a cup into a glass, by filling the one doth empty the other: For all your writers do consent, that *ipse* is he; now you are not *ipse*, for I am he.

Will. Which he, sir?

Touch. He, sir, that must marry this woman: Therefore, you clown, abandon,—which is in the vulgar, leave,—the society,—which in the boorish is company,—of this female,—which in the common is,—woman, which together is, abandon the society of this female; or, clown, thou perishest; or, to thy better understanding, diest; to wit, I kill thee, make thee away, translate thy life into death, thy liberty into bondage: I will deal in poison with thee, or in bastinado, or in steel; I will bandy with thee in faction; I will o'er-run thee with policy; I will kill thee a hundred and fifty ways; therefore tremble, and depart.

Aud. Do, good William.

Will. Rest you merry, sir. [Exit.]

Enter Corin.

Cor. Our master and mistress seek you; come, away, away.

Touch. Trip, Audrey, trip, Audrey;—I attend, I attend. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Orlando and Oliver.

Orl. Is't possible, that on so little acquaintance you should like her? that, but seeing, you should love her? and, loving, woo? and, wooing, she should grant? and will you persevere to marry her?

Oli. Neither call the giddiness of it in question, the poverty of her, the small acquaintance, my sudden wooing, nor her sudden consenting; but say with me, I love Aliena; say with her, that she loves me; consent with both, that we may enjoy each other; it shall be to your good; for my father's house, and all the revenue that was old Sir Rowland's, will I estate you, and here live and die a shepherd.

Enter Rosalind.

Orl. You have my consent. Let your wedding be to-morrow; thither will I invite the duke, and all his contented followers: Go you, and prepare Aliena; for, look you, here comes my Rosalind.

Ros. God save you, brother.

Oli. And you, fair sister.

Ros. O, my dear Orlando, how it grieves me to see thee wear thy heart in a scarf.

Orl. It is my arm.

Ros. I thought, thy heart had been wounded with the claws of a lion.

Orl. Wounded it is, but with the eyes of a lady.

Ros. Did your brother tell you how I counterfeited to swoon, when he showed me your handkerchief?

Orl. Ay, and greater wonders than that.

Ros. O, I know where you are:—Nay, 'tis

true: there was never anything so sudden, but the fight of two rams, and Cæsar's thrasonical brag of—I came, saw, and overcame: For your brother and my sister no sooner met, but they looked; no sooner looked, but they loved; no sooner loved, but they sighed; no sooner sighed, but they asked one another the reason; no sooner knew the reason, but they sought the remedy: and in these degrees have they made a pair of stairs to marriage: they are in the very wrath of love, and they will together; clubs cannot part them.

Orl. They shall be married to-morrow; and I will bid the duke to the nuptial. But, O, how bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes! By so much the more shall I to-morrow be at the height of heart-heaviness, by how much I shall think my brother happy, in having what he wishes for.

Ros. Why then, to-morrow I cannot serve your turn for Rosalind?

Orl. I can live no longer by thinking.

Ros. I will weary you no longer then with idle talking. Know of me then (for now I speak to some purpose), that I know you are a gentleman of good conceit: I speak not this, that you should bear a good opinion of my knowledge, insomuch, I say, I know you are; neither do I labour for a greater esteem than may in some little measure draw a belief from you, to do yourself good, and not to grace me. Believe then, if you please, that I can do strange things: I have, since I was three years old, conversed with a magician, most profound in this art. If you do love Rosalind so near the heart as your gesture cries it out, when your brother marries Aliena, shall you marry her: I know into what straits of fortune she is driven; and it is not impossible to me, if it appear not inconvenient to you, to set her before your eyes to-morrow, huan as she is, and without any danger.

Orl. Speakest thou in sober meanings?

Ros. By my life, I do; which I tender dearly, though I say I am a magician: Therefore, put you in your best array, bid your friends; for if you will be married to-morrow, you shall; and to Rosalind, if you will.

Enter Silvius and Phebe.

Look, here comes a lover of mine, and a lover of hers.

Phe. Youth, you have done me much ungentleness,

To show the letter that I writ to you.

Ros. I care not, if I have: it is my study, To seem despitel and ungentle to you: You are there followed by a faithful shepherd; Look upon him, love him; he worships you.

Phe. Good shepherd, tell this youth what 'tis to love.

Sil. It is to be all made of sighs and tears;— And so am I for Phebe.

Phe. And I for Ganymede.

Orl. And I for Rosalind.

Ros. And I for no woman.

Sil. It is to be all made of faith and service;— And so am I for Phebe.

1 Boasting.

2 Understanding.

Phe. And I for Ganymede.

Orl. And I for Rosalind.

Ros. And I for no woman.

Sil. It is to be all made of fantasy, All made of passion, and all made of wishes; All adoration, duty, and observance, All humbleness, all patience, and impatience, All purity, all trial, all observance;— And so am I for Phebe.

Phe. And so am I for Ganymede.

Orl. And so am I for Rosalind.

Ros. And so am I for no woman.

Phe. [*To Rosalind.*] If this be so, why blame you me to love you?

Sil. [*To Phebe.*] If this be so, why blame you me to love you?

Orl. If this be so, why blame you me to love you?

Ros. Who do you speak to, why blame you me to love you?

Orl. To her, that is not here, nor doth not hear.

Ros. Pray you, no more of this; 'tis like the howling of Irish wolves against the moon.—I will help you, [*To Silvius.*] if I can:—I would love you, [*To Phebe.*] if I could.—To-morrow meet me all together.—I will marry you, [*To Phebe.*] if ever I marry woman, and I'll be married to-morrow:—I will satisfy you, [*To Orlando.*] if ever I satisfied man, and you shall be married to-morrow:—I will content you, [*To Silvius.*] if what pleases you contents you, and you shall be married to-morrow.—As you [*To Orlando.*] love Rosalind, meet;—as you [*To Silvius.*] love Phebe, meet;—and as I love no woman, I'll meet.—So, fare you well; I have left you commands.

Sil. I'll not fail, if I live.

Phe. Nor I.

Orl. Nor I. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter Touchstone and Audrey.

Touch. To-morrow is the joyful day, Audrey; to-morrow will we be married.

Aud. I do desire it with all my heart: and hope it is no dishonest desire, to desire to be a woman of the world.¹ Here comes two of the banished duke's pages.

Enter two Pages.

1 Page. Well met, honest gentlemen.

Touch. By my troth, well met: Come, sit, sit, and a song.

2 Page. We are for you: sit i' the middle.

1 Page. Shall we clap into't roundly, without hawking, or saying we are hoarse; which are the only prologues to a bad voice?

2 Page. And both in a tune, like two gipsies on a horse.

SONG.

I.

It was a lover, and his lass,

With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,

That o'er the green corn-field did pass,

In the spring time, the only pretty rank time,

When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;

Sweet lovers love the spring.

1 A married woman.

II.

*This carol they began that hour,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
How that a life was but a flower
In spring time, &c.*

III.

*And therefore take the present time,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino;
For love is crowned with the prime
In spring time, &c.*

Touch. Truly, young gentleman, though there was no greater matter in the ditty, yet the note was very untuneable.

1 Page. You are deceived, sir; we kept time, we lost not our time.

Touch. By my troth, yes; I count it but time lost to hear such a foolish song. Come, Audrey. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

Enter Duke Senior, Amiens, Jaques, Orlando, Oliver, and Celia.

Duke S. Dost thou believe, Orlando, that the Can do all this that he hath promised? *[boy]*
Orl. I sometimes do believe, and sometimes do not;

As those that fear they hope, and know they fear.

Enter Rosalind, Silvius, and Phebe.

Ros. Patience once more, whiles our compâct is urg'd:—

[To the Duke.] You say, if I bring in your Rosa-You will bestow her on Orlando here? *[lind]*

Duke S. That would I, had I kingdoms to give with her.

Ros. [To Orlando.] And you say, you will have her when I bring her?

O. That would I, were I of all kingdoms king.

Ros. [To Phebe.] You say, you'll marry me, if I be willing?

Phe. That will I, should I die the hour after.

Ros. But, if you do refuse to marry me,

You'll give yourself to this most faithful shep-

Phe. So is the bargain. *[herd?]*

Ros. [To Silvius.] You say, that you'll have Phebe, if she will?

Sil. Though to have her and death were both one thing. *[even.]*

Ros. I have promis'd to make all this matter Keep you your word, O duke, to give your daughter;—

You yours, Orlando, to receive his daughter;—Keep your word, Phebe, that you'll marry me; Or else, refusing me, to wed this shepherd:—Keep your word, Silvius, that you'll marry her, If she refuse me:—and from hence I go, To make these doubts all even.

[Exeunt Rosalind and Celia.]

Duke S. I do remember in this shepherd-boy Some lively touches of my daughter's favour.

Orl. My lord, the first time that I ever saw him,

Methought he was a brother to your daughter; But, my good lord, this boy is forest-born; And hath been tutor'd in the rudiments

Of many desperate¹ studies by his uncle, Whom he reports to be a great magician, Obscured² in the circle of this forest.

Enter Touchstone and Audrey.

Jaq. There is, sure, another flood toward, and these couples are coming to the ark! Here comes a pair of very strange beasts, which in all tongues are called fools.

Touch. Salutation and greeting to you all!

Jaq. Good my lord, bid him welcome: This is the motley-minded gentleman, that I have so often met in the forest: he hath been a courtier, he swears.

Touch. If any man doubt that, let him put me to my purgation. I have trod a measure³; I have flattered a lady; I have been politick with my friend, smooth with mine enemy; I have undone three tailors; I have had four quarrels, and like to have fought one.

Jaq. And how was that ta'en up?

Touch. 'Faith, we met, and found the quarrel was upon the seventh cause.

Jaq. How seventh cause?—Good my lord, like this fellow.

Duke S. I like him very well.

Touch. Sir; I desire you of the like. I press in here, sir, amongst the rest of the country folks, to swear, and to forswear; according as marriage binds, and blood breaks; A poor virgin, sir, an ill-favoured thing, sir, but mine own; a poor humour of mine, sir, to take that that no man else will: Rich honesty dwells like a miser, sir, in a poor-house; as your pearl, in your foul oyster.

Duke S. By my faith, he is very swift and sententious.

Touch. According to the fool's bolt, sir.

Jaq. But, for the seventh cause; how did you find the quarrel on the seventh cause?

Touch. Upon a lie seven times removed;—Bear your body more seeming, Audrey;—as thus, sir. I did dislike the cut of a certain courtier's beard; he sent me word, if I said his beard was not cut well, he was in the mind it was: This is called the *Retort courteous*. If I sent him word again, it was not well cut, he would send me word, he cut it to please himself: This is called the *Quip modest*. If, again, it was not well cut, he disabled my judgment: This is call'd the *Reply churlish*. If again, it was not well cut, he would answer, I spake not true: This is call'd the *Reproof valiant*. If again, it was not well cut, he would say, I lie: This is call'd the *Countercheck quarrelsome*; and so to the *Lie circumstantial*, and the *Lie direct*.

Jaq. And how oft did you say, his beard was not well cut?

Touch. I durst go no further than the *Lie circumstantial*, nor he durst not give me the *Lie direct*; and so we measured swords and parted.

Jaq. Can you nominate in order now the degrees of the lie?

Touch. O sir, we quarrel in print, by the book; as you have books for good manners: I will name you the degrees. The first, the *Retort courteous*; the second, the *Quip modest*;

1 Fearful. 2 Concealed. 3 A stately dance.

the third, the Reply churlish; the fourth, the Reproof valiant; the fifth, the Countercheck quarrelsome; the sixth, the Lie with circumstance; the seventh, the Lie direct. All these you may avoid but the lie direct; and you may avoid that too, with an *If*. I knew when seven justices could not take up a quarrel: but when the parties were met themselves, one of them thought but of an *If*, as *If you said so, then I said so*; and they shook hands, and swore brothers. Your *If* is the only peace-maker; much virtue in *If*.

Jaq. Is not this a rare fellow, my lord? he's as good as any thing, and yet a fool.

Duke S. He uses his folly like a stalking-horse, and under the presentation of that he shoots his wit.

Enter Hymen, leading Rosalind in woman's clothes; and Celia.

Still Musick.

HYM. Then is there mirth in heaven,
When earthly things made even
Atone together.

Good duke, receive thy daughter,
Hymen from heaven brought her,
Yea, brought her hither;
That thou mightst join her hand with his,
Whose heart within her bosom is.

Ros. [To Duke S.] To you I give myself, for I am yours. [yours.]

[To Orlando.] To you I give myself, for I am Duke S. If there be truth in sight, you are my daughter.

Orl. If there be truth in sight, you are my *Phe.* If sight and shape be true, [Rosalind. Why then,—my love, adieu!

Ros. [To Duke S.] I'll have no father, if you be not he:—

[To Orlando.] I'll have no husband, if you be not he:—

[To *Phebe*.] Nor ne'er wed woman, if you be not she.

Hym. Peace, ho! I bar confusion:

'Tis I must make conclusion

Of these most strange events:

Here's eight that must take hands,

To join in Hymen's bands,

If truth holds true contents.¹

You and you no cross shall part:

[To Orlando and Rosalind.

You and you are heart in heart:

[To Oliver and Celia.

You [To *Phebe*.] to his love must accord,

Or have a woman to your lord:—

You and you are sure together,

[To Touchstone and Audrey.

As the winter to foul weather.

Whiles a wedlock-hymn we sing,

Feed yourselves with questioning:

That reason wonder may diminish,

How thus we met, and these things finish.

SONG.

Wedding is great *Juno's* crown:

O blessed bond of board and bed!

'Tis Hymen peoples every town;

High wedlock then be honoured:

1 Acquiescence.

Honour, high honour and renown,
To Hymen, god of every town!

Duke S. O my dear niece, welcome thou art to me;

Even daughter, welcome in no less degree.

Phe. [To *Silvius*.] I will not eat my word, now thou art mine;

Thy faith my fancy to thee doth combine.

Enter *Jaques de Bois*.

Jaq. de B. Let me have audience for a word, or two;

I am the second son of old Sir Rowland, That bring these tidings to this fair assembly:—
Duke Frederick, hearing how that every day Men of great worth resorted to this forest, Address'd a mighty power! which were on foot, In his own conduct,² purposely to take His brother here, and put him to the sword: And to the skirts of this wild wood he came; Where, meeting with an old religious man, After some questions with him, was converted Both from his enterprize, and from the world: His crown bequeathing to his banish'd brother, And all their lands restor'd to them again That were with him exil'd: This to be true, I do engage my life.

Duke S. Welcome, young man; Thou offer'st fairly to thy brothers' wedding: To one, his lands withheld: and to the other, A land itself at large, a potent dukedom. First, in this forest, let us do those ends That here were well begun, and well begot: And after, every of this happy number, [us, That have endur'd shrewd days and nights with Shall share the good of our returned fortune, According to the measure of their states. Meantime, forget this new-fall'n dignity, And fall into our rustick revelry:— [all, Play, musick; and you brides and bridegrooms With measure heap'd in joy, to the measures fall.

Jaq. Sir, by your patience; if I heard you The duke hath put on a religious life, [rightly, And thrown into neglect the pompous court?

Jaq. de B. He hath.

Jaq. To him will I: out of these converties³ There is much matter to be heard and learned.—

[To Duke S.] You to your former honour I bequeath;

Your patience, and your virtue, well deserves it:— [doth merit:—

You [To Orlando.] to a love, that your true faith You [To Oliver.] to your land, and love, and great allies:—

You [To *Sil*.] to a long and well deserved bed:—

And you [To Touchstone.] to wrangling, for thy loving voyage [pleasures;

Is but for two months victual'd—So to your I am for other than for dancing measures.

Duke S. Stay, *Jaques*, stay.

Jaq. To see no pastime, I:—what you would have

I'll stay to know at your abandon'd cave. [Exit.

Duke S. Proceed, proceed: we will begin these rites,

And we do trust they'll end, in true delights. [A dance.

1 Prepared.

2 Command.

3 Converts.

EPILOGUE.

Fos. It is not the fashion to see the lady the epilogue: but it is no more unhandsome, than to see the lord the prologue. If it be true, that *good wine needs no bush*, 'tis true, that a good play needs no epilogue: Yet to good wine they do use good bushes; and good plays prove the better by the help of good epilogues. What a case am I in then, that am neither a good epilogue, nor cannot insinuate with you in the behalf of a good play? I am not furnished¹ like a beggar, therefore to beg will not become me: my way is, to

conjure you; and I'll begin with the women. I charge you, O women, for the love you bear to men, to like as much of this play as pleases them: and so I charge you, O men, for the love you bear to women (as I perceive by your simpering, none of you hate them), that between you and the women, the play may please. If I were a woman I would kiss as many of you as had beards that pleased me, and complexions that liked¹ me; and, I am sure, as many as have good beards, or good faces, will, for my kind offer, when I make curts'y, bid me farewell. [*Exeunt.*]

All's Well that Ends Well.

Persons Represented.

KING OF FRANCE.

DUKE OF FLORENCE.

BERTRAM, Count of Rousillon.

LAFEU, an old Lord.

PAROLLES, a Follower of Bertram.

Several young French Lords, that serve with Bertram in the Florentine War.

Steward, }
Clown, } *Servants to the Countess of Rousillon.*

A Page.

COUNTRESS OF ROUSILLON, Mother to Bertram.

HELENA, a Gentlewoman protected by the Countess.

An old Widow of Florence.

DIANA, Daughter to the Widow.

VIOLENTA, } Neighbours and Friends to the
MARIANA, } Widow.

Lords, attending on the King; Officers, Soldiers, &c., French and Florentine.

SCENE.—Partly in France, and partly in Tuscany.

Act First.

SCENE I.—ROUSILLON. A ROOM IN THE
COUNTRESS'S PALACE.

*Enter Bertram, the Countess of Rousillon,
Helena, and Lafeu, in mourning.*

Countess. In delivering my son from me, I bury a second husband.

Ber. And I, in going, madam, weep o'er my father's death anew: but I must attend his majesty's command, to whom I am now in ward, evermore in subjection.

Lafeu. You shall find of the king a husband, madam;—you, sir, a father: He that so generally is at all times good, must of necessity hold his virtue to you; whose worthiness would stir it up where it wanted, rather than lack it where there is such abundance.

Count. What hope is there of his majesty's amendment?

Lafeu. He hath abandoned his physicians, madam; under whose practices he hath persecuted time with hope; and finds no other advantage in the process but only the losing of hope by time.

Count. This young gentleman had a father,

¹ Dressed.

(O, that *had!* how sad a passage 'tis!) whose skill was almost as great as his honesty; had it stretched so far, would have made nature immortal, and death should have play for lack of work. 'Would, for the king's sake, he were living! I think, it would be the death of the king's disease. [*madam?*]

Lafeu. How called you the man you speak of,

C. He was famous, sir, in his profession, and it was his great right to beso: Gerard de Narbon.

Lafeu. He was excellent, indeed, madam; the king very lately spoke of him, admiringly, and mourningly; he was skilful enough to have lived still, if knowledge could be set up against mortality.—Was this gentleman the daughter of Gerard de Narbon?

Count. His sole child, my lord; and bequeathed to my overlooking. I have those hopes of her good, that her education promises: her dispositions she inherits, which make fair gifts fairer; for where an unclean mind carries virtuous qualities, there commendations go with pity, they are virtues and traitors too: in her they are the better for their simpleness; she derives her honesty, and achieves her goodness.

Lafeu. Your commendations, madam, get from her tears.

¹ That I liked.

Count. 'Tis the best brine a maiden can season her praise in. The remembrance of her father never approaches her heart, but the tyranny of her sorrows takes all livelihood from her cheek. No more of this, Helena, go to, no more; lest it be rather thought you affect a sorrow, than to have.

Hel. I do affect a sorrow, indeed, but I have it too.

Laf. Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead, excessive grief the enemy to the living.

Count. If the living be enemy to the grief, the excess makes it soon mortal.

Ber. Madam, I desire your holy wishes.

Laf. How understand we that?

Count. Be thou blast, Bertram! and succeed thy father

In manners, as in shape! thy blood, and virtue, Contend for empire in thee; and thy goodness Share with thy birth-right! Love all, trust a few, Do wrong to none: be able for thine enemy Rather in power, than use; and keep thy friend Under thy own life's key: be check'd for silence, But never tax'd for speech. What heaven more will,

That thee may furnish, and my prayers pluck Fall on thy head! Farewell.—My lord, [down, 'Tis an unseason'd courtier; good my lord, Advise him.

Laf. He cannot want the best That shall attend his love.

C. Heaven bless him!—Farewell, Bertram. [Exit Countess.

Ber. [To Helena.] The best wishes, that can be forged in your thoughts, be servants to you! Be comfortable to my mother, your mistress, and make much of her.

Laf. Farewell, pretty lady: You must hold the credit of your father.

[Exit Bertram and Lafew.

Hel. O, were that all!—I think not on my father; [more

And these great tears grace his remembrance Than those I shed for him. What was he like? I have forgot him: my imagination

Carries no favour in it, but Bertram's. I am undone; there is no living, none,

If Bertram be away. It were all one, That I should love a bright particular star, And think to wed it, he is so above me;

In his bright radiance and collateral light Must I be comforted, not in his sphere.

The ambition in my love thus plagues itself: The hind, that would be mated by the lion,

Must die for love. 'Twas pretty, though a plague, To see him every hour; to sit and draw

His arched brows, his hawking eye, his curls, In our heart's table; heart, too capable

Of every line and trick¹ of his sweet favour²; But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancy

Must sanctify his relics. Who comes here?

Enter Parolles.

One that goes with him: I love him for his sake; And yet I know him a notorious liar,

Think him a great way fool, solely a coward; Yet these fix'd evils sit so fit in him,

That they take place, when virtue's steely bones

Look bleak in the cold wind: withal, full oft we see

Cold wisdom waiting on superfluous folly.

Par. Save you, fair queen.

Hel. And you, monarch.—You're for the court. There shall your master have a thousand loves,

A mother, and a mistress, and a friend, A phoenix, captain, and an enemy,

A guide, a goddess, and a sovereign, A counsellor, a traitress, and a dear;

His humble ambition, proud humility, His jarring concord, and his discord dulcet,

His faith, his sweet disaster; with a world Of pretty, fond, adoptious Christendoms,

That blinking Cupid gossips. Now shall he—I know not what he shall;—God send him well!

The court's a learning-place;—and he is one—

Par. What one, i' faith?

Hel. That I wish well.—'Tis pity——

Par. What's pity?

Hel. That wishing well had not a body in't, Which might be felt: that we, the poorer born,

Whose baser stars do shut us up in wishes, Might with effects of them follow our friends,

And show what we alone must think; which never Returns us thanks.

Enter a Page.

Page. Monsieur Parolles, my lord calls for you. [Exit Page.

Par. Little Helen, farewell: If I can remember thee, I will think of thee at court.

Hel. Monsieur Parolles, you were born under a charitable star.

Par. Under Mars, I.

Hel. I especially think, under Mars.

Par. Why under Mars?

Hel. The wars have so kept you under, that you must needs be born under Mars.

Par. When he was predominant.

Hel. When he was retrograde, I think, rather.

Par. Why think you so?

H. You go so much backward, when you fight.

Par. That's for advantage.

Hel. So is running away, when fear proposes the safety: But the composition, that your valour

and fear makes in you, is a virtue of a good wing, and I like the wear well.

Par. I am so full of businesses, I cannot answer thee acutely: I will return perfect courtier:

In the which, my instruction shall serve to naturalize thee, so thou wilt be capable of a courtier's counsel, and understand what advice shall

thrust upon thee; else thou diest in thine unthankfulness, and thine ignorance makes thee

away: farewell. Remember thy friends: get thee a good husband, and use him as he uses thee: so farewell. [Exit.

Hel. Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie, Which we ascribe to heaven: the fated sky

Gives us free scope; only, doth backward pull Our slow designs, when we ourselves are dull.

What power is it, which mounts my love so high, That makes me see, and cannot feed mine eye?

The mightiest space in fortune nature brings To join like likes, and kiss like native¹ things.

Impossible be strange attempts, to those

¹ Peculiarity of feature.

² Countenance.

¹ Congenial.

That weigh their pains in sense; and do suppose,
What hath been cannot be: Who ever strove
To show her merit, that did miss her love?
The king's disease—my project may deceive me,
But my intents are fix'd, and will not leave me.
[Exit.]

SCENE II.

PARIS. A ROOM IN THE KING'S PALACE.

Flourish of Cornets. Enter the King of France with letters; Lords and others attending.

King. The Florentines and Senoys¹ are by the ears;

Having fought with equal fortune, and continue
A braving war.

1 Lord. So 'tis reported, sir.

King. Nay, 'tis most credible; we here receive it
A certainty, vouch'd from our cousin Austria,
With caution, that the Florentine will move us
For speedy aid; wherein our dearest friend
Prejudicates the business, and would seem
To have us make denial.

1 Lord. His love and wisdom,
Approv'd so to your majesty, may plead
For amplest credence.

King. He hath arm'd our answer,
And Florence is denied before he comes:
Yet, for our gentlemen, that mean to see
The Tuscan service, freely have they leave
To stand on either part.

2 Lord. It may well serve
A nursery to our gentry, who are sick
For breathing and exploit.

King. What's he comes here?

Enter Bertram, Lafew, and Parolles.

1 Lord. It is the Count Rousillon, my good lord,
Young Bertram.

King. Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face;
Frank nature, rather curious than in haste, [parts]
Hath well compos'd thee. Thy father's moral
Mayst thou inherit too! Welcome to Paris.

Ber. My thanks and duty are your majesty's.

K. I would I had that corporal soundness now
As when thy father, and myself, in friendship
First try'd our soldiership! He did look far
Into the service of the time, and was
Disciplin'd of the bravest; he lasted long;
But on us both did haggish age steal on,
And wore us out of act. It much repairs me
To talk of your good father: In his youth
He had the wit, which I can well observe
To-day in our young lords; but they may jest,
Till their own scorn return to them unnoted,
Ere they can hide their levity in honour.
So like a courtier, contempt nor bitterness
Were in his pride or sharpness; if they were,
His equal had awak'd them; and his honour,
Clock to itself, knew the true minute when
Exception bid him speak, and, at this time,
His tongue obey'd his hand: who were below him
He us'd as creatures of another place;
And bow'd his eminent top to their low ranks,
Making them proud of his humility,
In their poor praise he humbled: Such a man
Might be a copy to these younger times;

1 Siennese.

Which, follow'd well, would demonstrate them
But goes backward. [now]

Ber. His good remembrance, sir,
Lies richer in your thoughts, than on his tomb;
So in proof¹ lives not his epitaph,
As in your royal speech.

King. 'Would I were with him! He would
always say,

(Methinks, I hear him now; his plausible words
He scatter'd not in ears, but grafted them,
To grow there, and to bear,)—*Let me not live,*—
Thus his good melancholy oft began,
On the catastrophe and heel of Pastime,
When it was out,—*let me not live,* quoth he,
After my frame lacks oil, to be the snuff
Of younger spirits, whose apprehensive senses
All but new things disdain; whose judgments are
Mere fathers of their garments; whose constancies
Expire before their fashions:—This he wish'd:
I, after him, do after him wish too,
Since I, nor wax, nor honey, can bring home,
I quickly were dissolved from my hive,
To give some labourers room.

2 Lord. You are lov'd, sir;
They, that least lend it you, shall lack you first.

K. I fill a place, I know't.—How long is't, count,
Since the physician at your father's died?
He was much fam'd.

Ber. Some six months since, my lord.

King. If he were living, I would try him yet;—
Lend me an arm; the rest have worn me out
With several applications: nature and sickness
Debate it at their leisure. Welcome, count;
My son's no dearer.

Ber. Thank your majesty.

[Exit. Flourish.]

SCENE III.—ROUSILLION. A ROOM IN THE
COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Countess, Steward, and Clown.

Count. I will now hear: what say you of this
gentlewoman?

Stew. Madam, the care I have had to even your
content,² I wish might be found in the calender of
my past endeavours; for then we wound our mo-
desty, and make foul the clearness of our deserv-
ings, when of ourselves we publish them.

Count. What does this knave here? Get you
gone, sirrah: The complaints, I have heard of
you, I do not all believe: 'tis my slowness, that
I do not: for, I know, you lack not folly to com-
mit them, and have ability enough to make
such knaveries yours.

Clo. 'Tis not unknown to you, madam, I am a
poor fellow.

Count. Well, sir.

Clo. No, madam, 'tis not so well, that I am
poor; though many of the rich perish: But, if I
may have your ladyship's good will to go to the
world,³ Isbel the woman and I will do as we may.

Count. Wilt thou needs be a beggar?

Clo. I do beg your good will in this case.

Count. In what case?

Clo. In Isbel's case, and mine own. Service is
no heritage: and, I think, I shall never have the
1 Approbation. 2 Act to your desires. 3 To be married.

blessing of God, till I have issue; for, they say, bears'ns are blessings.

Co. Tell me thy reason why thou wilt marry.

Clo. My poor body, madam, requires it: I am driven on by the flesh; and he must needs go, that the devil drives.

Count. Is this all your worship's reason?

Clo. Faith, madam, I have other holy reasons, such as they are.

Count. May the world know them?

Clo. I have been, madam, a wicked creature; as you and all flesh and blood are: and, indeed, I do marry, that I may repent.

Co. Thy marriage, sooner than thy wickedness.

Clo. I am out of friends, madam; and I hope to have friends for my wife's sake.

Co. Such friends are thine enemies, knave.

Cl. You are shallow, madam; e'en great friends.

Count. Get you gone, sir; I'll talk with you more anon.

Stew. May it please you, madam, that he bid Helen come to you; of her I am to speak.

Count. Sirrah, tell my gentlewoman, I would speak with her; Helen I mean.

Clo. [Singing.] *Was this fair face the cause, quoth she,*

Why the Grecians sacked Troy?

Fond² done, done fond,

Was this king Priam's joy?

With that she sighed as she stood,

With that she sighed as she stood,

And gave this sentence then;

Among nine bad if one be good,

Among nine bad if one be good.

There's yet one good in ten.

Count. What, one good in ten? you corrupt the song, sirrah.

Clo. One good woman in ten, madam; which is a purifying o' the song: 'Would Fortune serve the world so all the year! we'd find no fault with the tythe-woman. One in ten quoth a'! an we might have a good woman born but every blazing star, or at an earthquake, 'twould mend the lottery well; a man may draw his heart out, ere he pluck one.

Count. You'll be gone, sir knave, and do as I command you?

Clo. That man should be at woman's command, and yet no hurt done!—Though honesty be no puritan, yet it will do no hurt; it will wear the surplice of humility over the black gown of a big heart.—I am going forsooth: the business is for Helen to come hither. [Exit Clown.]

Count. Well, now.

Stew. I know, madam, you love your gentlewoman entirely.

Count. Indeed, I do: her father bequeathed her to me; and she herself, without other advantage, may lawfully make title to as much love as she finds: there is more owing her, than is paid; and more shall be paid her, than she'll demand.

Stew. Madam, I was very late more near her than, I think, she wished me: alone she was, and did communicate to herself, her own words to her own ears: she thought, I dare vow for her, they touched not any stranger sense. Her matter was, she loved your son: Fortune, she said, was

1 Children,

2 Foolishly.

no goddess, that had put such difference betwixt their two estates; Love, no god, that would not extend his might, only where qualities were level: Diana, no queen of virgins, that would suffer her poor knight to be surprised, without rescue, in the first assault, or ransom afterwards: This she delivered in the most bitter touch of sorrow, that e'er I heard virgin exclaim in: which I held my duty, speedily to acquaint you withal; sithence,¹ in the loss that may happen, it concerns you something to know it.

Count. You have discharged this honestly; keep it to yourself: many likelihoods informed me of this before, which hung so tottering in the balance, that I could neither believe, nor mis-doubt: Pray you, leave me; stall this in your bosom, and I thank you for your honest care: I will speak with you further anon. [Exit Steward.]

Enter Helena.

C. Even so it was with me, when I was young:

If we are nature's, these are ours: this thorn Doth to our rose of youth rightly belong;

Our blood to us, this to our blood is born; It is the show and seal of nature's truth, Where love's strong passion is impress'd in By our remembrances of days foregone, [youth: Such were our faults:—or then we thought them Her eye is sick on't; I observe her now. [none.]

Hel. What is your pleasure, madam?

Count.

You know, Helen,

I am a mother to you.

Hel. Mine honourable mistress.

Count.

Nay, a mother;

Why not a mother? When I said, a mother, Methought you saw a serpent: What's in mother, That you start at it? I say, I am your mother; And put you in the catalogue of those

That were enwomb'd mine: 'Tis often seen, Adoption strives with nature; and choice breeds A native slip to us from foreign seeds:

You ne'er oppress'd me with a mother's groan, Yet I express to you a mother's care:— Gramercy, maiden! does it curd thy blood, To say, I am thy mother? What's the matter, That this distemper'd messenger of wet, The many-colour'd Iris, rounds thine eye?

Why?—that you are my daughter?

Hel.

That I am not.

Count. I say, I am your mother.

Hel.

Pardon, madam;

The Count Rousillon cannot be my brother:

I am from humble, he from honour'd name;

No note upon my parents, his all noble:

My master, my dear lord he is; and I

His servant live, and will his vassal die:

He must not be my brother.

Count.

Nor I your mother?

Hel. You are my mother, madam: 'Would you were

(So that my lord, your son, were not my brother,) Indeed, my mother!—or were you both our mothers,

So I were not his sister: Can't no other,

But I, your daughter, he must be my brother?

Count. Yes, Helen, you might be my daughter-in-law;

I hope you mean it not! daughter, and mother

1 Since.

So strive¹ upon your pulse: What, pale again?
My fear hath catch'd your fondness: Now I see
The mystery of your loneliness, and find
Your salt tears' head.² Now to all sense 'tis gross,
You love my son; invention is asham'd,
Against the proclamation of thy passion,
To say thou dost not: therefore tell me true;
But tell me then, 'tis so:—for, look, thy cheeks
Confess it, one to the other; and thine eyes
See it so grossly shown in thy behaviours,
That in their kind they speak it; only sin
And perverse obstinacy tie thy tongue,
That truth should be suspected: Speak, is't so?
If it be so, you have wound a goodly clue;
If it be not, forswear't: howe'er, I charge thee,
As heaven shall work in me for thine avail,
To tell me truly.

Hel. Good madam, pardon me!

Count. Do you love my son?

Hel. Your pardon, noble mistress!

Count. Love you my son?

Hel. Do not you love him, madam?

Count. Go not about; my love hath in't a bond,
Whereof the world takes note: come, come,
disclose

The state of your affection; for your passions
Have to the full appeach'd.

Hel. Then, I confess,
Here on my knee, before high heaven and you,
That before you, and next unto high heaven,
I love your son:—

My friends were poor, but honest; so's my love.
Be not offended; for it hurts not him,
That he is lov'd of me: I follow him not

By any token of presumptuous suit;
Nor would I have him, till I do deserve him;
Yet never know how that desert should be.

I know I love in vain, strive against hope;

Yet, in this captious and intenable³ sieve,

I still pour in the waters of my love,

And lack not to lose still: thus, Indian-like,

Religious in mine error, I adore

The sun, that looks upon his worshipper,

But knows of him no more. My dearest madam,

Let not your hate encounter with my love,

For loving where you do: but, if yourself,

Whose aged honour cites a virtuous youth,

Did ever, in so true a flame of liking,

Wish chastely, and love dearly, that your Dian

Was both herself and love; O then, give pity

To her, whose state is such, that cannot choose

But lend and give, where she is sure to lose;

That seeks not to find that her search implies,

But, riddle-like, lives sweetly where she dies.

Co. Had you not lately an intent, speak truly,
To go to Paris?

Hel. Madam, I had.

Count. Wherefore? tell true.

Hel. I will tell true; by grace itself, I swear.

You know, my father left me some prescriptions

Of rare and prov'd effects, such as his reading,

And manifest experience, had collected

For general sovereignty; and that he will'd me

In heedfullest reservation to bestow them,

As notes, whose faculties inclusive were

More than they were in note:⁴ amongst the rest,

There is a remedy, approv'd, set down,
To cure the desperate languishes, whereof
The king is render'd lost.

Count. This was your motive
For Paris, was it? speak.

H. My lord your son made me to think of this;
Else Paris, and the medicine, and the king,
Had, from the conversation of my thoughts,
Haply, been absent then.

Count. But think you, Helen,
If you should tender your supposed aid,
He would receive it? He and his physicians
Are of a mind; he, that they cannot help him;
They, that they cannot help: How shall they
A poor unlearned virgin, when the schools, credit
Embowell'd of their doctrine,¹ have left off
The danger to itself?

Hel. There's something hints,
More than my father's skill, which was the great-
Of his profession, that his good receipt [est
Shall, for my legacy, be sanctified [honour
By the luckiest stars in heaven: and, would you?
But give me leave to try success, I'd venture
The well-lost life of mine on his grace's cure,
By such a day, and hour.

Count. Dost thou believ't?

Hel. Ay, madam, knowingly. [love.

Co. Why, Helen, thou shalt have my leave, and
Means, and attendants, and my loving greetings
To those of mine in court; I'll stay at home,
And pray God's blessing into thy attempt:

Be gone to-morrow; and be sure of this,
What I can help thee to, thou shalt not miss.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Second.

SCENE I.

PARIS. A ROOM IN THE KING'S PALACE.

Flourish. Enter King, with young Lords
taking leave for the Florentine war; Ber-
tram, Parolles, and Attendants.

King. Farewell, young lord, these warlike
principles [farewell:—
Do not throw from you:—and you, my lord,
Share the advice betwixt you; if both gain all,
The gift doth stretch itself as 'tis receiv'd,
And is enough for both.

1 Lord. It is our hope, sir,
After well-enter'd soldiers, to return
And find your grace in health.

King. No, no, it cannot be; and yet my heart
Will not confess he owes² the malady
That doth my life besiege. Farewell, young lords;
Whether I live or die, be you the sons
Of worthy Frenchmen: let higher Italy
(Those 'bated, that inherit but the fall
Of the last monarchy³) see, that you come
Not to woo honour, but to wed it; when [seek,
The bravest questant⁴ shrinks, find what you
That fame may cry you loud: I say, farewell.

2 Lord. Health, at your bidding, serve your
majesty!

King. Those girls of Italy, take heed of them;

1 Skill. 2 Has. 3 The Roman empire. 4 Seeker.

¹ Contend.

³ Incapable of holding.

² Source.

⁴ Appearance.

They say, our French lack language to deny,
If they demand: beware of being captives,
Before you serve.¹

Both. Our hearts receive your warnings.
King. Farewell.—Come hither to me.

[*The King retires to a couch.*]

1 Lord. O my sweet lord, that you will stay
behind us!

Par. 'Tis not his fault; the spark——

2 Lord. O, 'tis brave wars.

Par. Most admirable: I have seen those wars.

Ber. I am commanded here, and kept a coil²
with——

Too young, and the next year, and 'tis too early.

Par. An thy mind stand to it, boy, steal away

Ber. I shall stay here [bravely.

Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry,

Till honour be bought up, and no sword worn,
But one to dance with! By heaven, I'll steal away.

1 Lord. There's honour in the theft.

Par. Commit it, count.

2 Lord. I am your accessory; and so farewell.

Ber. I grow to you, and our parting is a tortured
body.

1 Lord. Farewell, captain.

2 Lord. Sweet monsieur Parolles!

Par. Noble heroes, my sword and yours are
kin. Good sparks and lustrous, a word, good
metals:—You shall find in the regiment of the
Spinil, one Captain Spurio, with his cicatrice, an
emblem of war, here on his sinister cheek; it was
this very sword entrenched it: say to him, I
live; and observe his reports for me.

2 Lord. We shall, noble captain.

Par. Mars dote on you for his novices!
[*Exeunt Lords.*] What will you do?

Ber. Stay: the king—— [Secing him rise.

Par. Use a more spacious ceremony to the
noble lords; you have restrained yourself within
the list of too cold an adieu; be more expressive
to them; for they wear themselves in the cap
of the time,³ there, do muster true gait,⁴ eat,
speak, and move under the influence of the
most received star; and though the devil lead
the measure,⁵ such are to be followed; after
them, and take a more dilated farewell.

Ber. And I will do so.

Par. Worthy fellows; and like to prove most
sinewy sword-men.

[*Exeunt Bertram and Parolles.*]

Enter Lafeu.

Laf. Pardon, my lord [*Kneeling.*] for me and
for my tidings.

King. I'll fee thee to stand up.

Laf. Then here's a man
Stands, that has brought his pardon. I would, you
Had kneel'd my lord, to ask me mercy; and
That, at my bidding, you could so stand up.

King. I would I had; so I had broke thy pate,
And ask'd thee mercy for't.

Laf. Goodfaith, across;⁶

But, my good lord, 'tis thus; Will you be cur'd
Of your infirmity?

King. No.

Laf. O, will you eat

No grapes, my royal fox? yes, but you will,
My noble grapes, an if my royal fox
Could reach them: I have seen a medicine,¹
That's able to breathe life into a stone;
Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary,²
With spritely fire and motion; whose simple
Is powerful to araise king Pepin, nay, [touch
To give great Charlemain a pen in his hand,
And write to her a love-line.

King. What her is this?

Laf. Why, doctor she: My lord, there's one
arriv'd, [honour,

If you will see her,—now, by my faith and
If seriously I may convey my thoughts

In this my light deliverance, I have spoke

With one, that, in her sex, her years, profession,
Wisdom, and constancy, bath amaz'd me more
Than I dare blame my weakness: Will you see
her,

[*For that is her demand,*] and know her business?
That done, laugh well at me.

King. Now, good Lafeu,

Bring in the admiration; that we with thee
May spend our wonder too, or take off thine,
By wond'ring how thou took'st it.

Laf. Nay I'll fit you,

And not be all day neither. [*Exit Lafeu.*

King. Thus he his special nothing ever pro-
logues.

Re-enter Lafeu with Helena.

Laf. Nay, come your ways.

King. This haste hath wings indeed.

Laf. Nay, come your ways;

This is his majesty, say your mind to him:

A traitor you do look like; but such traitors
His majesty seldom fears: I am Cressid's uncle,³
That dare leave two together; fare you well.

[*Exit.*

King. Now, fair one, does your business fol-
low us?

Hel. Ay, my good lord. Gerard de Narbon was
My father; in what he did profess, well found.⁴

King. I knew him.

Hel. The rather will I spare my praises to-
wards him;

Knowing him, is enough. On his bed of death
Many receipts he gave me; chiefly one,

Which, as the dearest issue of his practice,
And of his old experience the only darling,

He bade me store up, as a triple⁵ eye,
Safer than mine own two, more dear; I have so:

And, hearing your high majesty is touch'd
With that malignant cause wherein the honour

Of my dear father's gift stands chief in power,
I come to tender it, and my appliance,

With all bound humbleness.

King. We thank you, maiden,
But may not be so credulous of cure,—

When our most learned doctors leave us; and
The congregated college have concluded

That labouring art can never ransom nature
From her inaidable⁶ estate,—I say we must not

So stain our judgment, or corrupt our hope,
To prostitute our past-cure malady

To émpricks; or to dissever so

¹ Before you are soldiers. ² In a bustle. ³ The fashion.

⁴ True military step. ⁵ The dance. ⁶ Unskilfully.

¹ A female physician. ² Pandarus. ³ Third.

⁴ A dance. ⁵ Well based. ⁶ Unaided.

Our great self and our credit, to esteem
A senseless help, when help past sense we deem.

Hel. My duty then shall pay me for my pains;
I will no more enforce mine office on you;
Humbly entreating from your royal thoughts
A modest one, to bear me back again.

King. I cannot give thee less, to be call'd
grateful: [I give,
Thou thought'st to help me; and such thanks
As one near death to those that wish him live:
But what at full I know, thou know'st no part;
I knowing all my peril, thou no art.

Hel. What I can do, can do no hurt to try,
Since you set up your rest 'gainst remedy:
He that of greatest works is finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister:
So holy writ in babes hath judgment shown,
When judges have been babes. Great floods
have flown

From simple sources; and great seas have dried,
When miracles have by the greatest been denied.
Oft expectation fails, and most oft there
Where most it promises; and oft it hits,
Where hope is coldest, and despair most sits.

King. I must not hear thee; fare thee well,
kind maid;

Thy pains not us'd, must by thyself be paid:
Profess, not took, reap thanks for their reward.

Hel. Inspired merit so by breath is barr'd:
It is not so with him that all things knows,
As 'tis with us that square our guess by shows:
But most it is presumption in us, when
The help of heaven we count the act of men.
Dear sir, to my endeavours give consent;
Of heaven, not me, make an experiment.

I am not an impostor, that proclaim
Myself against the level of mine aim;
But know I think, and think I know most sure,
My art is not past power, nor you past cure.

K. Art thou so confident? Within what space
Hop'st thou my cure?

Hel. The greatest grace lending grace,
Ere twice the horses of the sun shall bring
Their fiery torcher his diurnal ring;
Ere twice in morn and occidental damp
Moist Hesperus hath quench'd his sleepy lamp;
Or four and twenty times the pilot's glass
Hath told the thievish minutes how they pass;
What is infirm from the sound part shall fly,
Health shall live free, and sickness freely die.

King. Upon thy certainty and confidence,
What dar'st thou venture?

Hel. Tax of impudence,—
And of rash boldness, a divulged shame,—
Traduc'd by odious ballads; my maiden's name
Sear'd otherwise; no worse of worst extended,
With vilest torture let my life be ended.

King. Methinks, in thee some blessed spirit
doth speak;

His powerful sound, within an organ weak:
And what impossibility would slay
In common sense, sense saves another way.
Thy life is dear; for all, that life can rate
Worth name of life, in thee hath estimate;
Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, virtue, all
That happiness and prime can happy call:
Thou this to hazard, needs must intimate
Skill infinite, or monstrous desperate.

Sweet practiser, thy physick I will try;
That ministers thine own death, if I die.

Hel. If I break time, or flinch in property
Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die;
And well deserv'd: Not helping, death's my fee;
But, if I help, what do you promise me?

King. Make thy demand.

Hel. But will you make it even?

King. Ay, by my sceptre and my hopes of
heaven. [hand,

Hel. Then shalt thou give me, with thy kingly
What husband in thy power I will command:
Exempted be from me the arrogance
To choose from forth the royal blood of France;
My low and humble name to propagate
With any branch or image of thy state:
But such a one, thy vassal, whom I know
Is free for me to ask, thee to bestow.

King. Here is my hand; the premises observ'd,
Thy will by my performance shall be serv'd,
So make the choice of thine own time; for I,
Thy resolv'd patient, on thee still rely.
More should I question thee, and more I must;
Though more to know, could not be more to
trust; [rest

From whence thou cam'st, how tended on,—But
Unquestion'd welcome, and undoubted blest.—
Give me some help here, ho!—If thou proceed
As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed.

[*Flourish. Exit.*

SCENE II.—ROUSILLON. A ROOM IN THE COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Countess and Clown.

Count. Come on, sir; I shall now put you to
the height of your breeding.

Clo. I will show myself highly fed, and lowly
taught: I know my business is but to the court.

Count. To the court! why, what place make
you special, when you put off that with such
contempt? But to the court.

Clo. Truly, madam, if nature have lent a man
any manners, he may easily put it off at court;
he that cannot make a leg, put off's cap, kiss his
hand, and say nothing, has neither leg, hands,
lip, nor cap; and, indeed, such a fellow, to say
precisely, were not for the court: but, for me,
I have an answer will serve all men.

Co. Will your answer serve fit to all questions?

Clo. As fit as ten groats for the hand of an
attorney, as a pancake for Shrove-Tuesday, or
a morris for May-day.

Count. Have you, I say, an answer of such
fitness for all questions?

Clo. From below your duke, to beneath your
constable, it will fit any question.

Count. It must be an answer of most mon-
strous size, that must fit all demands.

Clo. But a trifle neither, in good faith, if the
learned should speak truth of it: here it is,
and all that belongs to't: Ask me, if I am a
courtier; it shall do you no harm to learn.

Count. To be young again, if we could: I will
be a fool in question, hoping to be the wiser by
your answer. I pray you, sir, are you a courtier?

Clo. O, sir,—There's a simple putting off;
—more, more, a hundred of them.

Count. Sir, I am a poor friend of yours, that loves you.

Clo. O, sir,—Thick, thick, spare not me.

Count. I think, sir, you can eat none of this homely meat.

Clo. O, sir,—Nay, put me to't, I warrant you.

Count. You were lately whipped, sir, as I

Clo. O, sir,—Spare not me. [think.]

Count. Do you cry, O, *Sir*, at your whipping, and spare not me? Indeed, your O, *Sir*, is very sequent to your whipping; you would answer very well to a whipping, if you were but bound to't.

Clo. I ne'er had worse luck in my life, in my —O, *Sir*; I see, things may serve long, but not serve ever.

Count. I play the noble housewife with the time, to entertain it so merrily with a fool.

Clo. O, sir,—Why, there't serves well again.

Co. An end, sir, to your business: Give Helen And urge her to a present answer back: this, Commend me to my kinsmen, and my son; This is not much.

Clo. Not much commendation to them.

Count. Not much employment for you: You understand me? [legs.]

Clo. Most fruitfully: I am there before my

Count. Haste you again. [Exeunt severally.]

SCENE III.

PARIS. A ROOM IN THE KING'S PALACE.

Enter Bertram, Lafew, and Parolles.

Laf. They say, miracles are past; and we have our philosophical persons, to make modern¹ and familiar things, supernatural and causeless. Hence is it, that we make trifles of terrors; ensconcing ourselves into seeming knowledge, when we should submit ourselves to an unknown fear.

Par. Why, 'tis the rarest argument of wonder, that hath shot out in our latter times.

Ber. And so 'tis.

Laf. To be relinquished of the artists,——

Par. So I say; both of Galen and Paracelsus.

L. Of all the learned and authentic² fellows,——

Par. Right, so I say.

Laf. That gave him out incurable,——

Par. Why, there't is; so say I too.

Laf. Not to be helped,——

Par. Right: as 'twere, a man assured of an—

Laf. Uncertain life, and sure death.

Par. Just, you say well; so would I have said.

Laf. I may truly say, it is a novelty to the world. [showing.]

Par. It is, indeed: if you will have it in you shall read it in—What do you call there?—

Laf. A showing of a heavenly effect in an earthly actor.

P. That's it I would have said; the very same.

Laf. Why, your dolphin³ is not lustier: 'fore me I speak in respect——

Par. Nay, 'tis strange, 'tis very strange, that is the brief and the tedious of it: and he is of a most facinorous⁴ spirit, that will not acknowledge it to be the——

Laf. Very hand of heaven.

Par. Ay, so I say.

Laf. In a most weak——

Par. And debile¹ minister, great power, great transcendence: which should, indeed, give us a further use to be made, than alone the recovery of the king, as to be——

Laf. Generally thankful.

Enter King, Helena, and Attendants.

Par. I would have said it; you say well. Here comes the king.

Laf. Lustick,² as the Dutchman says: I'll like a maid the better, whilst I have a tooth in my head: Why, he's able to lead her a coranto.³

Par. Is not this Helen?

Laf. I think so.

King. Go, call before me all the lords in court.——

[Exit an Attendant.]

Sit, my preserver, by thy patient's side; And with this healthful hand, whose banish'd Thou hast repeal'd, a second time receive [sense] The confirmation of my promis'd gift, Which but attends thy naming.

Enter Several Lords.

Fair maid, send forth thine eye: this youthful parcel

Of noble bachelors stand at my bestowing, O'er whom both sovereign power and father's I have to use: thy frank election make; [voice] Thou hast power to choose, and they none to forsake. [mistress]

Hel. To each of you one fair and virtuous Fall, when love please!—marry, to each, but one!

Laf. I'd give bay Curtal,⁴ and his furniture, My mouth no more were broken than these And writ as little-beard. [boys']

King. Peruse them well:

Not one of those but had a noble father.

Hel. Gentlemen, [health.]

Heaven hath through me restor'd the king to All. We understand it, and thank heaven for you.

H. I am a simple maid; and therein wealthiest.

That, I protest, I simply am a maid:——

Please it your majesty, I have done already:

The blushes in my cheeks thus whisper me, We blush that thou should'st choose; but be refus'd,

Let the white death sit on thy cheek for ever;

We'll ne'er come there again.

King. Make choice; and, see, Who shuns thy love, shuns all his love in me.

Hel. Now, Dian, from thy altar do I fly;

And to imperial Love, that god most high, Do my sighs stream.—Sir, will you hear my suit?

1 Lord. And grant it.

Hel. Thanks, sir; all the rest is mute.

Laf. I had rather be in this choice, than throw ames⁵ off for my life.

Hel. The honour, sir, that flames in your fair Before I speak, too threateningly replies: [eyes,] Love make your fortunes twenty times above Her that so wishes, and her humble love.

2 Lord. No better, if you please.

1 Ordinary.

2 Authoritative.

3 The Dauphin.

4 Wicked.

1 Feeble.

2 Lusty.

3 Sprightly dance.

4 A docked horse.

5 A double ace.

Hel. My wish receive,
Which great love grant! and so I take my leave.

Laf. Do all they deny her? An they were
sons of mine, I'd have them whipped.

Hel. Be not afraid [*To a Lord.*] that I your
hand should take;

I'll never do you wrong for your own sake:
Blessing upon your vows! and in your bed,
Find fairer fortune, if you ever wed!

Laf. These boys are boys of ice, they'll none
have her.

H. You are too young, too happy, and too good.
4 Lord. Fair one, I think not so.

L. There's some grape yet, — I am sure thy father
drank wine. — But if thou be'st not an ass, I am a
youth of fourteen; I have known thee already.

Hel. I dare not say, I take you; [*To Bertram.*]
but I give

Me and my service, ever whilst I live,
Into your guiding power. — This is the man.

King. Why then, young Bertram, take her,
she's thy wife. [*highness,*]

Ber. My wife, my liege? I shall beseech your
In such a business give me leave to use
The help of mine own eyes.

King. Know'st thou, Bertram,
What she has done for me?

Ber. Yes, my good lord;
But never hope to know why I should marry her.

King. Thou know'st she has rais'd me from
my sickly bed.

Ber. But follows it, my lord, to bring me down
Must answer for your rising? I know her well;
She had her breeding at my father's charge:
A poor physician's daughter my wife! — Disdain
Rather corrupt me ever! [*which*]

King. 'Tis only title thou disdain'st in her, the
I can build up. Strange is it that our bloods,
Of colour, weight, and heat, pour'd all together,
Would quite confound distinction, yet stand off
In differences so mighty: If she be

All that is virtuous, (save what thou dislik'st,
A poor physician's daughter,) thou dislik'st,
Of virtue for the name: but do not so:

From lowest place when virtuous things proceed,
The place is dignified by the doer's deed:

Where great additions¹ swell, and virtue none,
It is a dropsied honour: good alone

Is good, without a name; vileness is so:
The property by what it is should go,

Not by the title. She is young, wise, fair;
In these to nature she's immediate heir;

And these breed honour: that is honour's scorn,
Which challenges itself as honour's born,

And is not like the sire: Honour's best thrive,
When rather from our acts we them derive

Than our foregoers: the mere word's a slave,
Debauch'd on every tomb; on every grave,
A lying trophy, and as oft is dumb,

Where dust, and deep oblivion, is the tomb
Of honour'd bones indeed. What should be said?

If thou canst like this creature as a maid,
I can create the rest: virtue, and she,

Is her own dower; honour and wealth from me.

Ber. I cannot love her, nor will strive to do't.

King. Thou wrong'st thyself, if thou shouldst
strive to choose.

1 Titles.

H. That you are well restor'd, my lord, I'm
Let the rest go. [*glad;*]

K. My honour's at the stake; which to defeat,
I must produce my power: Here, take her hand,
Proud scornful boy, unworthy this good gift;
That dost in vile misprision¹ shackle up

My love and her desert; that canst not dream,
We, poisoning us in her defective scale,

Shall weigh thee to the beam: that wilt not know,
It is in us to plant thine honour, where

We please to have it grow: Check thy contempt:
Obey our will, which travails in thy good:

Believe not thy disdain, but presently
Do thine own fortunes that obedient right

Which both thy duty owes, and our power claims:
Or I will throw thee from my care for ever,

Into the staggers, and the careless lapse [*hate,*
Of youth and ignorance: both my revenge and
Loosing upon thee in the name of justice,

Without all terms of pity: Speak; thine answer.

Ber. Pardon, my gracious lord; for I submit
My fancy to your eyes: When I consider,

What great creation, and what dole of honour,
Flies where you bid it, I find, that she, which late

Was in my nobler thoughts most base, is now
The praised of the king; who, so ennobled,

Is, as 'twere, born so.

King. Take her by the hand,
And tell her, she is thine: to whom I promise

A counterpoise; if not to thy estate,
A balance more replete.

Ber. I take her hand.
K. Good fortune, and the favour of the king,

Smile upon this contract; whose ceremony
Shall seem expedient on the new-born brief,

And be perform'd to-night: the solemn feast
Shall more attend upon the coming space,

Expecting absent friends. As thou lov'st her,
Thy love's to me religious; else, does err.

[*Exeunt King, Bertram, Helena, Lords,
and Attendants.*]

Laf. Do you hear, monsieur? a word with you.
Par. Your pleasure, sir?

Laf. Your lord and master did well to make
his recantation.

Par. Recantation? — my lord? — my master?

Laf. Ay; Is it not a language, I speak?

Par. A most harsh one; and not to be under-
stood without bloody succeeding. My master?

L. Are you companion to the Count Ronsillon?

P. To any count; to all counts; to what is man.

Laf. To what is count's man; count's master
is of another style.

Par. You are too old, sir; let it satisfy you,
you are too old.

Laf. I must tell thee, sirrah, I write man; to
which title age cannot bring thee.

Par. What I dare too well do, I dare not do.

Laf. I did think thee, for two ordinaries,² to
be a pretty wise fellow; thou didst make tolerable

vent of thy travel: it might pass; yet the scarfs,
and the bannerets,³ about thee, did manifoldly

dissuade me from believing thee a vessel of too
great a burden. I have now found thee; when
I lose thee again, I care not: yet art thou good
for nothing but taking up; and that thou art
scarce worth.

1 Contempt.

2 Twice at dinner.

3 Flags.

Par. Hadst thou not the privilege of anti-quity upon thee,——

Laf. Do not plunge thyself too far in anger, lest thou hasten thy trial; which if—mercy on thee for a hen! So my good window of lattice, fare thee well: thy casement I need not open, for I look through thee. Give me thy hand.

Par. My lord, you give me most egregious indignity.

Laf. Ay, with all my heart; and thou art worthy of it.

Par. I have not, my lord, deserved it.

Laf. Yes, good faith, every dram of it; and I will not bate thee a scruple.

Par. Well, I shall be wiser.

Laf. E'en as soon as thou canst, for thou hast to pull at a smack o' the contrary. If ever thou be'st bound in thy scarf, and beaten, thou shalt find what it is to be proud of thy bondage. I have a desire to hold my acquaintance with thee, or rather my knowledge; that I may say, in the default,¹ he is a man I know.

Par. My lord, you do me most insupportable vexation.

Laf. For doing I am past; as I will by thee, in what motion age will give me leave. [*Exit.*]

Par. Well, thou hast a son shall take this disgrace off me; scurvy, old lord!—Well, I must be patient; there is no fettering of authority. I'll beat him, by my life, if I can meet him with any convenience, and he were double and double a lord. I'll have no more pity of his age, than I would have of—I'll beat him, an if I could but meet him again.

Re-enter Lafew.

Laf. Sirrah, your lord and master's married, there's news for you; you have a new mistress.

Par. I most unfeignedly beseech your lordship to make some reservation of your wrongs: He is my good lord: whom I serve above, is my master.

Laf. Who? God?

Par. Ay, sir.

Laf. The devil it is, that's thy master. Why dost thou garter up thy arms o' this fashion? dost make hose of thy sleeves? do other servants so? By mine honour, if I were but two hours younger, I'd beat thee: methinks, thou art a general offence, and every man should beat thee. I think, thou wast created for men to breathe² themselves upon thee.

Par. This is hard and undeserved measure, my lord.

Laf. Go to, sir; you were beaten in Italy for picking a kernel out of a pomegranate; you are a vagabond, and no true traveller: you are more saucy with lords, and honourable personages, than the heraldry of your birth and virtue gives you commission. You are not worth another word, else I'd call you knave. I leave you.

[*Exit.*]

Enter Bertram.

Par. Good, very good; it is so then.—Good, very good; let it be concealed a while.

Ber. Undone, and forfeited to cares for ever!

Par. What is the matter, sweet-heart?

Ber. O my Parolles, they have married me:—

¹ At need.

² Exercise.

Although before the solemn priest I have sworn, I'll to the Tuscan wars and never bed her.

P. France is a dog hole, and yet no more merits The tread of a man's foot: to the war!

B. There's letters from my mother; what the I know not yet. [*Import is.*]

Par. Ay, that would be known: To the wars, my boy, to the wars!

He wears his honour in a box unseen, That hugs his kixsy-wicksy,¹ here at home; Which should sustain the bound and high curvet Of Mars's fiery steed: To other regions; France is a stable; we that dwell in't jades; Therefore to the war!

Ber. It shall be so: I'll send her to my house, Acquaint my mother with my hate to her, And wherefore I am fled; write to the king That which I durst not speak: His present gift Shall furnish me to those Italian fields, Where noble fellows strike: War is no strife, To the dark² house, and the detested wife.

Par. Will this capricio hold in thee, art sure?

Ber. Go with me to my chamber, and advise me. I'll send her straight away: To-morrow

I'll to the wars, she to her single sorrow.

Par. Why, these balls bound; there's noise in it.—'Tis hard;

A young man, married, is a man that's marr'd: Therefore away, and leave her bravely; 'tis so. The king has done you wrong; but, hush! go so.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Helena and Clown.

Hel. My mother greets me kindly: Is she well?

Clo. She is not well; but yet she has her health: she's very merry; but yet she is not well: but thanks be given, she's very well, and wants nothing i' the world; but yet she is not well?

Hel. If she be very well, what does she ail, that she's not very well?

Clo. Truly, she's very well, indeed, but for two things.

Hel. What two things?

Clo. One, that she's not in heaven, whither God send her quickly! the other, that she's in earth, from whence God send her quickly!

Enter Parolles.

Par. Bless you, my fortunate lady!

Hel. I hope, sir, I have your good will to have mine own good fortunes.

Par. You had my prayers to lead them on: and to keep them on, have them still.—O, my knave! How does my old lady?

Clo. So that you had her wrinkles, and I her money, I would she did as you say.

Par. Why, I say nothing.

Clo. Marry, you are the wiser man; for many a man's tongue shakes out his master's undoing: To say nothing, to do nothing, to know nothing, and to have nothing, is to be a great part of your title; which is within a very little of nothing.

Par. Away, thou'rt a knave.

Clo. You should have said, sir, before a knave

¹ Cant term for wife.

² Gloomy.

thou art a knave: that is, before me thou art a knave: this had been truth, sir.

Par. Go to, thou art a witty fool, I have found thee.

Clo. Did you find me in yourself, sir? or were you taught to find me? The search, sir, was profitable; and much fool may you find in you, even to the world's pleasure, and the increase of laughter.

Par. A good knave, i' faith, and well fed.—Madam, my lord will go away to-night; A very serious business calls on him. The great prerogative and rite of love, Which, as your due, time claims, he does acknowledge; But puts it off by a compell'd restraint; [ledge; Whose want, and whose delay, is strewn with sweets,

Which they distil now in the curbed time, To make the coming hour o'erflow with joy, And pleasure drown the brim.

Hel. What's his will else?

Par. That you will take your instant leave o' the king,

And make this haste as your own good proceed— Strengthen'd with what apology you think [ing, May make it probable need.

Hel. What more commands he?

Par. That, having this obtain'd, you presently Attend his further pleasure.

Hel. In everything I wait upon his will.

Par. I shall report it so.

Hel. I pray you.—Come, sirrah. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Lafew and Bertram.

Laf. But I hope, your lordship thinks not him a soldier.

Ber. Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof.

Laf. You have it from his own deliverance.

Ber. And by other warranted testimony.

Laf. Then my dial goes not true; I took this lark for a bunting.

Ber. I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in knowledge, and accordingly valiant.

Laf. I have then sinned against his experience, and transgressed against his valour; and my state that way is dangerous, since I cannot yet find in my heart to repent. Here he comes; I pray you, make us friends, I will pursue the amity.

Enter Parolles.

Par. [To *Ber.*] These things shall be done, sir.

Laf. Pray you, sir, who's his tailor?

Par. Sir?

Laf. O, I know him well: Ay, sir; he, sir, is a good workman, a very good tailor.

Ber. [Aside to *Parolles.*] Is she gone to the king?

Par. She is.

Ber. Will she away to-night?

Par. As you'll have her.

Ber. I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure,

Given order for our horses; and to-night, When I should take possession of the bride,—

1 Necessity.

Laf. A good traveller is something at the latter end of a dinner; but one that lies three thirds, and uses a known truth to pass a thousand nothings with, should be once heard, and thrice beaten.—Heaven save you, captain.

Ber. Is there any unkindness between my lord and you, monsieur?

Par. I know not how I have deserved to run into my lord's displeasure.

Laf. You have made shift to run into 't, boots and spurs and all, like him that leaped into the custard; and out of it you'll run again, rather than suffer question for your residence.

B. It may be, you have mistaken him, my lord.

Laf. And shall do so ever, though I took him at his prayers. Fare you well, my lord; and believe this of me, there can be no kernel in this light nut; the soul of this man is his clothes: trust him not in matter of heavy consequence: I have kept of them tame, and know their natures.—Farewell, monsieur! I have spoken better of you, than you have or will deserve at my hand; but we must do good against evil.

[Exit.

Par. An idle lord, I swear.

Ber. I think so.

Par. Why, do you not know him?

Ber. Yes, I do know him well; and common speech

Gives him a worthy pass. Here comes my clog.

Enter Helena.

Hel. I have, sir, as I was commanded from you, Spoke with the king, and have procured his leave For present parting; only, he desires Some private speech with you.

Ber. I shall obey his will.

You must not marvel, Helen, at my course, Which holds not colour with the time, nor does The ministration and required office On my particular: prepar'd I was not For such a business; therefore am I found So much unsettled: This drives me to entreat you, That presently you take your way for home; And rather muse, than ask, why I entreat you: For my respects are better than they seem; And my appointments have in them a need, Greater than shows itself, at the first view, To you that know them not. This to my mother.

[Giving a letter.

'Twill be two days ere I shall see you; so I leave you to your wisdom.

Hel. Sir, I can nothing say But that I am your most obedient servant.

Ber. Come, come, no more of that.

Hel. And ever shall With true observance seek to eke out that, Wherein toward me my homely stars have fail'd To equal my great fortune.

Ber. Let that go: My haste is very great: Farewell; hie home.

Hel. Pray, sir, your pardon.

Ber. Well, what would you say?

Hel. I am not worthy of the wealth I owe; Nor dare I say, 'tis mine; and yet it is; But, like a timorous thief, most fain would steal What law does vouch mine own.

1 Possess.

Ber. I pray you, stay not, but in haste to horse.
Hel. I shall not break your bidding, good my lord.

Ber. Where are my other men, monsieur?—
 Farewell. *[Exit Helena.]*

Go thou toward home; where I will never come,
 Whilst I can shake my sword, or hear the
 Away, and for our flight. *[drum:—*

Par. Bravely, coragio! *[Exeunt.]*

Act Third.

SCENE I.

FLORENCE. A ROOM IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, attended;
 two French Lords, and others.

Duke. So that, from point to point, now have
 you heard
 The fundamental reasons of this war;
 Whose great decision hath much blood let forth,
 And more thirsts after.

1 *Lord.* Holy seems the quarrel
 Upon your grace's part; black and fearful
 On the opposer.

Duke. Therefore we marvel much, our cousin
 France
 Would, in so just a business, shut his bosom
 Against our borrowing prayers.

2 *Lord.* Good my lord,
 The reasons of our state I cannot yield,
 But like a common and an outward man,
 That the great figure of a council frames
 By self-unable motion: therefore dare not
 Say what I think of it; since I have found
 Myself in my uncertain grounds to fail
 As often as I guess'd.

Duke. Be it his pleasure.
 2 *L.* But I am sure, the younger of our nature,
 That surfeit on their ease, will, day by day,
 Come here for physick.

Duke. Welcome shall they be;
 And all the honours, that can fly from us,
 Shall on them settle. You know your places well;
 When better fall, for your avails they fell:
 To-morrow to the field. *[Flourish. Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.—ROUSILLON. A ROOM IN THE
 COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Countess and Clown.

Count. It hath happened all as I would have
 had it, save, that he comes not along with her.

Clo. By my troth, I take my young lord to
 be a very melancholy man.

Count. By what observance, I pray you?

Clo. Why, he will look upon his boot, and
 sing; mend the ruff, and sing; ask questions,
 and sing; pick his teeth, and sing: I know a
 man that had this trick of melancholy, sold a
 goodly manor for a song.

Count. Let me see what he writes, and when
 he means to come. *[Opening a letter.]*

Clo. I have no mind to Isabel, since I was at

1 At the top of the boot.

court: our old ling and our Isbels o' the country
 are nothing like your old ling and your Isbels
 o' the court: the brains of my Cupid's knocked
 out; and I begin to love, as an old man loves
 money, with no stomach.

Count. What have we here?

Clo. E'en that you have there. *[Exit.]*

Count. *[Reads.]* I have sent you a daughter-
 in-law: she hath recovered the king, and undone
 me. I have wedded her, not bedded her; and
 sworn to make the not eternal. You shall hear,
 I am run away; know it, before the report come.
 If there be breadth enough in the world, I will
 hold a long distance.

My duty to you.

Your unfortunate son,
 BERTRAM.

This is not well, rash and unbridled boy,
 To fly the favours of so good a king;
 To pluck his indignation on thy head,
 By the misprising of a maid too virtuous
 For the contempt of empire.

Re-enter Clown.

Clo. O madam, yonder is heavy news within,
 between two soldiers and my young lady.

Count. What is the matter?

Clo. Nay, there is some comfort in the news,
 some comfort; your son will not be kill'd so
 soon as I thought he would.

Count. Why should he be kill'd?

Clo. So say I madam, if he run away, as I hear
 he does. Here they come, will tell you more:
 for my part, I only hear, your son was run away.
[Exit Clown.]

Enter Helena and two Gentlemen.

1 *Gent.* Save you, good madam.

Hel. Madam, my lord is gone, for ever gone.

2 *Gent.* Do not say so. *[Gentlemen,—*

Count. Think upon patience.—'Pray you, gen-
 I have felt so many quirks of joy and grief,
 That the first face of neither, on the start, [you?
 Can woman me unto't:—Where is my son, I pray

2 *Gent.* Madam, he's gone to serve the Duke
 of Florence?

We met him thitherward; from thence we came,
 And after some despatch in hand at court,

Thither we bend again. *[passport.]*

Hel. Look on this letter, madam; here's my

[Reads.] When thou canst get the ring upon
 my finger, which never shall come off, and show
 me a child begotten of thy body, that I am father
 to, then call me husband: but in such a then I
 write a never.

This is a dreadful sentence.

Count. Brought you this letter, gentlemen?

1 *Gent.* Ay, madam;
 And, for the contents' sake, are sorry for our
 pains.

Count. I pr'ythee, lady, have a better cheer;
 If thou engrossest all the griefs are thine,
 Thou robbst me of a moiety: He was my son;
 But I do wash his name out of my blood,
 And thou art all my child.—Towards Florence

2 *Gent.* Ay, madam. *[is he?*

Count. And to be a soldier?
2 Gent. Such is his noble purpose: and, believ't,
 The duke will lay upon him all the honour,
 That good convenience claims.

Count. Return you thither? [speed.]

1 Gent. Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of
Hel. [Reads.] *Till I have no wife, I have no-
 thing in France.*

'Tis better.

Count. Find you that there?

Hel. Ay, madam.

1 Gent. 'Tis but the boldness of his hand, haply
 His heart was not consenting to. [which]

Count. Nothing in France, until he have nowife!
 There's nothing here that is too good for him,
 But only she; and she deserves a lord,
 That twenty such rude boys might tend upon,
 And call her hourly, mistress. Who was with him?

1 Gent. A servant only, and a gentleman
 Which I have sometime known.

Count. Parolles, was't not?

1 Gent. Ay, my good lady, he.

Co. A very tainted fellow, and full of wicked-
 My son corrupts a well-derived nature [ness.
 With his inducement.

1 Gent. Indeed, good lady,
 The fellow has a deal of that, too much,
 Which holds him much to have.

Count. You are welcome, gentlemen,
 I will entreat you, when you see my son,
 To tell him, that his sword can never win
 The honour that he loses: more I'll entreat you
 Written to bear along.

2 Gent. We serve you, madam,
 In that and all your worthiest affairs.

Count. Not so, but as we change¹ our courtesies,
 Will you draw near?

[*Exeunt Countess and Gentlemen.*

H. *Till I have nowife, I have nothing in France.*
 Nothing in France, until he has no wife!
 Thou shalt have none, Rousillon, none in France,
 Then hast thou all again. Poor lord! is't I
 That chase thee from thy country, and expose
 Those tender limbs of thine to the event
 Of the none-sparing war? and is it I [thou
 That drive thee from the sportive court, where
 Was shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark
 Of smoky muskets? O you leaden messengers,
 That ride upon the violent speed of fire,
 Fly with false aim; move the still-piercing air,
 That sings with piercing, do not touch my lord!
 Whoever shoots at him, I set him there;
 Whoever charges on his forward breast,
 I am the catiff, that do hold him to it;
 And though I kill him not, I am the cause
 His death was so effected: better 'twere
 I met the ravin² lion when he roar'd
 With sharp constraint of hunger; better 'twere
 That all the miseries, which nature owes,
 Were mine at once: No, come thou home, Rousi-
 Whence honour but of danger wins a scar, [lon,
 As oft it loses all; I will be gone;
 My being here it is that holds thee hence:
 Shall I stay here to do't? no, no, although
 The air of paradise did fan the house,
 And angels offic'd all: I will be gone;
 That pitiful rumour may report my flight,

¹ Exchange.

² Ravenous.

To console thine ear. Come, night; end, day!
 For, with the dark, poor thief, I'll steal away.
 [*Exit.*

SCENE III.

FLORENCE. BEFORE THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, Bertram,
 Lords, Officers, Soldiers, and others.

Duke. The general of our horse thou art; and we,
 Great in our hope, lay our best love and credence,
 Upon thy promising fortune.

Ber. Sir, it is
 A charge too heavy for my strength; but yet
 We'll strive to bear it for your worthy sake,
 To the extreme edge of hazard.

Duke. Then go thou forth;
 And fortune play upon thy prosperous helm,
 As thy auspicious mistress!

Ber. This very day,
 Great Mars, I put myself into thy file:
 Make me but like my thoughts; and I shall prove
 A lover of thy drum, hater of love. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—ROUSILLON. A ROOM IN THE
 COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Countess and Steward.

Co. Alas! and would you take the letter of her?
 Might you not know, she would do as she has
 By sending me a letter? Read it again. [done,
Stew. *I am Saint Jacques' pilgrim, thither gone:*

*Ambitious love hath so in me offended,
 That barefoot plod I the cold ground upon,*

*With sainted vow my faults to have amended.
 Write, write, that from the bloody course of war,*

*My dearest master, your dear son may hie;
 Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far,*

*His name with zealous fervour sanctify;
 His taken labours bid him me forgive;*

*I, his despiteful Juno, sent him forth
 From courtly friends, with camping foes to live,*

*Where death and danger dog the heels of worth:
 He is too good and fair for death and me;*

Whom I myself embrace, to set him free.

Count. Ah, what sharp stings are in her
 mildest words!—
Rinaldo, you did never lack advise¹ so much,
 As letting her pass so; had I spoke with her,
 I could have well diverted her intents,
 Which thus she hath prevented.

Stew. Pardon me, madam:
 If I had given you this at over night,

She might have been o'erta'en; and yet she
 Pursuit would be in vain. [writes,

Count. What angel shall
 Bless this unworthy husband? he cannot thrive,

Unless her prayers, whom heaven delights to
 hear, [wrath

And loves to grant, relieve him from the
 Of greatest justice.—Write, write, Rinaldo,

To this unworthy husband of his wife:
 Let every word weigh heavy of her worth,

That he does weigh too light: my greatest grief,
 Though little he do feel it, set down sharply.

Despatch the most convenient messenger:—
 When, haply, he shall hear that she is gone,

¹ Discretion.

He will return ; and hope I may, that she,
Hearing so much, will speed her foot again,
Led hither by pure love : which of them both
Is dearest to me, I have no skill in sense
To make distinction :—Provide this messenger :—
My heart is heavy, and mine age is weak ;
Grief would have tears, and sorrow bids me speak.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

WITHOUT THE WALLS OF FLORENCE.

A Tucket afar off. Enter an old Widow of Florence, Diana, Violenta, Mariana, and other Citizens.

Wid. Nay, come ; for if they do approach the city, we shall lose all the sight.

Dia. They say, the French count has done most honourable service.

Wid. It is reported that he has taken their greatest commander ; and that with his own hand he slew the duke's brother. We have lost our labour ; they are gone a contrary way : hark ! you may know by their trumpets.

Mar. Come, let's return again, and suffice ourselves with the report of it. Well, Diana, take heed of this French earl : the honour of a maid is her name ; and no legacy is so rich as honesty.

Wid. I have told my neighbour, how you have been solicited by a gentleman his companion.

Mar. I know that knave ; hang him ! one Parolles : a filthy officer he is in those suggestions¹ for the young earl.—Beware of them, Diana ; their promises, enticements, oaths, tokens, and all these engines, are not the things they go under : many a maid hath been seduced by them ; and the misery is, example, that so terrible shows in the wreck of maidenhood, cannot for all that dissuade succession, but that they are limed with the twigs that threaten them. I hope, I need not to advise you further ; but, I hope, your own grace will keep you where you are, though there were no further danger known, but the modesty which is so lost.

Dia. You shall not need to fear me.

Enter Helena, in the dress of a Pilgrim.

Wid. I hope so.—Look, here comes a pilgrim. I know she will lie at my house : thither they send one another : I'll question her.—God save you, pilgrim ! Whither are you bound ?

Hel. To Saint Jaques le grand.

Where do the palmers² lodge, I do beseech you ?

W. At the Saint Francis here, beside the port.

Hel. Is this the way ?

Wid. Ay, marry, is it.—Hark you !

[*A march afar off.*]

They come this way :—If you will tarry, holy But till the troops come by, [pilgrim, I will conduct you where you shall be lodg'd : The rather, for, I think, I know your hostess As ample as myself.

Hel. Is it yourself ?

Wid. If you shall please so, pilgrim.

H. I thank you, and will stay upon your leisure.

Wid. You came, I think, from France ?

Hel. I did so.

Wid. Here you shall see a countryman of That has done worthy service. [yours,

H. His name, I pray you.

D. The Count Rousillon : Know you such a one !

H. But by the ear, that hears most nobly of His face I know not. [him :

Dia. Whatsoe'er he is,

He's bravely taken here. He stole from France, An 'tis reported, for the king had married him Against his liking : Think you it is so ?

H. Ay, surely, mere the truth ; I know his lady.

Dia. There is a gentleman, that serves the Reports but coarsely of her. [count,

Hel. What's his name ?

Dia. Monsieur Parolles.

Hel. O, I believe with him.

In argument of praise, or to the worth Of the geart count himself, she is too mean To have her name repeated ; all her deserving Is a reserved honesty, and that I have not heard examin'd.

Dia. Alas, poor lady !

'Tis a hard bondage, to become the wife Of a detesting lord.

Wid. A right good creature ; wheresoe'er she is. Her heart weighs sadly : this young maid might A shrewd turn, if she pleased. [do her

Hel. How do you mean ?

May be, the amorous count solicits her In the unlawful purpose.

Wid. He does, indeed ;

And brokes¹ with all that can in such a suit Corrupt the tender honour of a maid : But she is arm'd for him, and keeps her guard In honestest defence.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, a Party of the Florentine Army, Bertram and Parolles.

Mar. The gods forbid else !

Wid. So, now they come :—

That is Antonio, the duke's eldest son ;

That, Escalus.

Hel. Which is the Frenchman ?

Dia. He ;

That with the plume : 'tis a most gallant fellow ; I would, he lov'd his wife : if he were honest, He were much goodlier ;—Is't not a handsome gentleman ?

Hel. I like him well.

Dia. 'Tis pity, he is not honest : Yond's that same knave,

That leads him to these places ; were I his lady, I'd poison that vile rascal.

Hel. Which is he ?

Dia. That Jack-an-apes with scarfs : Why is he melancholy ?

Hel. Perchance he's hurt i' the battle.

Par. Lose our drum ! well.

Mar. He's shrewdly vexed at something : Look, he has spied us.

Wid. Marry, hang you !

Mar. And your courtesy, for a ring-carrier !

[*Exeunt Bert., Par., Off., and Soldiers.*]

Wid. The troop is past : Come, pilgrim, I will bring you

Where you shall host² : of enjoined penitents There's four or five, to great Saint Jaques bound, Already at my house.

Hel. I humbly thank you :

Please it this matron, and this gentle maid,

1 Temptations.

2 Pilgrims.

1 Deals.

2 Lodge.

To eat with us to-night, the charge, and thanking, Shall be for me; and, to requite you further, I will bestow some precepts on this virgin, Worthy the note.

Both. We'll take your offer kindly.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—CAMP BEFORE FLORENCE.

Enter Bertram, and the two French Lords.

1 *Lord.* Nay, good my lord, put him to't; let him have his way.

2 *Lord.* If your lordship find him not a hilding,¹ hold me no more in your respect.

1 *Lord.* On my life, my lord, a bubble.

B. Do you think I am so far deceived in him?

1 *Lord.* Believe it, my lord, in mine own direct knowledge, without any malice but to speak of him as my kinsman, he's a most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker, the owner of no one good quality worthy your lordship's entertainment.

2 *Lord.* It were fit you knew him; lest, reposing too far in his virtue, which he hath not, he might at some great and trusty business, in a main danger, fail you.

Ber. I would, I knew in what particular action to try him.

2 *Lord.* None better than to let him fetch off his drum, which you hear him so confidently undertake to do.

1 *Lord.* I, with a troop of Florentines, will suddenly surprise him; such I will have, whom, I am sure, he knows not from the enemy: we will bind and hood-wink him so, that he shall suppose no other but that he is carried into the leaguer² of the adversaries, when we bring him to our tents: Be but your lordship present at his examination; if he do not, for the promise of his life, and in the highest compulsion of base fear, offer to betray you, and deliver all the intelligence in his power against you, and that with the forfeit of his soul upon oath, never trust my judgment in anything.

2 *Lord.* O, for the love of laughter, let him fetch his drum; he says he has a stratagem for't: when your lordship sees the bottom of his success in't, and to what metal this counterfeit lump of ore will be melted, if you give him not John Drum's entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed. Here he comes.

Enter Parolles.

1 *Lord.* O, for the love of laughter, hinder not the humour of his design; let him fetch off his drum in any hand.

Ber. How now, monsieur? this drum sticks sorely in your disposition.

2 *Lord.* A plague on't, let it go: 'tis but a drum.

Par. But a drum! Is't but a drum? A drum so lost!—There was an excellent command! to charge in with our horse upon our own wings, and to rend our own soldiers.

2 *Lord.* That was not to be blamed in the command of the service; it was a disaster of war that Cæsar himself could not have prevented, if he had been there to command.

1 A coward.

2 Entrenchments.

Ber. Well, we cannot greatly condemn our success; some dishonour we had in the loss of that drum; but it is not to be recovered.

Par. It might have been recovered.

Ber. It might, but it is not now.

Par. It is to be recovered: but that the merit of service is seldom attributed to the true and exact performer, I would have that drum or another, or *hic jacet*.¹

Ber. Why, if you have a stomach to't, monsieur, if you think your mystery in stratagem can bring this instrument of honour again into its native quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprise, and go on; I will grace the attempt for a worthy exploit; if you speed well in it, the duke shall both speak of it, and extend to you what further becomes his greatness, even to the utmost syllable of your worthiness.

P. By the hand of a soldier, I will undertake it.

Ber. But you must not now slumber in it.

Par. I'll about it this evening: and I will presently, pen down my dilemmas, encourage myself in my certainty, put myself into my mortal preparation, and, by midnight, look to hear further from me.

Ber. May I be bold to acquaint his grace, you are gone about it?

Par. I know not what the success will be, my lord; but the attempt I vow.

Ber. I know thou art valiant; and, to the possibility of thy soldiership, will subscribe for thee. Farewell.

Par. I love not many words. [*Exit.*]

1 *Lord.* No more than a fish loves water.—Is not this a strange fellow, my lord? that so confidently seems to undertake this business, which he knows is not to be done.

2 *Lord.* You do not know him, my lord, as we do: certain it is, that he will steal himself into a man's favour, and, for a week, escape a great deal of discoveries; but when you find him out, you have him ever after.

Ber. Why, do you think, he will make no deed at all of this, that so seriously he does address himself unto?

1 *Lord.* None in the world; but return with an invention, and clap upon you two or three probable lies: but we have almost embossed² his; you shall see his fall to-night; for, indeed, he is not for your lordship's respect.

2 *Lord.* We'll make you some sport with the fox, ere we case him.³ He was first smoked by the old lord Lafen: when his disguise and he is parted, tell me what a sprat you shall find him; which you shall see this very night.

1 *Lord.* I must go look my twigs; he shall be caught.

Ber. Your brother, he shall go along with me.

1 *Lord.* As't please your lordship: I'll leave you. [*Exit.*]

B. Now will I lead you to the house, and show The lass I spoke of. [*You*]

2 *Lord.* But, you say, she's honest.

Ber. That's all the fault: I spoke with her but once,

And found her wondrous cold; but I sent to her, By this same coxcomb that we have i' the wind,

1 Here lies,

2 Enclosed.

3 Skin him.

Tokens and letters which she did re-send ;
And this is all I have done : She's a fair creature ;
Will you go see her ?

2 Lord. With all my heart, my lord.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.

FLORENCE. A ROOM IN THE WIDOW'S HOUSE.

Enter Helena and Widow.

Hel. If you misdoubt me that I am not she,
I know not how I shall assure you further,
But I shall lose the grounds I work upon.

W. Though my estate be fallen, I was well born,
Nothing acquainted with these businesses,
And would not put my reputation now
In any staining act.

Hel. Nor would I wish you.
First give me trust, the count he is my husband ;
And, what to your sworn counsel I have spoken,
Is so, from word to word ; and then you cannot,
By the good aid that I of you shall borrow,
Err in bestowing it.

Wid. I should believe you ;
For you have show'd me that, which well ap-
You are great in fortune. [*proves*]

Hel. Take this purse of gold,
And let me buy your friendly help thus far,
Which I will over-pay, and pay again,
When I have found it. The count he woos
your daughter,

Lays down his wanton siege before her beauty,
Resolves to carry her ; let her, in fine, consent,
As we'll direct her how 'tis best to bear it,
Now his important¹ blood will nought deny
That she'll demand : A ring the county² wears,
That downward hath succeeded in his house,
From son to son, some four or five descents
Since the first father wore it : this ring he holds
In most rich choice ; yet in his idle fire,
To buy his will, it would not seem too dear,
How'er repented after.

Wid. Now I see
The bottom of your purpose.

Hel. You see it lawful then : It is no more,
But that your daughter, ere she seems as won,
Desires this ring ; appoints him an encounter :
In fine, delivers me to fill the time,
Herself most chastely absent : after this,
To marry her, I'll add three thousand crowns
To what is past already.

Wid. I have yielded :
Instruct my daughter how she shall perséver,
That time and place, with this deceit so lawful,
May prove coherent. Every night he comes
With musicks of all sorts, and songs compos'd
To her unworthiness : It nothing steads us,
To chide him from our eaves ; for he persists,
As if his life lay on't.

Hel. Why then to-night
Let us assay our plot ; which, if it speed,
Is wicked meaning in a lawful deed,
And lawful meaning in a lawful act ;
Where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact :
But let's about it. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ Importunate.² Count.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—WITHOUT THE FLORENTINE CAMP.

Enter first Lord, with five or six Soldiers in ambush.

1 Lord. He can come no other way but by
this hedge corner : When you sally upon him,
speak what terrible language you will ; though
you understand it not yourselves, no matter :
for we must not seem to understand him ;
unless some one among us, whom we must pro-
duce for an interpreter.

1 Sold. Good captain, let me be the interpreter.

1 Lord. Art not acquainted with him ? knows
he not thy voice ?

1 Sold. No sir, I warrant you.

1 Lord. But what linsy-woolsy hast thou to
speak to us again ?

1 Sold. Even such as you speak to me.

1 Lord. He must think us some band of
strangers i' the adversary's entertainment.¹
Now he hath a smack of all neighbouring
languages ; therefore we must every one be a
man of his own fancy, not to know what we
speak one to another ; so we seem to know, is
to know straight our purpose : chough's² lan-
guage, gabble enough, and good enough. As
for you, interpreter, you must seem very poli-
tick. But cough, ho ! here he comes ; to beguile
two hours in a sleep, and then to return and
swear the lies he forges.

Enter Parolles.

Par. Ten o'clock : within these three hours
'twill be time enough to go home. What shall I
say I have done ? It must be a very plausible in-
vention that carries it : They begin to smoke
me ; and disgraces have of late knocked too
often at my door. I find, my tongue is too
fool-hardy ; but my heart hath the fear of
Mars before it, and of his creatures, not dar-
ing the reports of my tongue.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] This is the first truth that
e'er thine own tongue was guilty of.

Par. What devil should move me to under-
take the recovery of this drum ; being not igno-
rant of the impossibility, and knowing I had no
such purpose ? I must give myself some hurts,
and say, I got them in exploit : Yet slight ones
will not carry it : They will say, Came you off
with so little ? and great ones I dare not give.
Wherefore ? what's the instance³ ? Tongue, I
must put you into a butter-woman's mouth,
and buy another of Bajazet's mule, if you
prattle me into these perils.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] Is it possible, he should
know what he is, and be that he is ?

Par. I would the cutting of my garments
would serve the turn ; or the breaking of my
Spanish sword.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] We cannot afford you so.

Par. Or the baring of my beard ; and to say,
it was in stratagem.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] 'Twould not do.

Par. Or to drown my clothes, and say, I was
stripped.

¹ Pay.² Jackdaw.³ The proof.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] Hardly serve.
 Par. Though I swore I leaped from the window of the citadel—

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] How deep?

Par. Thirty fathom.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] Three great oaths would scarce make that be believed.

Par. I would, I had any drum of the enemy's; I would swear, I recovered it.

1 Lord. [*Aside.*] You shall hear one anon.

Par. A drum now of the enemy's!

[*Alarum within.*]

1 Lord. *Throca movousus, cargo, cargo, cargo.*

All. *Cargo, cargo, villianda par corbo, cargo.*

Par. O! ransome, ransome:—Do not hide mine eyes. [*They seize him, and blindfold him.*]

1 Sold. *Boskos thrumuldo boskos.*

Par. I know you are the Muskos' regiment. And I shall lose my life for want of language: If there be here German, or Dane, low Dutch, Italian, or French, let him speak to me, I will discover that which shall undo The Florentine.

1 Sold. *Boskos varvada:*—

I understand thee, and can speak thy tongue:—

Kereybanto:—Sir,

Betake thee to thy faith, for seventeen poniards Are at thy bosom.

Par. Oh!

1 Sold. O, pray, pray, pray.—

Manka revania dulce.

1 Lord. *Oscorbi dulchos volivorca.*

1 Sold. The general is content to spare thee yet; And hood-wink'd as thou art, will lead thee on To gather from thee: haply, thou mayst inform Something to save thy life.

Par. O, let me live,

And all the secrets of our camp I'll show, Their force, their purposes: nay, I'll speak that Which you will wonder at.

1 Sold. But wilt thou faithfully?

Par. If I do not, kill me.

1 Sold. *Acordo Unta.*—

Come on, thou art granted space.

[*Exit, with Parolles guarded.*]

1 Lord. Go, tell the Count Rousillon, and my brother,

We have caught the woodcock, and will keep Till we do hear from them. [*him muffled,*]

2 Sold. Captain, I will.

1 Lord. He will betray us all unto ourselves;—Inform 'em that.

2 Sold. So I will, sir.

1 Lord. Till then, I'll keep him dark, and safely lock'd. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

FLORENCE. A ROOM IN THE WIDOW'S HOUSE.

Enter Bertram and Diana.

Ber. They told me, that your name was Fondia. No, my good lord, Diana. [*tibell.*]

Ber. Titled goddess;

And worth it, with addition! But, fair soul, In your fine frame hath love no quality?

If the quick fire of youth light not your mind, You are no maiden, but a monument:

When you are dead, you should be such a one

As you are now, for you are cold and stern; And now you should be as your mother was, Before yourself was born.

Dia. She then was honest.

Ber. So should you be.

Dia. No:

My mother did but duty; such, my lord, As you owe to your wife.

Ber. No more of that!

I pry'thee, do not strive against my vows:

I was compell'd to her; but I love thee

By love's own sweet constraint, and will for ever Do thee all rights of service.

Dia. Ay, so you serve us,

Till we serve you: but when you have our roses, You barely leave our thorns to wound ourselves, And mock us with our bareness.

Ber. How have I sworn?

D. 'Tis not the many oaths that make the truth;

But the plain single vow, that is vow'd true,

What is not holy, that we swear not by,

But take the Highest to witness: Then, pray you, tell me,

If I should swear by Jove's great attributes,

I lov'd you dearly, would you believe my oaths,

When I did love you ill? this has no holding.

To swear by him whom I protest to love, [oaths

That I will work against him: Therefore, your

Are words and poor conditions; but unseal'd;

At least, in my opinion.

Ber. Change it, change it;

Be not so holy-cruel: love is holy;

And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts,

That you do charge men with: Stand no more off,

But give thyself unto my sick desires,

Who then recover: say, thou art mine, and ever

My love, as it begins, shall so perséver.

D. I see, that men make hopes, in such affairs,

That we'll forsake ourselves. Give me that ring.

Ber. I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no To give it from me. [*power*]

Dia. Will you not, my lord?

Ber. It is an honour 'longing to our house, Bequeathed down from many ancestors;

Which were the greatest obloquy i' the world

In me to lose.

Dia. Mine honour's such a ring:

My chastity's the jewel of our house,

Bequeathed down from many ancestors;

Which were the greatest obloquy i' the world

In me to lose: Thus your own proper wisdom

Brings in the champion honour on my part,

Against your vain assault.

Ber. Here, take my ring:

My house, mine honour, yea, my life be thine,

And I'll be bid by thee. [*chamber window;*]

Dia. When midnight comes, knock at my

I'll order take, my mother shall not hear.

Now will I charge you in the band of truth,

Remain then but an hour nor speak to me:

My reasons are most strong; and you shall know them,

When back again this ring shall be deliver'd:

And on your finger, in the night I'll put

Another ring; that, what in time proceeds,

May token to the future our past deeds.

Adieu, till then; then fail not: You have won

A wife of me, though there my hope be done,

Ber. A heaven on earth I have won by wooing thee. [Exit.]

Dia. For which live long to thank both heaven and you may so in the end.— [and me!] My mother told me just how he would woo, As if she sat in his heart; she says, all men Have the like oaths: he had sworn to marry me, When his wife's dead; therefore I'll lie with him When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so Marry that will, I'll live and die a maid: [braid,¹ Only, in this disguise, I think't no sin To cozen² him, that would unjustly win. [Exit.]

SCENE III.—THE FLORENTINE CAMP.

Enter the two French Lords, and two or three Soldiers.

1 Lord. You have not given him his mother's letter?

2 L. I have delivered it an hour since: there is something in't that stings his nature: for, on the reading it, he changed almost into another man.

1 Lord. He has much worthy blame laid upon him, for shaking off so good a wife, and so sweet a lady.

2 Lord. Especially he hath incurred the everlasting displeasure of the king, who had even tuned his bounty to sing happiness to him. I will tell you a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you.

1 Lord. When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I am the grave of it.

2 L. He hath perverted a young gentlewoman here in Florence, of a most chaste renown; he hath given her his monumental ring, and thinks himself made in the unchaste composition.

1 Lord. Now, heaven delay our rebellion; as we are ourselves, what things are we!

2 Lord. Merely our own traitors. And as in the common course of all treasons, we still see them reveal themselves, till they attain to their abhorred ends; so he, that in this action contrives against his own nobility, in his proper stream o'erflows himself.

1 Lord. Is it not meant confoundedly in us, to be trumpeters of our unlawful intents? We shall not then have his company to-night?

2 Lord. Not till after midnight.

1 Lord. That approaches apace: I would gladly have him see his company anatomised; that he might take a measure of his own judgments, wherein so curiously he had set this counterfeit.

2 Lord. We will not meddle with him till he come; for his presence must be the whip of the other.

1 Lord. In the meantime, what hear you of these wars?

2 Lord. I hear, there is an overture of peace.

1 Lord. Nay, I assure you, a peace concluded.

2 Lord. What will Count Rousillon do then? will he travel higher, or return again into France?

1 Lord. I perceive, by this demand, you are not altogether of his council.

2 Lord. Let it be forbid, sir! so should I be a great deal of his act.

1 Lord. Sir, his wife, some two months since fled from his house; her pretence is a pilgrim-

¹ Deceitful.

² Beguile.

age to Saint Jaques le grand; which holy undertaking, with most austere sanctimony, she accomplished; and, there residing, the tenderness of her nature became as a prey to her grief; in fine, made a groan of her last breath, and now she sings in heaven.

2 Lord. How is this justified?

1 Lord. The stronger part of it by her own letter which makes her story true, even to the point of her death: her death itself, which could not be her office to say, is come, was faithfully confirmed by the rector of the place.

2 Lord. Hath the count all this intelligence?

1 Lord. Ay, and the particular confirmations, point from point, to the full arming of the verity.

2 Lord. I am heartily sorry, that he'll be glad of this.

1 Lord. How mightily sometimes we make us comforts of our losses!

2 Lord. And how mightily, some other times, we drown our gain in tears! The great dignity, that his valour hath here acquired for him, shall at home be encountered with a shame as ample.

1 Lord. The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together; our virtues would be proud, if our faults whipped them not; and our crimes would despair, if they were not cherish'd by our virtues.—

Enter a Servant.

How now? where's your master?

Serv. He met the duke in the street, sir, of whom he hath taken a solemn leave; his lordship will next morning for France. The duke hath offered him letters of commendation to the king.

2 Lord. They shall be no more than needful there, if they were more than they can commend.

Enter Bertram.

1 Lord. They cannot be too sweet for the king's tartness. Here's his lordship now. How now, my lord, is't not after midnight?

Ber. I have to-night despatched sixteen businesses, a month's length a-piece, by an abstract of success: I have *conge'd* with the duke, done my adieu with his nearest; buried a wife, mourned for her: writ to my lady mother I am returning; entertained my convoy; and, between these main parcels of despatch, effected many nicer needs; the last was the greatest, but that I have not ended yet.

2 Lord. If the business be of any difficulty, and this morning your departure hence, it requires haste of your lordship.

Ber. I mean, the business is not ended, as fearing to hear of it hereafter: But shall we have this dialogue between the fool and the soldier?—Come, bring forth this counterfeit module¹; he has deceived me, like a double-meaning prophesier.

2 Lord. Bring him forth: [Exit Soldiers.] he has sat in the stocks all night, poor gallant knave.

Ber. No matter; his heels have deserved it, in usurping his spurs² so long. How does he carry himself?

1 Lord. I have told your lordship already;

¹ Model.

² Knight's spurs.

the stocks carry him. But, to answer you as you would be understood; he weeps: he hath confessed himself to Morgan, whom he supposes to be a friar, from the time of his remembrance, to this very instant disaster of his sitting in the stocks: And what think you he hath confessed?

Ber. Nothing of me, has he?

2 Lord. His confession is taken, and it shall be read to his face: if your lordship be in't, as I believe you are, you must have the patience to hear it.

Re-enter Soldiers, with Parolles.

Ber. A plague upon him! muffled! he can say nothing of me; hush! hush!

1 Lord. Hoodman comes!—*Porto tartarossa.*

1 Sold. He calls for the tortures; What will you say without 'em?

Par. I will confess what I know without constraint; if he pinch me like a pasty, I can say no more.

1 Sold. *Bosko chimurcho.*

2 Lord. *Bobbibindo chiourmurcho.*

1 Sold. You are a merciful general!—Our general bids you answer to what I shall ask you out of a note.

Par. And truly, as I hope to live.

1 Sold. First demand of him how many horse the duke is strong. What say you to that?

Par. Five or six thousand; but very weak and unserviceable: the troops are all scattered, and the commanders very poor rogues, upon my reputation and credit, and as I hope to live.

1 Sold. Shall I set down your answer so?

Par. Do; I'll take my oath on't, how and which way you will.

Ber. All's one to him. What a past-saving slave is this!

1 Lord. You are deceived, my lord; this is monsieur Parolles, the gallant militarist, (that was his own phrase,) that had the whole theoretic of war in the knot of his scarf, and the practice in the chape¹ of his dagger.

2 Lord. I will never trust a man again, for keeping his sword clean; nor believe he can have every thing in him, by wearing his apparel neatly.

1 Sold. Well, that's set down.

Par. Five or six thousand horse, I said,—I will say true,—or thereabouts, set down,—for I'll speak truth.

1 Lord. He's very near the truth in this.

Ber. But I can him no thanks for't, in the nature he delivers it.

Par. Poor rogues, I pray you say.

1 Sold. Well, that's set down.

Par. I humbly thank you, sir: a truth's a truth, the rogues are marvellous poor.

1 Sold. Demand of him, of what strength they are a-foot. What say you to that?

Par. By my troth, sir, if I were to live this present hour, I will tell true. Let me see: Spurio a hundred and fifty, Sebastian so many, Corambus so many, Jaques so many; Guiltian, Cosmo, Lodowick, and Gratii, two hundred fifty each: mine own company, Chitopher, Vaumbnd, Bentli, two hundred and fifty each: so that the

muster-file, rotten and sound, upon my life, amounts not to fifteen thousand poll; half of which dare not shake the snow from off their cassocks,¹ lest they shake themselves to pieces.

Ber. What shall be done to him?

1 Lord. Nothing, but let him have thanks, Demand of him my conditions,² and what credit I have with the duke.

1 Sold. Well, that's set down. You shall demand of him, whether one Captain Dumain be in the camp, a Frenchman; what his reputation is with the duke, what his valour, honesty, and expertness in wars; or whether he thinks it were not possible, with well-weighting sums of gold, to corrupt him to a revolt. What say you to this? what do you know of it?

P. I beseech you: let me answer to the particular of the interrogatories: Demand them singly.

1 Sold. Do you know this Captain Dumain?

Par. I know him: he was a butcher's 'prentice in Paris, from whence he was whipped for ill conduct. [*Dumain lifts up his hand in anger.*]

Ber. Nay, by your leave, hold your hands; though I know, his brains are forfeit to the next tile that falls.

1 Sold. Well, is this captain in the Duke of Florence's camp?

Par. Upon my knowledge, he is, and lousy.

1 Lord. Nay, look not so upon me; we shall hear of your lordship anon.

1 Sold. What is his reputation with the duke?

Par. The duke knows him for no other but a poor officer of mine; and writ to me this other day, to turn him out o' the band: I think I have his letter in my pocket.

1 Sold. Marry, we'll search.

Par. In good sadness, I do not know; either it is there, or it is upon a file, with the duke's other letters in my tent.

1 Sold. Here 'tis; here's a paper? Shall I read it to you?

Par. I do not know if it be it or no.

Ber. Our interpreter does it well.

1 Lord. Excellently.

1 S. Dian. The count's a fool and full of gold,—

Par. That is not the duke's letter, sir; that is an advertisement to a proper maid in Florence, one Diana, to take heed of the allurements of one Count Rousillon, a foolish idle boy: I pray you, sir, put it up again.

1 Sold. Nay, I'll read it first, by your favour.

Par. My meaning in't, I protest, was very honest in the behalf of the maid; for I knew the young count to be a dangerous and lascivious boy.

Ber. Abominable, both sides rogue!

1 Sold. When he swears oaths, bid him drop gold and take it;

After he scores, he never pays the score:

Half won, is match well made; match, and well make it;

He ne'er pays after debts, take it before;

And say, a soldier, Dian, told thee this.

Men are to mell³ with, boys are not to kiss: For count of this, the count's a fool, I know it, Who pays before, but not when he does owe it.

Thine, as he vow'd to thee in thine ear,

PAROLLES.

¹ Scabbard point.

¹ Horseman's loose coat. ² Disposition. ³ Associate.

Ber. He shall be whipped through the army, with this rhyme in his forehead.

2 *Lord.* This is your devoted friend, sir, the manifold linguist, and the armipotent¹ soldier.

Ber. I could endure any thing before but a cat, and now he's a cat to me.

1 *Sold.* I perceive, sir, by the general's looks, we shall be fain to hang you.

Par. My life, sir, in any case; not that I am afraid to die: but that, my offences being many, I would repent out the remainder of nature: let me live, sir, in a dungeon, i' the stocks, or any where, so I may live.

1 *Sold.* We'll see what may be done, so you confess freely; therefore, once more to this Captain Dumain: You have answered to his reputation with the duke, and to his valour: What is his honesty?

Par. He will steal, sir, an egg out of a cloister. He professes not keeping of oaths; in breaking them, he is stronger than Hercules. He will lie, sir, with such volubility, that you would think truth were a fool: drunkenness is his best virtue. I have but little more to say, sir, of his honesty; he has every thing that an honest man should not have; what an honest man should have, he has nothing.

1 *Lord.* I begin to love him for this.

Ber. For this description of thine honesty? A plague upon him for me, he is more and more a cat.

1 *Sold.* What say you to his expertness in war?

Par. Faith, sir, he has led the drum before the English tragedians,—to belie him, I will not,—and more of his soldiership I know not; except, in that country, he had the honour to be the officer at a place there called Mile-end, to instruct for the doubling of files: I would do the man what honour I can, but of this I am not certain.

1 *Lord.* He hath out-villain'd villainy so far, that the rarity redeems him.

Ber. A plague on him! he's a cat still.

1 *S.* His qualities being at this poor price, I need not ask you, if gold will corrupt him to revolt.

Par. Sir, for a *quart d'écu*² he will sell the fee-simple of his salvation, the inheritance of it; and cut the entail from all remainders, and a perpetual succession for it perpetually.

1 *Sold.* What's his brother, the other captain Dumain.

2 *Lord.* Why does he ask him of me?

1 *Sold.* What's he?

Par. E'en a crow of the same nest; not altogether so great as the first in goodness, but greater a great deal in evil. He excels his brother for a coward, yet his brother is reputed one of the best that is: In a retreat he outruns any lackey; marry, in coming on he has the cramp.

1 *Sold.* If your life be saved, will you undertake to betray the Florentine?

Par. Ay, and the captain of his horse, Count Rousillon.

1 *Bolt.* I'll whisper with the general, and know his pleasure.

Par. [Aside.] I'll no more drumming; a plague of all drums! Only to seem to deserve well, and to beguile the supposition³ of that lascivious young boy, the count, have I run into this dan-
1 Mighty. 2 The fourth of a French crown. 3 Opinion.

ger: Yet, who would have suspected an ambush where I was taken.

1 *Sold.* There is no remedy, sir, but you must die: the general says, you, that have so traitorously discovered the secrets of your army, and made such pestiferous reports of men very nobly held, can serve the world for no honest use; therefore you must die. Come, headsman, off with his head.

Par. O sir; let me live, or let me see my death.

1 *Sold.* That shall you, and take your leave of all your friends. [Unmuffling him.] So, look you about you; Know you any here?

Ber. Good morrow, noble captain.

2 *Lord.* Bless you, Captain Parolles.

1 *Lord.* Save you, noble captain.

2 *Lord.* Captain, what greeting will you to my lord Lafeu? I am for France.

1 *Lord.* Good captain, will you give me a copy of the sonnet you writ to Diana in behalf of the Count Rousillon? an I were not a very coward, I'd compel it of you; but fare you well.

[Exeunt Bertram, Lords, &c.]

1 *Sold.* You are undone, captain: all but your scarf, that has a knot on't yet.

Par. Who cannot be crushed with a plot?

1 *Sold.* If you could find out a country where but women were that had received so much shame, you might begin an impudent nation. Fare you well, sir; I am for France too; we shall speak of you there. [Exit.]

P. Yet am I thankful: if my heart were great, 'Twould burst at this: Captain I'll be no more; But I will eat and drink, and sleep as soft As captain shall: simply the thing I am Shall make me live. Who knows himself a brag-Let him fear this; for it will come to pass, [gart, That every braggart shall be found an ass. Rust, sword! cool, blushes! and, Parolles, live Safest in shame! being fooled, by foolery thrive? There's place, and means, for every man alive. I'll after them. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.

FLORENCE. A ROOM IN THE WIDOW'S HOUSE.

Enter Helena, Widow, and Diana.

Hel. That you may well perceive I have not wrong'd you,

One of the greatest in the Christian world Shall be my surety; 'fore whose throne, 'tis need-Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel: [ful, Time was I did him a desired office, Dear almost as his life; which gratitude Through flinty Tartar's bosom would peep forth, And answer thanks: I duly am inform'd His grace is at Marseilles; to which place We have convenient convoy. You must know, I am supposed dead: the army breaking, My husband hies him home; where, heaven aid-And by the leave of my good lord the king, [ing, We'll be, before our welcome.

Wid. Gentle madam, You never had a servant, to whose trust Your business was more welcome.

Hel. Nor you, mistress, To recompense your love; doubt not, but heaven

Hath brought me up to be your daughter's
As it hath fated her to be my motive {dower,
And helper to a husband. O strange men!
But more of this hereafter:—You, Diana,
Under my poor instructions yet must suffer
Something in my behalf.

Dia. Let death and honesty
Go with your impositions,¹ I am yours,
Upon your will to suffer.

Hel. Yet, I pray you,— [mer,
But with the word, the time will bring on sum-
When briars shall have leaves as well as thorns,
And be as sweet as sharp. We must away;
Our waggon is prepar'd, and time revives us;
All's well that ends well: still the fine's² the
crown;

Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—ROUSSILLON. A ROOM IN THE
COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Countess, Lafew, and Clown.

Laf. No, no, no, your son was misled with
a snipt-taffata fellow there; whose villainous
saffron³ would have made all the unbak'd
and doughty youth of a nation in his colour: your
daughter-in-law had been alive at this hour;
and your son here at home, more advanced by
the king, than by that red-tailed humble-bee I
speak of.

Count. I would, I had not known him! it
was the death of the most virtuous gentlewoman
that ever nature had praise for creating: if she
had cost me the dearest groans of a mother, I
could not have owed her a more rooted love.

Laf. 'Twas a good lady, 'twas a good lady:
we may pick a thousand salads, ere we light on
such another herb.

Clo. Indeed, sir, she was the sweet-marjoram
of the salad, or, rather, the herb of grace.⁴

Laf. They are not salad-herbs, you knave,
they are nose-herbs.

Clo. I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, sir; I
have not much skill in grass.

Laf. Go thy ways, I begin to be a-weary of
thee, and I tell thee so before, because I would
not fall out with thee. Go thy ways; let my
horses be well looked to, without any tricks.

Clo. If I put any tricks upon 'em, sir, they
shall be jades' tricks; which are their own right
by the law of nature. [Exit.]

Laf. A shrewd knave, and an unhappy.⁵

Count. So he is. My lord, that's gone, made
himself much sport out of him: by his authority
he remains here, which he thinks is a patent
for his sauciness; and, indeed, he has no pace,
but runs where he will.

Laf. I like him well; 'tis not amiss: and I
was about to tell you. Since I heard of the
good lady's death, and that my lord your son
was upon his return home, I moved the king
my master, to speak in the behalf of my daugh-
ter: which in the minority of them both, his
majesty, out of a self-gracious remembrance,
did first propose: his highness hath promised

me to do it: and, to stop up the displeasure he
hath conceived against your son, there is no
fitter matter. How does your ladyship like it?

Count. With very much content, my lord, and
I wish it happily effected.

L. His highness comes post from Marseilles,
of as able body as when he numbered thirty; he
will be here to-morrow, or I am deceived by
him that in such intelligence hath seldom failed.

Count. It rejoices me, that I hope I shall see
him ere I die. I have letters, that my son will
be here to-night: I shall beseech your lordship,
to remain with me till they meet together.

Laf. Madam, I was thinking, with what
manners I might safely be admitted.

Count. You need but plead your honourable
privilege.

Laf. Lady, of that I have made a bold char-
ter; but, I thank my God, it holds yet.

Re-enter Clown.

Clo. O madam, yonder's my lord your son
with a patch of velvet on's face: whether there
be a scar under it, or no, the velvet knows: but
'tis a goodly patch of velvet: his left cheek is a
cheek of two pile and a half, but his right cheek
is worn bare.

Laf. A scar nobly got, or a noble scar, is a
good livery of honour! so, belike, is that.

Clo. But it is your carbonadoed¹ face.

Laf. Let us go see your son, I pray you; I
long to talk with the young noble soldier.

C. Faith, there's a dozen of 'em, with delicate
fine hats, and most courteous feathers, which
bow the head, and nod at every man. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—MARSEILLES. A STREET.

*Enter Helena, Widow, and Diana, with two
Attendants.*

H. But this exceeding posting, day and night,
Must wear your spirits low: we cannot help it;
But since you have made the days and nights as
To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs, [one,
Be bold, you do so grow in my requital,
As nothing can unroot you. In happy time;—

Enter a gentle Astringer.²

This man may help me to his majesty's ear,
If he would spend his power.—God save you, sir.

Gent. And you.

Hel. Sir, I have seen you in the court of France.

Gent. I have been sometimes there.

Hel. I do presume, sir, that you are not fallen
From the report that goes upon your goodness;
And therefore, goaded with most sharp occa-
Which iay nice manners by, I put you to [sions,
The use of your own virtues, for the which
I shall continue thankful.

Gent. What's your will?

Hel. That it will please you
To give this poor petition to the king;
And aid me with that store of power you have,
To come into his presence.

¹ Commands ² Yellow starch in bands and ruffles.
³ End. ⁴ True. ⁵ Mischievous.

¹ Scored like meat for the gridiron.
² A gentlemen falconer.

Gent. The king's not here.

Hel. Not here, sir?

Gent. Not, indeed:

He hence remov'd last night, and with more
Than is his use, [haste]

Hel. All's well that ends well; yet

Though time seems so adverse, and means unfit.—
I do beseech you, whither is he gone?

Gent. Marry, as I take it, to Rousillon;
Whither I am going.

Hel. I do beseech you, sir,

Since you are like to see the king before me,
Commend the paper to his gracious hand;
Which, I presume, shall render you no blame,
But rather make you thank your pains for it:
I will come after you, with what good speed
Our means will make us means.

Gent. This I'll do for you.

Hel. And you shall find yourself to be well
thank'd,

Whate'er falls more.—We must to horse again:—
Go, go, provide. [Exit.

SCENE II.—ROUSILLON.—THE INNER COURT OF THE COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Enter Clown and Parolles.

Par. Good monsieur Lavatch, give my lord
Lafeu this letter; I have, ere now, sir, been
better known to you, when I have held famili-
arity with fresher clothes; but I am now, sir,
muddled in fortune's moat, and smell some-
what strong of her strong displeasure.

Clow. Truly, fortune's displeasure is but slut-
tish, if it smell so strong as thou speakest of:
Look, here he comes himself.

Enter Lafeu.

Here is a pur of fortune's, sir, or of fortune's
cat (but not a musk-cat), that has fallen into
the unclean fishpond of her displeasure, and, as
he says, is muddled withal: Pray you, sir, use
the carp as you may; for he looks like a poor,
decayed, ingenious, foolish, rascally knave. I
do pity his distress in my smiles of comfort,
and leave him to your lordship. [Exit Clown.

Par. My lord, I am a man whom fortune
hath cruelly scratched.

Laf. And what would you have me to do? 'tis
too late to pare her nails now. Wherein have
you played the knave with fortune, that she
should scratch you, who of herself is a good
lady, and would not have knaves thrive long
under her? There's a *quart d'ecu* for you: Let
the justices make you and fortune friends: I
am for other business.

Par. I beseech your honour, to hear me one
single word.

Laf. You beg a single penny more: come, you
shall ha't; save your word.

Par. My name, my good lord, is Parolles.

Laf. You beg more than one word then.—
Give me your hand:—How does your drum?

Par. O my good lord, you were the first that
found me.

Laf. Was I, in sooth? and I was the first
that lost thee.

Par. It lies in you, my lord, to bring me in
some grace, for you did bring me out.

L. Out upon thee, knave! [Trumpets sound.]
The king's coming, I know by his trumpets.—
Sirrah, inquire further after me; I had talk of
you last night: though you are a fool and a
knave, you shall eat; go to, follow.

Par. I praise heaven for you. [Exit.

SCENE III.

A ROOM IN THE COUNTESS'S PALACE.

Flourish. *Enter King, Countess, Lafeu, Lords,
Gentlemen, Guards, &c.*

King. We lost a jewel of her: and our esteem
Was made much poorer by it, but your son,
As mad in folly, lack'd the sense to know
Her estimation home.²

Count. 'Tis past my liege:
And I beseech your majesty to make it
Natural rebellion, done i' the blaze of youth;
When oil and fire, too strong for reason's force,
O'erbeats it, and burns on.

King. My honour'd lady,
I have forgiven and forgotten all;
Though my revenges were high bent upon him,
And watch'd the time to shoot.

Laf. This I must say,
But first I beg my pardon,—The young lord
Did to his majesty, his mother, and his lady,
Offence of majesty note; but to himself
The greatest wrong of all: he lost a wife,
Whose beauty did astonish the survey [tive;
Of richest eyes; whose words all ears took cap-
Whose dear perfection, hearts that scorn'd to
serve,

Humbly call'd mistress.

King. Praising what is lost,
Makes the remembrance dear.—Well, call
him hither;—

We are reconcil'd, and the first view shall kill
All repetition³;—Let him not ask our pardon;
The nature of his great offence is dead,
And deeper than oblivion do we bury
The dangerous reliicks of it: let him approach,
A stranger, no offender; and inform him,
So 'tis our will he should.

Gent. I shall, my liege.

[Exit Gentlemen.

King. What says he to your daughter? have
you spoke?

Laf. All that he is hath reference to your
highness.

King. Then shall we have a match. I have
letters sent me,

That set him high in fame.

Enter Bertram.

Laf. He looks well on't.

King. I am not a day of season,⁴
For thou mayst see a sunshine and a hail
In me at once: But to the brightest beams
Distracted clouds give way; so stand thou forth,
The time is fair again.

Ber. My high repented blames,
Dear sovereign, pardon to me.

1 Regard.

2 Fully.

3 Recollection.

4 i.e., Of uninterrupted rain.

King. All is whole;
Not one word more of the consumed time.
Let's take the instant by the forward top:
For we are old, and on our quick'st decrees
The inaudible and noiseless foot of time
Steals ere we can effect them: You remember
The daughter of this lord?

Ber. Admiringly, my liege: at first
I stuck my choice upon her, ere my heart
Durst make too bold a herald of my tongue:
Where the impression of mine eye infixing,
Contempt his scornful perspective did lend me,
Which warp'd the line of every other favour;
Scorn'd a fair colour, or express'd it stol'n;
Extended or contracted all proportions,
To a most hideous object: Thence it came, [self,
That she, whom all men prais'd, and whom my-
Since I have lost, have lov'd, was in mine eye
The dust that did offend it.

King. Well excus'd:
That thou didst love her, strikes some scores
away

From the great compt: But love, that comes too
Like a remorseful pardon slowly carried, [late,
To the great sender turns a sour offence,
Crying, That's good that's gone: our rash faults
Make trivial price of serious things we have,
Not knowing them, until we know their grave:
Oft our displeasures, to ourselves unjust,
Destroy our friends, and after weep their dust:
Our own love waking cries to see what's done,
While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon.
Be this sweet Helen's knell, and now forget her.
Send forth your amorous token for fair Maudlin:
The main consents are had; and here we'll stay
To see our widower's second marriage-day.

Count. Which better than the first, O dear
heaven, bless!

Or, ere they meet, in me, O nature, cease!

Laf. Come on, my son, in whom my house's
name

Must be digested, give a favour from you,
To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter,
That she may quickly come.—By my old beard,
And every hair that's on't, Helen, that's dead,
Was a sweet creature; such a ring as this,
The last that ere I took her leave at court,
I saw upon her finger,

Ber. Hers it was not.

King. Now, pray you let me see it; for mine
eye,

While I was speaking, oft was fasten'd to't.—
This ring was mine; and, when I gave it Helen,
I bade her, if her fortunes ever stood
Necessitated to help, that by this token
I would relieve her: Had you that craft, to leave
Of what should stead her most? [her

Ber. My gracious sovereign,
Howe'er it pleases you to take it so,
The ring was never hers.

Count. Son, on my life,
I have seen her wear it; and she reckon'd it
At her life's rate.

Laf. I am sure, I saw her wear it.

B. You are deceiv'd, my lord, she never saw it:
In Florence was it from a casement thrown me,
Wrapp'd in a paper, which contain'd the name
Of her that threw it: noble she was, and thought

I stood ingag'd¹: but when I had subscrib'd
To mine own fortune, and inform'd her fully,
I could not answer in that course of honour
As she had made the overture, she ceas'd,
In heavy satisfaction, and would never
Receive the ring again.

King. Plutus himself,
That knows the tinct and multiplying medicine,²
Hath not in nature's mystery more science,
Than I have in this ring: 'twas mine, 'twas
Helen's,

Whoever gave it you: Then, if you know,
That you are well acquainted with yourself,
Confess 'twas hers, and by what rough enforce-
ment [surety,
You got it from her: she call'd the saints to
That she would never put it from her finger,
Unless she gave it to yourself in bed
(Where you have never come), or sent it us
Upon her great disaster.

Ber. She never saw it.

King. Thou speak'st it falsely, as I love mine
honour;

And mak'st conjectural fears to come into me,
Which I would fain shut out: If it should prove
That thou art so inhuman, 'twill not prove so—
And yet I know not:—thou didst hate her deadly,
And she is dead; which nothing, but to close
Her eyes myself, could win me to believe,
More than to see this ring.—Take him away.—

[Guards seize Bertram.

My fore-past proofs, howe'er the matter fall,
Shall tax my fears of little vanity,
Having vainly fear'd too little.—Away with
We'll sift this matter further. [him;—

Ber. If you shall prove
This ring was ever hers, you shall as easy
Prove that I husbanded her bed in Florence,
Where yet she never was.

[Exit Bertram, guarded.

Enter a Gentleman.

King. I am wrapp'd in dismal thinkings.

Gent. Gracious sovereign,
Whether I have been to blame or no, I know not;
Here's a petition from a Florentine,
Who hath for four or five removes,³ come short
To tender it herself. I undertook it,
Vanquish'd thereto by the fair grace and speech
Of the poor suppliant, who by this, I know,
Is here attending: her business looks in her
With an important visage; and she told me,
In a sweet verbal brief, it did concern
Your highness with herself.

King. [Reads.] Upon his many protestations
to marry me, when his wife was dead, I blush
to say it, he won me. Now is the Count Rousillon
a widower; his vows are forfeited to me, and my
honour's paid to him. He stole from Florence,
taking no leave, and I follow him to his country
for justice: Grant it me, O King; in you it best
lies; otherwise a seducer flourishes, and a poor
maid is undone. DIANA CAPULET,

Laf. I will buy me a son-in-law in a fair, and
toll him⁴: for this, I'll none of him.

1 Unengaged.

2 The philosopher's stone.

3 Post-stages.

4 Pay toll for him.

King. The heavens have thought well on thee,
Lafcu,
To bring forth this discovery.—Seek these
sutors:—
Go, speedily, and bring again the count.
[*Exeunt Gentleman, and some Attendants.*]
I am afraid, the life of Helen, lady,
Was foully snatch'd.

Count. Now, justice on the doers!

Enter Bertram, guarded.

King. I wonder, sir, since wives are monsters
to you,
And that you fly them as you swear them lord-
ship,
Yet you desire to marry.—What woman's that?

Re-enter Gentleman, with Widow, and Diana.

Dia. I am, my lord, a wretched Florentine,
Derived from the ancient Capulet;
My suit, as I do understand, you know,
And therefore know how far I may be pitied.

Wid. I am her mother, sir, whose age and
honour

Both suffer under this complaint we bring,
And both shall cease,¹ without your remedy.

King. Come hither, count; Do you know
these women?

Ber. My lord, I neither can, nor will deny
But that I know them; Do they charge me
further?

Dia. Why do you look so strange upon your
wife?

Ber. She's none of mine, my lord.

Dia. If you shall marry,
You give away this hand, and that is mine;
You give away heaven's vows, and those are
mine;

You give away myself which is known mine;
For I by vow am so embodied yours,
That she, which marries you, must marry me,
Either both, or none.

Laf. [To Bertram.] Your reputation comes
too short for my daughter; you are no husband
for her.

Ber. My lord, this is a fond and desperate
creature,
Whom sometime I have laugh'd with; let your
highness

Lay a more noble thought upon mine honour,
Than for to think that I would sink it here.

King. Sir, for my thoughts, you have them
ill to friend,

Till your deeds gain them; Fairer prove your
honour,

Than in my thought it lies!

Dia. Good my lord,
Ask him upon his oath, if he does think
He had my honour.

King. What say'st thou to her?

Ber. She's impudent, my lord;
And was a common gamester to the camp.

Dia. He does me wrong, my lord; if I were so,
He might have bought me at a common price:
Do not believe him: O, behold this ring,
Whose high respect, and rich validity,
Did lack a parallel; yet, for all that,

1 Dia.

He gave it to a commoner o' the camp,
If I be one.

Count. He blushes, and 'tis it;
Of six preceding ancestors, that gem
Confer'd by testament to the sequent issue,
Hath it been ow'd and worn. This is his wife:
That ring's a thousand proofs.

King. Methought, you said,
You saw one hers in court could witness it.

Dia. I did, my lord, but loath am to produce
So bad an instrument; his name's Parolles.

Laf. I saw the man to-day, if man he be.

King. Find him, and bring him hither,
Ber. What of him?

He's quoted for a most perfidious slave,
With all the spots o' the world tax'd and de-
bosh'd;

Whose nature sickens, but to speak a truth;
Am I or that, or this, for what he'll utter,
That will speak any thing?

King. She hath that ring of yours.

Ber. I think, she has; certain it is, I lik'd her.
She knew her distance, and did angle for me,
Madding my eagerness with her restraint,
As all impediments in fancy's² course
Are motives of more fancy; and, in fine,
Her insuit³ coming with her modern grace;
Subdued me to her rate: she got the ring;
And I had that, which any inferior might
At market-price have bought.

Dia. I must be patient;
You, that turn'd off a first so noble wife,
May justly diet me. I pray you yet,
(Since you lack virtue, I will lose a husband,)
Send for your ring, I will return it home,
And give me mine again.

Ber. I have it not.

King. What ring was yours, I pray you?

Dia. Sir, much like
The same upon your finger.

King. Know you this ring? this ring was his
of late.

Dia. And this was it I gave him, being a-bed.
K. The story then goes false, you threw it him,
Out of a casement.

Dia. I have spoke the truth.

Enter Parolles.

Ber. My lord, I do confess, the ring was hers.
K. You boggle shrewdly,⁴ every feather starts
you.

Is this the man you speak of?

Dia. Ay, my lord.

K. Tell me, sirrah, but tell me true, I charge
you,

Not fearing the displeasure of your master,
(Which, on your just proceeding, I'll keep off,)
By him, and by this woman here, what know
you?

Par. So please your majesty, my master hath
been an honourable gentleman; tricks he hath
had in him, which gentlemen have.

King. Come, come, to the purpose: Did he
love this woman?

Par. Faith, sir, he did love her; But how?

King. How, I pray you?

1 Debauched. 2 Solicitation. 3 Vexatiously.
2 Love. 4 Accomplishments.

Par. He did love her, sir, as a gentleman loves a woman.

King. How is that?

Par. He loved her, sir, and loved her not.

King. As thou art a knave, and no knave:—What an equivocal companion is this?

Par. I am a poor man, and at your majesty's command.

Laf. He's a good drum, my lord, but a naughty orator.

Dia. Do you know he promised me marriage?

Par. 'Faith, I know more than I'll speak.

K. But wilt thou not speak all thou know'st?

Par. Yes, so please your majesty; I did go between them, as I said; but more than that, he loved her,—for indeed he was mad for her, and talked of Satan, and of limbo, and of furies, and I know not what: yet I was in that credit with them at that time, that I knew of their going to bed; and of other motions, as promising her marriage, and things that would derive me ill will to speak of, therefore I will not speak what I know.

King. Thou hast spoken all already, unless thou canst say they are married: But thou art too fine in thy evidence: therefore stand aside.—This ring, you say, was yours?

Dia. Ay, my good lord.

King. Where did you buy it? or who gave it you?

Dia. It was not given me, nor I did not buy it.

King. Who lent it you?

Dia. It was not lent me neither.

King. Where did you find it then?

Dia. I found it not.

K. If it were yours by none of all these ways, How could you give it him?

Dia. I never gave it him.

Laf. This woman's an easy glove, my lord; she goes off and on at pleasure.

King. This ring was mine, I gave it his first wife.

Dia. It might be yours or hers for aught I know.

King. Take her away, I do not like her now; To prison with her, and away with him.—

Unless thou tell'st me where thou hadst this ring,

Thou diest within this hour.

Dia. I'll never tell you.

King. Take her away.

Dia. I'll put in bail, my liege.

K. I think thee now some common customer, Wherefore hast thou accus'd him all this while?

Dia. Because he's guilty, and he is not guilty; He knows I am no maid, and he'll swear to't.

I'll swear I am a maid, and he knows not.

Great king, I am no strumpet, by my life;

I am either maid, or else this old man's wife.

[Pointing to Lafeu.]

K. She does abuse our ears; to prison with her.

Dia. Good mother, fetch my bail.—Stay, royal sir; [Exit Widow.]

The jeweller, that owes¹ the ring, is sent for, And he shall surety me. But for this lord, Who hath abus'd me, as he knows himself, Though yet he never harm'd me, here I quit him:

He thinks himself, my bed he hath defil'd; But 'twas his wife who then became with child: And now behold the meaning.

Re-enter Widow, with Helena.

King. Is there no exorcist Beguiles the true office of mine eyes? Is't real, that I see?

Hel. No, my good lord; 'Tis but the shadow of a wife you see, The name, and not the thing.

Ber. Both, both; O, pardon!

Hel. O, my good lord, when I was like this maid,

I found you wondrous kind. There is your ring, And, look you, here's your letter; This it says, When from my finger you can get this ring, And are by me with child, &c.—This is done: Will you be mine, now you are doubly won?

Ber. If she, my liege, can make me know this clearly,

I'll love her dearly, ever, ever dearly.

Hel. If it appear not plain, and prove untrue, Deadly divorce step between me and you:—O, my dear mother, do I see you living?

Laf. Mine eyes smell onions, I shall weep anon:—[To Parolles.] Good Tom Drum, lend me a handkerchief: So, I thank thee: wait on me home, I'll make sport with thee: Let thy courtesies alone, they are scurvy ones.

King. Let us from point to point this story know,

To make the even truth in pleasure flow:—

[To Diana.] If thou be'st yet a fresh uncropped flower,

Choose thou thy husband, and I'll pay thy dower;

For I can guess, that, by thy honest aid, Thou keep'st a wife, herself, thyself a maid.—

Of that, and all the progress, more and less,

Resolvedly more leisure shall express:

All yet seems well; and if it end so meet,

The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet.

[Flourish.]

Advancing.

The king's a beggar, now the play is done:

All is well ended, if this suit be won,

That you express content; which we will pay,

With strife to please you, day exceeding day:

Ours be your patience then, and yours our parts:

Your gentle hands lend us, and take our hearts.

[Exeunt.]

Taming of the Shrew.

Persons Represented.

A LORD.

CHRISTOPHER SLY, a drunken Tinker. } Persons
Hostess, Page, Players, Huntsmen, } in the
and other Servants attending on } Induc-
the Lord. } tion.

BAPTISTA, a rich Gentleman of Padua.

VINCENTIO, an old Gentleman of Pisa.

LUCENTIO, Son to Vincentio, in love with Bianca.

PETRUCHIO, a Gentleman of Verona, a Suitor
to Katharina.

GREMIO, } Suitors to Bianca.
HORTENSIO, }

TRANIO, }
BIONDELLO, } Servants to Lucentio.

GRUMIO, }
CURTIS, } Servants to Petruchio.

PEDANT, an old Fellow set up to personate
Vincentio.

KATHARINA, the Shrew, }
BIANCA, her Sister, } Daughter to Baptista.
Widow.

Tailor, Haberdasher, and Servants attending
on Baptista and Petruchio.

SCENE.—Sometimes in Padua; and sometimes in Petruchio's House in the Country.

INDUCTION.¹

SCENE I.—BEFORE AN ALEHOUSE ON A HEATH.

Enter Hostess and Sly.

Sly. I'll pheeze² you in faith.

Host. A pair of stocks, you rogue!

Sly. Y'are a baggage; the Slies are no rogues:
Look in the chronicles, we came in with Richard
Conqueror. Therefore *paucas pallabris*;³ let
the world slide: *Sessa!*⁴

Host. You will not pay for the glasses you
have burst?

Sly. No, not a denier:⁵ Go by, says Jeronimy;
—Go to thy cold bed, and warm thee.

Host. I know my remedy; I must go fetch
the thirdborough.⁶ [*Exit.*]

Sly. Third or fourth or fifth borough, I'll an-
swer him by law: I'll not budge an inch, boy;
let him come, and kindly.

[*Lies down on the ground, and falls asleep.*]

Wind Horns. Enter a Lord from hunting,
with Huntsmen and Servants.

Lord. Huntsman, I charge thee, tender well
my hounds:

Brach⁷ Merriman,—the poor cur is embossed,⁸—
And couple Clowder with the deep-mouth'd
brach.

Saw'st thou not, boy, how Silver made it good
At the hedge corner, in the coldest fault?
I would not lose the dog for twenty pound.

1 Hun. Why, Belman is as good as he, my lord;
He cried upon it at the merest loss,
And twice to-day pick'd out the duller scent:
Trust me, I take him for the better dog,

Lord. Thou art a fool; if Echo were as fleet,
I would esteem him worth a dozen such.
But sup them well, and look unto them all;
To-morrow I intend to hunt again.

1 Hun. I will, my lord.

Lord. What's here? one dead, or drunk? See,
doth he breathe?

1 Introduction. *4 Be quiet.* *7 Bitch.*

2 Beat. *5 Small French coin.* *8 Strained.*

3 Few words. *6 Constable.*

2 Hun. He breathes, my lord: Were he not
warm'd with ale,
This were a bed but cold to sleep so soundly.

Lord. O monstrous beast! how like a swine
he lies!

Grim death, how foul and loathsome is thine
image!

Sirs, I will practise on this drunken man.—
What think you, if he were convey'd to bed,
Wrapp'd in sweet clothes, rings put upon his
A most delicious banquet by his bed, [fingers,
And brave attendants near him when he wakes,
Would not the beggar then forget himself?

1 Hun. Believe me, lord, I think he cannot
choose. [he wak'd.

2 Hun. It would seem strange unto him when
Lord. Even as a flattering dream, or worthless
fancy.

Then take him up, and manage well the jest:—
Carry him gently to my fairest chamber,
And hang it round with all my wanton pictures:
Balm his foul head with warm distilled waters,
And burn sweet wood to make the lodging sweet:
Procure me musick ready when he wakes,
To make a dulcet and a heavenly sound;
And if he chance to speak, be ready straight,
And, with a low submissive reverence,
Say,—What is it your honour will command?
Let one attend him with a silver bason,
Full of rose-water, and bestrew'd with flowers;
Another bear the ewer, the third a diaper,
And say,—Will't please your lordship cool your
Some one be ready with a costly suit, [hands?
And ask him what apparel he will wear;
Another tell him of his hounds and horse,
And that his lady mourns at his disease:
Persuade him that he hath been lunatick;
And, when he says he is,—say that he dreams,
For he is nothing but a mighty lord.
This do, and do it kindly, gentle sirs;
It will be pastime passing excellent,
If it be husbanded with modesty.¹ [part.

1 Hu. My lord, I warrant you, we'll play our

1 Moderation.

As he shall think, by our true diligence,
He is no less than what we say he is.

L. Take him up gently, and to bed with him;
And each one to his office when he wakes.—

[*Some bear out Sly. A trumpet sounds.*]

Sirrah, go see what trumpet 'tis that sounds:—

[*Exit Servant.*]

Belike, some noble gentleman; that means,
Travelling some journey, to repose him here.—

Re-enter a Servant.

How now? who is it?

Serv. An it please your honour,
Players that offer service to your lordship.

Lord. Bid them come near:—

Enter Players.

Now, fellows, you are welcome.

1 Play. We thank your honour,

Lord. Do you intend to stay with me to-night?

2 Play. So please your lordship to accept our duty. [member,

Lord. With all my heart.—This fellow I re-
Since once he play'd a farmer's eldest son:—

'Twas where you wou'd the gentlewoman so well:
I have forgot your name; but sure that part
Was aptly fitted, and naturally perform'd.

1 P. I think, 'twas Soto that your honour means.

Lord. 'Tis very true;—thou didst it excellent.

Well, you are come to me in happy time;

The rather, for I have some sport in hand,

Wherein your cunning can assist me much.

There is a lord will hear you play to-night:

But I am doubtful of your modesties¹;

Lest, over-eying of his odd behaviour,

(For yet his honour never heard a play),

You break into some merry passion,

And so offend him; for I tell you, sirs,

If you should smile, he grows impatient.

1 Play. Fearnot, my lord; we can contain our-

Were he the veriest antick in the world. [selves,

Lord. Go, sirrah, take them to the buttery,

And give them friendly welcome every one;

Let them want nothing that my house affords.—

[*Ezeunt Servant and Players.*]

[*To a Servant.*] *Sirrah*, go you to Bartholomew

my page,

And see him dress'd in all suits like a lady;

That done, conduct him to the drunkard's cham-

And call him—madam, do him obeisance, [ber,

Tell him from me (as he will win my love),

He bear himself with honourable action,

Such as he hath observ'd in noble ladies

Unto their lords, by them accomplished:

Such duty to the drunkard let him do,

With soft low tongue, and lowly courtesy;

And say—What is't your honour will command,

Wherein your lady, and your humble wife,

May show her duty, and make known her love?

And then—with kind embracements, tempting

kisses,

And with declining head into his bosom,—

Bid him shed tears, as being overjoy'd

To see her noble lord restor'd to health,

Who, for twice seven years, hath esteemed him

No better than a poor and loathsome beggar:

And if the boy have not a woman's gift,

To rain a shower of commanded tears,

¹ Behaviour.

An onion will do well for such a shift;
Which in a napkin being close convey'd,
Shall in despite enforce a watery eye.
See this despatch'd with all the haste thou canst;
Anon I'll give thee more instructions.—

[*Exit Servant.*]

I know, the boy will well usurp the grace,
Voice, gait, and action of a gentlewoman:

I long to hear him call the drunkard, husband;

And how my men will stay themselves from
laughter,

When they do homage to this simple peasant,

I'll in to counsel them: haply my presence

May well abate the over-merry spleen,¹

Which otherwise would go into extremes.

[*Ezeunt.*]

SCENE II.

A BEDCHAMBER IN THE LORD'S HOUSE.

Sly is discovered in a rich night-gown, with
Attendants; some with apparel, others with
bason, ewer, and other appurtenances. Enter
Lord, dressed like a Servant.

Sly. For heaven's sake, a pot of small ale.

1 Serv. Will't please your lordship, drink a
cup of sack?

2 Serv. Will't please your honour, taste of
these conserves? [day?

3 S. What raiment will your honour wear to-

Sly. I am Christopher Sly; call not me—honour,

nor lordship; I never drank sack in my life; and

if you give me any conserves, give me conserves

of beef: Ne'er ask me what raiment I'll wear;

for I have no more doublets than backs, no more

stockings than legs, nor no more shoes than feet;

nay, sometimes, more feet than shoes, or such

shoes as my toes look through the over-leather.

Lord. Heaven cease this idle humour in your

O, that a mighty man of such descent, [honour,

Of such possessions, and so high esteem,

Should be infused with so foul a spirit!

Sly. What, would you make me mad? Am not

I Christopher Sly, old Sly's son of Burton-heath;

by birth a pedlar, by education a card-maker, by

transmutation a bear-herd, and now by present

profession a tinker? Ask Marian Hacket, the fat

ale-wife of Wincot, if she know me not; if she

say I am not fourteen pence on the score for

sheer ale, score me up for the lyingest knave

in Christendom. What, I am not bestraught;²

Here's—

1 S. O, this it is that makes your lady mourn,

2 Serv. O, this it is that makes your servants

droop. [your house,

Lord. Hence comes it that your kindred shun

As beaten hence by your strange lunacy.

O, noble lord, bethink thee of thy birth;

Call home thy ancient thoughts from banishment,

And banish hence these abject lowly dreams:

Look how thy servants do attend on thee,

Each in his office ready at thy beck.

Wilt thou have musick? hark! Apollo plays,

[*Musick.*]

And twenty caged nightingales do sing:

Or wilt thou sleep? we'll have thee to a couch,

Softer and sweeter than the lustful bed

On purpose trimm'd up for Semiramis.

¹ Humour.

² Distracted.

Say, thou wilt walk; we will bestrew the ground;
Or wilt thou ride? thy horses shall be trapp'd,
Their harness studded all with gold and pearl.
Dost thou love hawking? thou hast hawks will
Above the morning lark: Or wilt thou hunt? [spear
Thy hounds shall make the welkin answer them,
And fetch shrill echoes from the hollow earth,

1 *Serv.* Say, thou wilt course; thy greyhounds
are as swift

As breathed stags, ay, fleeter than the roe.

2 *Serv.* Dost thou love pictures? we will fetch
these straight,

Adonis, painted by a running brook:

And Cytherea, all in sedges hid; [breath,
Which seem to move and wanton with her
Even as the waving sedges play with wind,

3 *Serv.* Or Daphne, roaming through a thorny
wood; [bleeds;

Scratching her feet that one shall swear she
And at that sight shall sad Apollo weep,
So workmanly the blood and tears are drawn.

Lord. Thou art a lord, and nothing but a lord,
Thou hast a lady far more beautiful,
Than any woman in the waning age. [them,

1 *Serv.* And till the tears that she hath shed for
Like envious floods, o'er-ran her lovely face,
She was the fairest creature in the world;
And yet she is inferior to none.

Sly. Am I a lord, and have I such a lady?
Or do I dream! or have I dream'd till now?

I do not sleep; I see, I hear, I speak;
I smell sweet savours, and I feel soft things:—
Upon my life, I am a lord, indeed;

And not a tinker, nor Christophere Sly.—
Well, bring our lady hither to our sight:
And once again, a pot o' the smallest ale.

2 *Serv.* Will't please your mightiness to wash
your hands?

[*Servants present an ewer, basin, and napkin.*
O, how we joy to see your wit restor'd!

O, that once more you knew but what you are!
These fifteen years you have been in a dream;
Or, when you wak'd, so wak'd as if you slept.

Sly. These fifteen years! by my fay, a goodly
But did I never speak of all that time? [nap.

1 *Serv.* O, yes, my lord; but very idle words:—
For though you lay here in this goodly chamber,
Yet would you say, ye were beaten out of door;
And rail upon the hostess of the house;

And say, you would present her at the leet,²
Because she brought stone jugs and no seal'd
quarts: [Hacket,

Sometimes you would call out for Cicely
Sly. Ay, the woman's maid of the house.

3 *Serv.* Why, sir, you know no house, nor no
such maid;

Nor no such men, as you have reckon'd up,—
As Stephen Sly, and old John Naps of Greece,
And Peter Turf, and Henry Pimpernell;
And twenty more such names and men as these,
Which never were, nor no man ever saw.

Sly. Now, Lord be thanked for my good
All. Amen. [amends!

Sly. I thank thee; thou shalt not lose by it.

Enter the Page, as a lady, with Attendants.

Page. How fares my noble lord?

1 Vault of heaven.

2 Court-house.

Sly. Marry, I fare well; for here is cheer
enough. Where is my wife? [her?

P. Here, noble lord; What is thy will with
Sly. Are you my wife, and will not call me
husband? [man,

My men should call me—lord; I am your good-
Page. My husband and my lord, my lord and

I am your wife in all obedience. [husband;

Sly. I know it well:—What must I call her?

Lord. Madam.

Sly. Alice madam, or Joan madam? [ladies.

Lord. Madam, and nothing else; so lords call

Sly. Madam wife, they say that I have dream'd
and slept

Above some fifteen year and more.

Page. Ay, and the time seems thirty unto me.

Enter a Servant.

Se. Your honour's players, hearing your amend-
Are come to play a pleasant comedy. [ment,

For so your doctors hold it very meet;
Seeing too much sadness hath congeal'd your

And melancholy is the nurse of frenzy, [blood,
Therefore, they thought it good you hear a play,
And frame your mind to mirth and merriment,

Which bars a thousand harms, and lengthens life.

Sly. Marry, I will; let them play it: Is not a
commodity¹ a Christmas gambol, or a tumbling-
trick?

P. No, my good lord; it is more pleasing stuff.

Sly. What, household stuff?

Page. It is a kind of history.

Sly. Well, we'll see't: Come, madam wife,
sit by my side, and let the world slip; we shall
ne'er be younger. [They sit down.

Act First.

SCENE I.—PADUA. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Iancientio and Tranio.

Luc, Tranio, since—for the great desire I had
To see fair Padua, nursery of arts,—

I am arriv'd for fruitful Lombardy,
The pleasant garden of great Italy;

And by my father's love and leave, am arm'd
With his good will, and thy good company,

Most trusty servant, well approv'd in all;
Here let us breathe, and happily institute

A course of learning, and ingenious² studies.
Pisa, renowned for grave citizens,

Gave me my being, and my father first,
A merchant of great traffick through the world.

Vincentio, come of the Bentivoli,
Vincentio, his son, brought up in Florence,

It shall become, to serve all hopes conceiv'd,
To deck his fortune with his virtuous deeds:

And therefore, Tranio, for the time I study,
Virtue, and that part of philosophy

Will I apply, that treats of happiness
By virtue³ specially to be achiev'd.

Tell me thy mind: for I have Pisa left,
And am to Padua come: as he that leaves

A shallow plash, to plunge him in the deep,
And with satiety seeks to quench his thirst,

Tra. Mi perdonate,³ gentle master mine,
1 Comedy. 2 Intellectual. 3 Pardon me.

I am in all affected as yourself;
 Glad that you thus continue your resolve,
 To suck the sweets of sweet philosophy.
 Only, good master, while we do admire
 This virtue, and this moral discipline,
 Let's be no stoicks, nor no stocks, I pray;
 Or so devout to Aristotle's checks.¹
 As Ovid be an outcast quite abjur'd:
 Talk logic with acquaintance that you have,
 And practise rhetoric in your common talk:
 Musick and poesy use to quicken you;
 The mathematicks and the metaphysicks,
 Fall to them as you find your stomach serves you:
 No profit grows, where is no pleasure ta'en;—
 In brief, sir, study what you most affect.

L. Gramercies, Tranio, well dost thou advise.
 If, Biondello, thou wert come ashore,
 We could at once put us in readiness;
 And take a lodging fit to entertain
 Such friends, as time in Padua shall beget.
 But stay a while: What company is this?

T. Master, some show, to welcome us to town.

Enter Baptista, Katharina, Bianca, Gremio, and Hortensio. Lucentio and Tranio stand aside.

Bap. Gentlemen, impōrtune me no further,
 For now I firmly am resolv'd you know;
 That is,—not to bestow my youngest daughter,
 Before I have a husband for the elder:
 If either of you both love Katharina,
 Because I know you well, and love you well,
 Leave shall you have to court her at your pleasure.

G. To cart her rather: She's too rough for me:—
 There, there Hortensio, will you any wife?

Kath. [To Bap.] I pray you, sir, is it your will
 To make a stale² of me among these mates?

H. Mates, maid? how mean you that? no
 mates for you,

Unless you were of gentler, milder mould.

Kath. I' faith, sir, you shall never need to fear;
 I wis,³ it is not half way to her heart:

But, if it were, doubt not her care should be
 To comb your noddle with a three-legg'd stool,
 And paint your face, and use you like a fool.

Hor. From all such devils, heaven deliver us!

Gre. And me too.

Tra. Hush, master! here is some good pas-
 time toward;

That wench is stark mad, or wonderful froward.

Luc. But in the other's silence I do see
 Maid's mild behaviour and sobriety.

Peace, Tranio. [fill.]

Tra. Well said, master; mum! and gaze your

Bap. Gentlemen, that I may soon make good
 What I have said,—Bianca, get you in:
 And let it not displease thee, good Bianca;
 For I will love thee ne'er the less, my girl.

Kath. A pretty peat⁴! 'tis best

Put finger in the eye,—an she knew why.

Bian. Sister, content you in my discontent.—
 Sir, to your pleasure humbly I subscribe;
 My books and instruments shall be my com-
 On them to look, and practise by myself. [pany;

Luc. [Aside.] Hark, Tranio! thou mayst hear
 Minerva speak.

Hor. Signior Baptista, will you be so strange?

Sorry am I, that our good will effects
 Bianca's grief.

Gre. Why will you mew her up,
 Signior Baptista, for this fiend of hell,
 And make her bear the penance of her tongue?

Bap. Gentlemen, content ye; I am resolv'd:—
 Go in, Bianca. [Exit Bianca.]

And, for I know, she taketh most delight
 In musick, instruments and poetry,
 Schoolmasters will I keep within my house
 Fit to instruct her youth.—If you, Hortensio,
 Or signior Gremio, you,—know any such,
 Prefer them hither; for to cunning men
 I will be very kind, and liberal

To mine own children in good bringing up;
 And so farewell. Katharina, you may stay;
 For I have more to commune with Bianca. [Exit.]

K. Why, and I trust, I may go too; May I not?
 What shall I be appointed hours; as though,
 belike,

I knew not what to take, and what to leave? [Exit.]

Gre. Your gifts are so good, here is none will
 hold you. Our love is not so great, Hortensio,
 but we may blow our nails together, and fast it
 fairly out; our cake's dough on both sides.
 Farewell:—Yet, for the love I bear my sweet
 Bianca, if I can by any means light on a fit
 man, to teach her that wherein she delights, I
 will wish him to her father.

Hor. So will I, signior Gremio: But a word,
 I pray. Though the nature of our quarrel yet
 never brook'd parole, know now, upon advice,¹ it
 toucheth us both,—that we may yet again have
 access to our fair mistress, and be happy rivals
 in Bianca's love,—to labour and effect one thing

Gre. What's that, I pray? [specially.]

Hor. Marry, sir, to get a husband for her
 Gre. A husband! a devil. [sister.]

Hor. I say, a husband.

Gre. I say, a devil: Think'st thou, Hortensio,
 though her father be very rich, any man is so
 very a fool to be married to her?

Hor. Tush, Gremio, though it pass your pa-
 tience, and mine, to endure her loud alarms,
 why, man, there be good fellows in the world,
 an a man could light on them, would take her
 with all faults, and money enough.

Gre. I cannot tell; but I had as lief² take
 her dowry with this condition,—to be whipped
 at the high-cross, every morning.

Hor. Faith as you say, there's small choice
 in rotten apples. But, come; since this bar in
 law makes us friends, it shall be so forth
 friendly maintained,—till by helping Baptista's
 eldest daughter to a husband, we set his
 youngest free for a husband, and then have
 to't afresh.—Sweet Bianca!—Happy man be
 his dole³! How say you, signior Gremio?

Gre. I am agreed: and 'would I had given
 him the best horse in Padua to begin his
 wooing, that would thoroughly woo her, wed
 her, and rid the house of her. Come on.

[Exit Gremio and Hortensio.]

Tra. [Advancing.] I pray, sir, tell me,—is it
 possible

That love should of a sudden take such hold?

Luc. O Tranio, till I found it to be true,

I never thought it possible, or likely ;
But see ! while idly I stood looking on,
I found the effect of love in idleness :
And now in plainness do confess to thee,—
That art to me as secret, and as dear,
As Anna to the queen of Carthage was,—
Tranio, I burn, I pine, I perish, Tranio,
If I achieve not this young modest girl :
Counsel me, Tranio, for I know thou canst ;
Assist me, Tranio, for I know thou wilt.

Tra. Master, it is no time to chide you now ;
Affection is not rated¹ from the heart :
If love have touch'd you, nought remains but
Redime te captum quam queas minimo. [so,—
L. Gramercies, lad ; go forward : this contents ;
The rest will comfort, for thy counsel's sound.

Tra. Master, you look'd so longly² on the maid,
Perhaps you mark'd not what's the pith of all.
Luc. O yes, I saw sweet beauty in her face,
Such as the daughter of Agenor³ had,
That made great Jove to humble him to her hand,
When with his knees he kiss'd the Cretan strand.

Tra. Saw you no more ? mark'd you not, how
her sister

Began to scold ; and raise up such a storm,
That mortal ears might hardly endure the din ?

Luc. Tranio, I saw her coral lips to move,
And with her breath she did perfume the air ;
Sacred, and sweet, was all I saw in her.

Tra. Nay, then 'tis time to stir him from his
I pray, awake, sir ; If you love the maid, [trance,
Bend thoughts and wits to achieve her. Thus it
Her elder sister is so curst and shrewd,* [stands :—
That, till the father rid his hands of her,
Master, your love must live a maid at home ;
And therefore has he closely mew'd her up,
Because she shall not be annoy'd with suitors.

Luc. Ah, Tranio, what a cruel father's he !
But art thou not advis'd, he took some care
To get her cunning schoolmasters to instruct her ?

Tra. Ay, marry, am I, sir ; and now 'tis plotted.

Luc. I have it, Tranio.

Tra. Master, for my hand,
Both our inventions meet and jump in one.

Luc. Tell me thine first.

Tra. You will be schoolmaster,
And undertake the teaching of the maid :
That's your device.

Luc. It is : May it be done ?

T. Not possible ; For who shall bear your part,
And be in Padua here Vincentio's son ? [friends ;
Keep house, and ply his book ; welcome his
Visit his countrymen, and banquet them ?

Luc. Basta⁵ ; content thee ; for I have it full.
We have not yet been seen in any house ;
Nor can we be distinguished by our faces,
For man, or master : then it follows thus :—
Thou shalt be master, Tranio, in my stead,
Keep house, and port,⁶ and servants, as I should :
I will some other be ; some Florentine,
Some Neapolitan, or mean man of Pisa.
'Tis hatch'd, and shall be so :—Tranio, at once
Uncase thee ; take my colour'd hat and cloak :
When Biondello comes, he waits on thee ;
But I will charm him first to keep his tongue.

Tra. So had you need. [They exchange habits.

In brief then, sir, sith¹ it your pleasure is,
And I am tied to be obedient ;
(For so your father charg'd me at our parting ;
Be serviceable to my son, quoth he,
Although, I think, 'twas in another sense,)
I am content to be Lucentio,
Because so well I love Lucentio.

Luc. Tranio, be so, because Lucentio loves :
And let me a slave, to achieve that maid
Whose sudden sight hath thrall'd my wounded
eye.

Enter Biondello.

Here comes the rogue.—Sirrah, where have you
been ? [are you ?

Bion. Where have I been ? Nay, how now, where
Master, has my fellow Tranio stol'n your clothes ?
Or you stol'n his ? or both ? pray, what's the news ?

Luc. Sirrah, come hither ; 'tis no time to jest,
And therefore frame your manners to the time.
Your fellow Tranio here, to save my life,
Puts my apparel and my countenance on,
And I for my escape have put on his ;
For in a quarrel, since I came ashore,
I kill'd a man, and fear I was descried :
Wait you on him, I charge you, as becomes,
While I make way from hence to save my life :
You understand me ?

Bion. I, sir, ne'er a whit.

Luc. And not a jot of Tranio in your mouth ;
Tranio is chang'd into Lucentio.

Bion. The better for him ; Would I were so too !

Tra. So would I, boy, to have the next wish
after,—

That Lucentio indeed had Baptista's youngest
daughter. [—I advise

But, sirrah,—not for my sake, but your master's,
You use your manners discreetly in all kind of
companies :

When I am alone, why, then I am Tranio ;
But in all places else, your master Lucentio.

Luc. Tranio, let's go :—

One thing more rests, that thyself execute ;—
To make one among these wooers : If thou ask
me why,
Sufficeth, my reasons are both good and weighty.

[Exeunt.

1 Serv. My lord, you nod ; you do not mind
the play.

Sly. Yes, by Saint Anne, do I. A good
matter, surely : Comes there any more of it ?

Page. My lord, 'tis but begun.

Sly. 'Tis a very excellent piece of work,
madam lady : 'Would, 'twere done !

SCENE II.—BEFORE HORTENSIO'S HOUSE.

Enter Petruchio and Grumio.

Pet. Verona, for a while I take my leave,
To see my friends in Padua ; but, of all,
My best beloved and approved friend,
Hortensio ; and, I trow, this is his house :—
Here, sirrah Grumio ! knock, I say.

Gru. Knock, sir ! whom should I knock ? is
there any man has rebused your worship ?

Pet. Villain, I say, knock me here soundly.

Gru. Knock you here, sir ? why, sir, what
am I, sir, that I should knock you here, sir.

1 Since.

¹ Chidden. ² Entrapa. ³ Enough.
⁴ Longingly. ⁵ Shrewish and violent. ⁶ Appearance.

Pet. Villain, I say, knock me at this gate,
And rap me well, or I'll knock your knave's pate.

Gru. My master is grown quarrelsome: I
should knock you first,

And then I know after who comes by the worst.

Pet. Will it not be?

'Faith, sirrah, an you'll not knock, I'll wring it.
I'll try how you can *sol, fa*, and sing it.

[*He wrings Grumio by the ears.*]

Gru. Help, masters, help! my master is mad.

P. Now, knock when I bid you: sirrah! villain!

[*Enter Hortensio.*]

Hor. How now? what's the matter?—My old
friend Grumio! and my good friend Petruchio!
—How do you all at Verona?

Pet. Signior Hortensio, come you to part the
fray? *Con tutto il core bene trovato*,¹ may I say.

Hor. *Alla nostra casa bene venuto*,²

Molto honorato signor mio Petruchio. [quarrel.
Rise, Grumio, rise; we will compound this

Gru. Nay, 'tis no matter, what he 'leges in
Latin.—If this be not a lawful cause for me to
leave his service,—Look you, sir,—he bid me
knock him, and rap him soundly, sir: Well, was
it fit for a servant to use his master so; being,
perhaps (for aught I see), two-and-thirty,—a
pip out? [first,

Whom, 'would to heaven I had well knock'd at
Then had not Grumio come by the worst.

Pet. A senseless villain—Good Hortensio,
I bade the rascal knock upon your gate,
And could not get him for my heart to do it.

Gru. Knock at the gate?—O heavens!
Spake you not these words plain—*Sirrah, knock
me here,* [soundly?

*Rap me here, knock me well, and knock me
And come you now with—knocking at the gate?*

Pet. Sirrah, be gone, or talk not, I advise you.

H. Petruchio, patience; I am Grumio's pledge:
Why, this a heavy chance 'twixt him and you;
Your ancient, trusty, pleasant servant Grumio.
And tell me now, sweet friend,—what happy gale
Blows you to Padua here, from old Verona?

Pet. Such wind as scatters young men through
the world,

To seek their fortunes further than at home,
Where small experience grows. But, in a few,
Signior Hortensio, thus it stands with me:—

Antonio, my father, is deceased;
And I have thrust myself into this maze,
Haply to wive, and thrive, as best I may:
Crowns in my purse I have, and goods at home,
And so am come abroad to see the world.

H. Petruchio, shall I then come roundly to thee,
And wish thee to a shrewd ill-favour'd wife?
Thou'dst thank me but a little for my counsel:
And yet I'll promise thee she shall be rich,
And very rich:—but thou'rt too much my friend,
And I'll not wish thee to her.

P. Signior Hortensio, 'twixt such friends as we,
Few words suffice: and therefore, if thou know
One rich enough to be Petruchio's wife,
(As wealth is burden of my wooing dance,)
Be she as foul as was Florentius' love,
As old as Sybil, and as curst and shrewd
As Socrates' Xantippe, or a worse,
She moves me not, or not removes, at least,

1 With all the heart, welcome. 2 To our house welcome.

Affection's edge in me; were she as rough
As are the swelling Adriatick seas:

I come to wive it wealthily in Padua;

If wealthily, then happily in Padua.

Gru. Nay, look you, sir, he tells you flatly what
his mind is: Why, give him gold enough and
marry him to a puppet, or an aglet baby¹; or an
old trot with ne'er a tooth in her head: why
nothing comes amiss, so money comes withal.

H. Petruchio, since we have stepp'd thus far
I will continue that I broach'd in jest. [id,
I can, Petruchio, help thee to a wife
With wealth enough, and young, and beauteous:
Brought up as best becomes a gentlewoman:
Her only fault (and that is fault enough,)

Is,—that she is intolerably curst,
And shrewd, and froward; so beyond all measure,
That, were my state far worse than it is,
I would not wed her for a mine of gold.

Pet. Hortensio, peace; thou know'st not
gold's effect:—

Tell me her father's name, and 'tis enough;
For I will board her, though she chide as loud
As thunder, when the clouds in autumn crack.

Hor. Her father is Baptista Minola,
An affable and courteous gentleman:
Her name is Katharina Minola,
Renown'd in Padua for her scolding tongue.

P. I know her father, though I know not her;
And he knew my deceased father well:—
I will not sleep, Hortensio, till I see her;
And therefore let me be thus bold with you,
To give you over at this first encounter,
Unless you will accompany me thither.

Gru. I pray you, sir, let him go while the
humour lasts. O my word, an she knew him as
well as I do, she would think scolding would do
little good upon him: She may, perhaps, call
him half a score knaves, or so: why, that's
nothing; an he begin once, he'll rail in his rope-
tricks.² I'll tell you what, sir,—an she stand
him but a little, he will throw a figure in her
face, and so disfigure her with it, that she shall
have no more eyes to see withal than a cat: You
know him not, sir.

Hor. Tarry, Petruchio, I must go with thee;
For in Baptista's keep my treasure is;
He hath the jewel of my life in hold,
His youngest daughter, beautiful Bianca;
And her withholds from me, and other more
Suitors to her, and rivals in my love:
Supposing it a thing impossible,
(For those defects I have before rehears'd,)
That ever Katharina will be woo'd,
Therefore this order³ hath Baptista ta'en:—
That none shall have access unto Bianca,
Till Katharine the curst have got a husband.

Gru. Katharine the curst:
A title for a maid, of all titles the worst.
H. Now shall my friend Petruchio do me grace;
And offer me, disguis'd in sober robes,
To old Baptista as a schoolmaster
Well seen⁴ in musick, to instruct Bianca:
That so I may by this device, at least,
Have leave and leisure to make love to her,
And, unsuspected, court her by herself.

1 Image on the tag of a lace.

2 Abusive language.

3 These measures

4 Versed

Enter Gremio; with him Lucentio disguised, with books under his arm.

Gru. Here's no knavery! See; to beguile the old folks, how the young folks lay their heads together! Master, master, look about you: Who goes there? ha!

Hor. Peace, Grumio; 'tis the rival of my love:—Petruchio, stand by a while.

Gru. A proper stripling, and an amorous.

[They retire.]

Gre. O, very well; I have perused the note. Hark you, sir; I'll have them very fairly bound; All books of love, see that at any hand; And see you read no other lectures to her; You understand me:—over and beside Signior Baptista's liberality, *[too,* I'll mend it with a largess!—Take your papers and let me have them very well perfum'd; For she is sweeter than perfume itself, To whom they go. What will you read to her?

Luc. Whate'er I read to her, I'll plead for you, As for my patron, *(stand you so assur'd,)* As firmly as yourself were still in place; Yea, and *(perhaps)* with more successful words Than you, unless you were a scholar, sir.

Gre. O this learning! what a thing it is!

Gru. O this woodcock! what an ass it is!

Pet. Peace, sirrah.

H. Grumio, munn!—Save you, signior Gremio!

Gre. And you're well met, signior Hortensio, Trow you,

Whither I am going?—To Baptista Minola.

I promis'd to enquire carefully

About a schoolmaster for fair Bianca:

And, by good fortune, I have lighted well On this young man: for learning and behaviour, Fit for her turn; well read in poetry, And other books,—good ones I warrant you.

Hor. 'Tis well: and I have met a gentleman, Hath promis'd me to help me to another, A fine musician, to instruct our mistress; So shall I no whit be behind in duty To fair Bianca, so belov'd of me.

Gre. Belov'd of me,—and that my deeds shall prove.

Gru. *[Aside.]* And that his bags shall prove.

Hor. Gremio, 'tis now no time to vent our love: Listen to me, and if you speak me fair, I'll tell you news indifferent good for either. Here is a gentleman, whom by chance I met, Upon agreement from us to his liking, Will undertake to woo curst Katherine: Yea, and to marry her, if her dowry please.

Gre. So said, so done, is well:—

Hortensio, have you told him all her faults?

Pet. I know; she is an irksome brawling scold; If that be all, masters, I hear no harm. *[Man?]*

Gre. No, say'st me so, friend? What country?

Pet. Born in Verona, old Antonio's son: My father dead, my fortune lives for me; And I do hope good days, and long, to see.

Gre. O, sir, such a life, with such a wife, were strange:

But, if you have a stomach, to't I pray you; You shall have me assisting you in all.

But will you woo this wild-cat?

Pet.

Will I live?

Gru. *[Aside.]* Will he woo her? ay, or I'll hang her.

Pet. Why came I hither, but to that intent? Think you, a little din can daunt mine ears?

Have I not in my time heard lions roar?

Have I not heard the sea, puffed up with winds,

Rage like an angry boar, chafed with sweat?

Have I not heard great ordnance in the field,

And heaven's artillery thunder in the skies?

Have I not in a pitched battle heard *[clang?]*

Loud 'larums, neighing steeds, and trumpets?

And do you tell me of a woman's tongue;

That gives not half so great a blow to the ear,

As will a chestnut in a farmer's fire?

Tush! tush! fear boys with bugs.¹

Gru. *[Aside.]* For he fears none.

Gre. Hortensio, hark?

This gentleman is happily arriv'd,

My mind presumes, for his own good, and yours.

Hor. I promis'd we would be contributors,

And bear his charge of wooing, whatsoe'er.

Gre. And so we will; provided, that he win her.

Gru. *[Aside.]* I would, I were as sure of a good dinner.

Enter Tranio, bravely apparell'd; and Biondello.

Tra. Gentlemen, save you! If I may be bold, Tell me, I beseech you which is the readiest way To the house of signior Baptista Minola?

Gre. He that has the two fair daughters:—*[Aside to Tranio.]* is't he you mean?

Tra. Even he. Biondello!

Gre. Hark you, sir; You mean not her to—

Tra. Perhaps, him and her, sir; What have you to do?

P. Nother that chides, sir, at any hand, I pray.

Tra. I love no chiders, sir;—Biondello, let's

Luc. *[Aside.]* Well begun, Tranio. *[away.]*

Hor. Sir, a word ere you go;—

Are you a suitor to the maid you talk of, yea, or

Tra. And if I be, sir, is it any offence? *[no?]*

Gre. No; if, without more words, you will get you hence.

Tra. Why, sir, I pray, are not the streets as free For me, as for you?

Gre. But so is not she.

Tra. For what reason, I beseech you?

Gre. For this reason, if you'll know,—

That she's the choice love of signior Gremio.

H. That she's the chosen of signior Hortensio.

Tra. Softly, my masters! if you be gentlemen,

Do me this right,—hear me with patience.

Baptista is a noble gentleman,

To whom my father is not all unknown;

And, were his daughter fairer than she is,

She may more suitors have, and me for one.

Fair Leda's daughter had a thousand wooers;

Then well one more may fair Bianca have:

And so she shall; Lucentio shall make one,

Though Paris came, in hope to speed alone.

Gre. What! this gentleman will out-talk us all.

Luc. Sir, give him head; I know he'll prove a jade.

P. Hortensio, to what end are all these words?

Hor. Sir, let me be so bold as to ask you,

Did you yet ever see Baptista's daughter?

Tra. No, sir; but hear I do, that he hath two.

¹ Bugbears.

The one as famous for a scolding tongue,
As is the other for beauteous modesty.

Pet. Sir, sir, the first's for me; let her go by.

Gre. Yea, leave that labour to great Hercules;
And let it be more than Alcides' twelve.

Pet. Sir, understand you this of me, in sooth:—
The youngest daughter, whom you hearken for,
Her father keeps from all access of suitors;
And will not promise her to any man,
Until the elder sister first be wed:

The younger then is free, and not before.

Tra. If it be so, sir, that you are the man
Must stead us all, and me among the rest;
An if you break the ice, and do this feat,—
Achieve the elder, set the younger free
For our access,—whose hap shall be to have her,
Will not so graceless be, to be ingrate.

H. Sir, you say well, and well you do conceive;
And since you do profess to be a suitor,
You must, as we do, gratify this gentleman,
To whom we all rest generally beholden.

Tra. Sir, I shall not be slack: in sign whereof
Please ye we may contrive this afternoon,
And quaff carouses to our mistress' health;
And do as adversaries do in law,—
Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.

Gru. Bion. O excellent motion! Fellows, let's
be gone.

Hor. The motion's good indeed, and be it so;—
Petruchio, I shall be your *ben venuto*.¹ [*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN BAPTISTA'S HOUSE.

Enter Katharina and Bianca.

Bian. Good sister, wrong me not, nor wrong
yourself,

To make a bondmaid and a slave of me:
That I disdain; but for these other gawds,²
Unbind my hands, I'll pull them off myself,
Or, what you will command me, will I do,
So well I know my duty to my elders.

Kath. Of all thy suitors, here I charge thee, tell
Whom thou lov'st best: see thou dissemble not.

Bian. Believe me, sister, of all the men alive,
I never yet beheld that special face
Which I could fancy more than any other.

Kath. Minion, thou liest; Is't not Hortensio?
Bian. If you affect³ him, sister, here I swear,
I'll plead for you myself, but you shall have him.

Kath. O then, belike, you fancy riches more;
You will have Gremio to keep you fair.

Bian. Is it for him you do envy me so?
Nay, then you jest; and now I well perceive,
You have but jested with me all this while:
I pr'ythee, sister Kate, untie my hands.

Kath. If that be jest, then all the rest was so.
[*Strikes her.*]

Enter Baptista.

Bap. Why, how now, dame! whence grows
this insolence?—

Bianca, stand aside;—poor girl! she weeps:—
Go ply thy needle: meddle not with her.—

1 Welcome. 2 Trinkets. 3 Aim at

For shame, thou hilding¹ of a devilish spirit,
Why dost thou wrong her that did ne'er wrong
thee?

When did she cross thee with a bitter word?
K. Her silence flouts² me, and I'll be reveng'd.

[*Flies after Bianca.*]

Bap. What, in my sight?—Bianca, get thee in.
[*Exit Bianca.*]

Kath. Will you not suffer me? Nay, now I see,
She is your treasure, she must have a husband;
I must dance barefoot on her wedding-day.
Talk not to me; I will go sit and weep,
Till I can find occasion of revenge. [*Exit Kath.*]

Bap. Was ever gentleman thus griev'd as I!
But who comes here?

*Enter Gremio, with Lucentio in the habit of a
mean man; Petruchio, with Hortensio as a
musician; and Tranio, with Biondello bear-
ing a lute and books.*

Gre. Good-morrow, neighbour Baptista.

Bap. Good-morrow, neighbour Gremio: save
you, gentlemen!

Pet. And you, good sir! Pray, have you not
a daughter

Call'd Katharina, fair, and virtuous?

Bap. I have a daughter, sir, call'd Katharina.

Gre. You are too blunt, go to it orderly.

Pet. You wrong me, signior Gremio; give me
leave.—

I am a gentleman of Verona, sir,
That,—hearing of her beauty, and her wit,
Her affability, and bashful modesty,
Her wondrous qualities and mild behaviour,—
Am bold to show myself a forward guest
Within your house, to make mine eye the witness
Of that report which I so oft have heard.
And, for an entrance to my entertainment,
I do present you with a man of mine,
[*Presenting Hortensio.*]

Cunning in musick, and the mathematicks,
To instruct her fully in those sciences,
Whereof, I know, she is not ignorant:
Accept of him, or else you do me wrong;
His name is Licio, born in Mantua.

Bap. You're welcome, sir; and he, for your
good sake:

But for my daughter Katharine,—this I know,
She is not for your turn, the more my grief.

Pet. I see, you do not mean to part with her;
Or else you like not of my company.

Bap. Mistake me not, I speak but as I find.
Whence are you, sir? what may I call your name?

Pet. Petruchio is my name; Antonio's son,
A man well known throughout all Italy.

Bap. I know him well: you are welcome for
his sake.

Gre. Saving your tale, Petruchio, I pray,
Let us, that are poor petitioners, speak too:
Baccare! you are marvellous forward.

Pet. O, pardon me, signior Gremio; I would
fain be doing. [woeing.—]

Gre. I doubt it not, sir; but you will curse your
Neighbour, this is a gift very grateful, I am sure
of it. To express the like kindness myself, that
have been more kindly beholden to you than
any, I freely give unto you this young scholar

1 A worthless woman.

2 Mocks.

[*Presenting Lucentio.*] that hath been long studying at Rheims: as cunning in Greek, Latin, and other languages, as the other in musick and mathematicks: his name is Cambio; pray, accept his service.

Bap. A thousand thanks, signior Gremio; welcome, good Cambio.—But, gentle sir, [*To Tranio.*] methinks you walk like a stranger; May I be so bold to know the cause of your coming?

Tra. Pardon me, sir, the boldness is mine own; That, being a stranger in this city here, Do make myself a suitor to your daughter, Unto Bianca, fair, and virtuous. Nor is your firm resolve unknown to me, In the preferment of the eldest sister: This liberty is all that I request,— That, upon knowledge of my parentage, I may have welcome 'mongst the rest that woo, And free access and favour as the rest. And, toward the education of your daughters, I here bestow a simple instrument, And this small packet of Greek and Latin books: If you accept them, then their worth is great.

Bap. Lucentio is your name? of whence, I pray?

Tra. Of Pisa, sir; son to Vincentio.

Bap. A mighty man of Pisa; by report I know him well: you are very welcome, sir.— Take you [*To Hor.*] the lute, and you [*To Luc.*] the set of books,

You shall go see your pupils presently. Holla, within!

Enter a Servant.

Sirrah, lead [both, These gentlemen to my daughters; and tell them These are their tutors; bid them use them well.

[*Exit Servant, with Hortensio, Lucentio, and Biondello.*]

We will go walk a little in the orchard, And then to dinner: You are passing welcome, And so I pray you all to think yourselves.

P. Signior Baptista, my business asketh haste, And every day I cannot come to woo.

You knew my father well; and in him, me, Left solely heir to all his lands and goods, Which I have better'd rather than decreas'd: Then tell me,—if I get your daughter's love, What dowry shall I have with her to wife?

Bap. After my death, the one half of my lands: And, in possession, twenty thousand crowns.

Pet. And, for that dowry, I'll assure her of Her widowhood,—be it that she survive me,— In all my lands and leases whatsoever:

Let specialities be therefore drawn between us, That covenants may be kept on either hand.

B. Ay, when the special thing is well obtain'd, This is,—her love; for that is all in all.

P. Why, that is nothing; for I tell you, father, I am as peremptory as she proud-minded; And where two raging fires meet together, They do consume the thing that feeds their fury: Though little fire grows great with little wind, Yet extreme gusts will blow out fire and all: So I to her, and so she yields to me; For I am rough, and woo not like a babe.

Bap. Well may'st thou woo, and happy be thy speed!

But be thou arm'd for some unhappy words.

Pet. Ay, to the proof; as mountains are for winds,

That shake not, though they blow perpetually.

Re-enter Hortensio, with his head broken.

Bap. How now, my friend? why dost thou look so pale?

Hor. For fear, I promise you, if I look pale.

Bap. What, will my daughter prove a good musician?

Hor. I think, she'll sooner prove a soldier; Iron may hold with her, but never lutes. [*lute?*]

Bap. Why, then thou canst not break her to the *H.* Why, no; for she hath broke the lute to me.

I did but tell her, she mistook her frets,¹ And bow'd her hand to teach her fingering;

When, with a most impatient devilish spirit, *Frets, call you these?* quoth she: I'll fume with them:

And, with that word, she struck me on the head, And through the instrument my pate made way;

And there I stood amazed for a while, As on a pillory, looking through the lute

While she did call me,—rascal fiddler, And—twangling Jack; with twenty such vile

As she had studied to misuse me so. [*terms,*]

Pet. Now, by the world, it is a lusty wench; I love her ten times more than e'er I did:

O, how I long to have some chat with her!

Bap. Well, go with me, and be not so discomfited:

Proceed in practice with my younger daughter; She's apt to learn, and thankful for good turns.—

Signior Petruchio, will you go with us; Or shall I send my daughter Kate to you?

Pet. I pray you do; I will attend her here,— [*Exeunt Baptista, Gremio, Tranio, and Hortensio.*]

And woo her with some spirit when she comes. Say, that she rail: Why, then I'll tell her plain,

She sings as sweetly as a nightingale: Say, that she frown: I'll say, she looks as clear

As morning roses newly wash'd with dew: Say, she be mute, and will not speak a word;

Then I'll commend her volubility, And say—she uttereth piercing eloquence:

If she do bid me pack, I'll give her thanks, As though she bid me stay by her a week;

If she deny to wed, I'll crave the day [*ried.*— When I shall ask the banus, and when be mar-

But here she comes; and now, Petruchio, speak.

Enter Katharina.

Good-morrow, Kate; for that's your name, I hear.

Kath. Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing;

They call me—Katharine, that do talk of me.

Pet. You lie, in faith; for you are call'd plain Kate,

And bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst; But Kate, the prettiest Kate in Christendom,

Kate of Kate-Hall, my super-dainty Kate, For dainties are all eates; and therefore, Kate,

Take this of me, Kate of my consolation;— Hearing thy mildness prais'd in every town,

Thy virtues spoke of, and thy beauty sounded, (Yet not so deeply as to thee belongs,) Myself am mov'd to woo thee for my wife.

Kath. Mov'd! in good time: let him that
mov'd you hither,
Remove you hence: I knew you at the first,
You were a moveable.

Pet. Why, what's a moveable?

Kath. A joint-stool.

Pet. Thou hast hit it: come, sit on me.

Kath. Asses are made to bear, and so are you.

Pet. Alas, good Kate! I will not burden thee:
For, knowing thee to be but young and light,—

K. Too light for such a swain as you to catch;
And yet as heavy as my weight should be.

Pet. Should be? should buz.

Kath. Well ta'en, and like a buzzard.

Pet. O, slow-winged turtle! shall a buzzard
take thee?

Kath. Ay, for a turtle; as he takes a buzzard.

Pet. Come, come, you wasp; i' faith you are
too angry.

Kath. If I be waspish, best beware my sting.

Pet. My remedy is then to pluck it out.

Kath. Ay, if the fool could find it where it lies.

Pet. Who knows not where a wasp doth wear
his sting?

In his tail.

K. In his tongue.

Pet. Whose tongue?

K. Yours if you talk of tails; and so farewell.

Pet. Nay, come again.

Good Kate; I am a gentleman.

Kath. That I'll try. [*Striking him.*]

Pet. I swear I'll cuff you, if you strike again.

Kath. So may you lose your arms:

If you strike me, you are no gentleman;

And if no gentleman, why, then no arms.

Pet. A herald, Kate? O, put me in thy books.

Kath. What is your crest? a cox-comb?

Pet. A combless cock, so Kate will be my hen.

K. No cock of mine, you crow too like a crow.

Pet. Nay, come, Kate, come; you must not
look so sour.

Kath. It is my fashion, when I see a crab.

Pet. Why here's no crab: and therefore look
not sour.

Kath. There is, there is.

Pet. Then show it me.

Kath. Had I a glass, I would.

Pet. What, you mean my face?

Kath. Well aim'd of such a young one.

Pet. Now, by saint George, I am too young for

Kath. Yet you are wither'd. [*you.*]

Pet. 'Tis with cares.

Kath. I care not.

Pet. Nay, hear you, Kate: in sooth, you 'scape
not so.

Kath. I chafe you, if I tarry; let me go.

Pet. No, not a whit; I find you passing gentle.

'Twas told me, you were rough, and coy, and
And now I find report a very liar; [*sullen,*]

For thou art pleasant, gamesome, passing cour-
teous; [*flowers:*]

But slow in speech, yet sweet as spring-time
Thou canst not frown, thou canst not look
askance,

Nor bite the lip, as angry wenches will;

Nor hast thou pleasure to be cross in talk;

But thou with mildness entertain'st thy wooers.

With gentle conference, soft and affable.

Why does the world report, that Kate doth limp?
O slanderous world! Kate, like the hazel twig,
Is straight and slender; and as brown in hue
As hazle-nuts, and sweeter than the kernels.
O, let me see thee walk: thou dost not halt.

K. Go, fool, and whom thou keep'st command.

Pet. Did ever Dian so become a grove,
As Kate this chamber with her princely gait?

O, be thou Dian, and let her be Kate;

And then let Kate be chaste, and Dian sportful!

K. Where did you study all this goodly speech?

Pet. It is extempore, from my mother-wit.

Kath. A witty mother! witless else her son.

Pet. Am I not wise?

Kath. Yes, keep you warm.

Pet. Marry, so I mean, sweet Katherine,
And therefore, setting all this chat aside, [*led*]
Thus in plain terms:—Your father hath consent-
That you shall be my wife; your dowry 'greed on;
And, will you, nil you, I will marry you.

Now, Kate, I am a husband for your turn;
For, by this light, whereby I see thy beauty,

(Thy beauty, that doth make me like thee well,) Thou must be married to no man but me:

For I am he, am born to tame you, Kate;

And bring you from a wild-cat to a Kate

Conformable, as other household Kates.

Here comes your father; never make denial;

I must and will have Katherine to my wife.

Re-enter Baptista, Gremio, and Tranio.

Bap. Now,

Signior Petruchio: How speed you with
My daughter?

Pet. How but well, sir? how but well?
It were impossible I should speed amiss.

Bap. Why, how now, daughter Katharine? in
your dumps?

K. Call you me, daughter? now I promise you,
You have show'd a tender fatherly regard,

To wish me wed to one half lunatick;
A mad-cap ruffian, and a swearing Jack,

That thinks with oaths to face the matter out.

P. Father, 'tis thus,—yourself and all the world,
That talk'd of her, have talk'd amiss of her;

If she be curst, it is for policy:
For she's not froward,¹ but modest as the dove;

She is not hot, but temperate as the morn;
For patience she will prove a second Grissel;

And Roman Lucrece for her chastity: [*gether,*]
And to conclude,—we have 'greed so well to-
That upon Sunday is the wedding-day.

Kath. I'll see thee hanged on Sunday first.

Gre. Hark, Petruchio! she says she'll see thee
hang'd first.

Tra. Is this your speeding? nay, then, good
night our part! [*myself;*]

Pet. Be patient, gentlemen; I choose her for
If she and I be pleas'd, what's that to you?

'Tis bargain'd 'twixt us twain, being alone,
That she shall still be curst in company.

I tell you 'tis incredible to believe
How much she loves me: O, the kindest Kate!—

She hung about my neck; and kiss on kiss
She vied² so fast, protesting oath on oath,

That in a twink she won me to her love.
Give me thy hand, Kate: I will unto Venice,

To buy apparel 'gainst the wedding-day :—
Provide the feast, father, and bid the guests ;
I will be sure, my Katherine shall be fine.

B. I know not what to say ; give me your hands ;
Heaven send you joy, Petruchio ! 'tis a match.

Gre. Tra. Amen, say we ; we will be witnesses.

Pet. Father, and wife, and gentlemen, adieu ;
I will to Venice, Sunday comes apace :—

We will have rings, and things, and fine array ;
And kiss me, Kate, we will be married o' Sunday.

[*Exeunt Pet. and Kath., severally.*]

Gre. Was ever match clapp'd up so suddenly ?

Bap. Faith, gentlemen, now I play a merchant's part,

And venture madly on a desperate mart.

Tra. 'Twas a commodity lay fretting by you :
'Twill bring you gain, or perish on the seas.

Bap. The gain I seek is—quiet in the match.

Gre. No doubt but he hath got a quiet catch.

But now, Baptista, to your younger daughter ;—
Now is the day we long have looked for ;

I am your neighbour, and was suitor first.

Tra. And I am one, that love Bianca more
Than words can witness, or your thoughts can guess.

G. Youngling ! thou canst not love so dear as I.

Tra. Grey-beard ! thy love doth freeze.

Gre. But thine doth fry.

Skipper, stand back ; 'tis age that nourisheth.

Tra. But youth in ladies' eyes that flourisheth.

Bap. Content you, gentlemen ; I'll compound
this strife :

'Tis deeds must win the prize ; and he, of both,
That can assure my daughter greatest dower
Shall have Bianca's love.—

Say, signior Gremio, what can you assure her ?

G. First, as you know, my house within the
Is richly furnished with plate and gold ; [city
Basons, and ewers, to lave her dainty hands ;
My hangings all of Tyrian tapestry :

In ivory coffers I have stuff'd my crowns ;

In cypress chests my arras, counterpoints,¹

Costly apparel, tents and canopies,

Fine linen, Turkey cushions, boss'd with pearl,

Valance² of Venice gold in needle-work,

Pewter and brass, and all things that belong

To house, or housekeeping : then, at my farm,

I have a hundred milch-kine to the pail,

Six score fat oxen standing in my stalls,

And all things answerable to this portion.

Myself am struck in years, I must confess ;

And, if I die to-morrow, this is hers,

If whilst I live, she will be only mine.

Tra. That, only, came well in—Sir, list to me ;

I am my father's heir, and only son :

If I may have your daughter to my wife,

I'll leave her houses three or four as good,

Within rich Pisa walls, as any one

Old signior Gremio has in Padua ;

Besides two thousand ducats by the year,

Of fruitful land, all which shall be her jointure.—

What, have I pinch'd you, signior Gremio ?

Gre. Two thousand ducats by the year, of land !

My land amounts not to so much in all :

That she shall have ; besides an argosy,³

That now is lying in Marseilles' road :—

What, have I chok'd you with an argosy ?

Tra. Gremio, 'tis known, my father hath no less
Than three great argosies ; besides two gal-
liasses,¹

And twelve tight gallies : these I will assure her,
And twice as much, whate'er thou offer'st next.

Gre. Nay, I have offer'd all, I have no more ;
And she can have no more than all I have ;

If you like me, she shall have me and mine.

Tra. Why, then the maid is mine from all the
By your firm promise ; Gremio is out-vied, [world.

Bap. I must confess, your offer is the best :
And, let your father make her the assurance,

She is your own ; else, you must pardon me :
If you should die before him where's her dower ?

Tra. That's but a caviel ; he is old, I young.

Gre. And may not young men die, as well as

Bap. Well, gentlemen, [old ?

I am thus resolv'd ;—On Sunday next you know,
My daughter Katherine is to be married :

Now, on the Sunday following, shall Bianca

Be bride to you, if you make this assurance ;

If not, to signior Gremio :

And so, I take my leave, and thank you both.

[*Exit.*]

G. Adieu, good neighbour.—Now I fear thee not ;
Sirrah, young gamester,² your father were a fool

To give thee all, and in his waning age,

Set foot under thy table : Tut ! a toy !

An old Italian fox is not so kind, my boy. [*Exit.*]

Tra. A vengeance on your crafty wither'd
Yet I have faced it with a card of ten. [hide !

'Tis in my head to do my master good :—

I see no reason, but suppos'd Lucentio

Must get a father, call'd—suppos'd Vincentio :

And that's a wonder ; fathers, commonly,

Do get their children ; but, in this case of wooing,

A child shall get a sire, if I fail not of my cunning.

[*Exit.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN BAPTISTA'S HOUSE.

Enter Lucentio, Hortensio, and Bianca.

Luc. Fiddler, forbear ; you grow too forward,
Have you so soon forgot the entertainment [sir :

Her sister Katherine welcom'd you withal ?

Hor. But, wrangling pedant, this is

The patroness of heavenly harmony ;

Then give me leave to have prerogative ;

And when in musick we have spent an hour,

Your lecture shall have leisure for as much.

Luc. Preposterous ass ! that never read so far

To know the cause why musick was ordain'd !

Was it not to refresh the mind of man,

After his studies, or his usual pain ?

Then give me leave to read philosophy,

And while I pause serve in your harmony.

H. Sirrah, I will not bear these braves of thine.

B. Why, gentlemen, you do me double wrong,

To strive for that which resteth in my choice :

I'll not be tied to hours, nor 'pointed times,

But learn my lessons as I please myself.

And, to cut off all strife, here sit we down :—

Take you your instrument, play you the whiles ;

His lecture will be done, ere you have tun'd.

¹ Counterpanes. ³ A large merchant-ship.

² Hanging fringes.

¹ Ship worked both with sails and oars.

² Merry person.

Hor. You'll leave his lecture when I am in tune? [*To Bianca.*—*Hortensio retires.*

Luc. That will be never; tune your instrument.

Bian. Where left we last?

Luc. Here, madam:

Hac ibat Simois: hic est Sigeia tellus:

Hic steterat Priami regia celsa senis.

Bian. Construe them.

Luc. *Hac ibat*, as I told you before,—*Simois*, I am Lucentio,—*hic est*, son unto Vincentio of Pisa,—*Sigeia tellus*, disguised thus to get your love;—*Hic steterat*, and that Lucentio that comes a wooing,—*Priami*, is my man *Tranio*,—*regia*, bearing my port,—*celsa senis*, that we might beguile the old pantaloon.

Hor. Madam, my instrument's in tune.

[*Returning.*

Bian. Let's hear;— [*Hortensio plays.*

O fy! the treble jars.

Luc. Spit in the hole, man, and tune again.

Bian. Now let me see if I can construe it: *Hac ibat Simois*, I know you not;—*hic est Sigeia tellus*, I trust you not;—*Hic steterat Priami*, take heed he hear us not;—*regia*, presume not;—*celsa senis*, despair not.

Hor. Madam, 'tis now in tune.

Luc. All but the bass.

Hor. The bass is right; 'tis the base knave that how fiery and forward our pedant is! [jars. Now, for my life, the knave doth court my love: *Pedascule*,¹ I'll watch you better yet.

Bian. In time I may believe, yet I mistrust.

Luc. Mistrust it not; for sure, *Æacides*

Was Ajax,—called so from his grandfather.

Bian. I must believe my master; else I promise I should be arguing still upon that doubt: [you, But let it rest.—Now, Licio, to you:—

Good masters, take it not unkindly, pray, That I have been thus pleasant with you both.

Hor. You may go walk, [*To Lucentio.*] and give me leave awhile:

My lessons make no music in three parts.

Luc. Are you so formal, sir? well, I must wait, And watch withal; for, but I be deceiv'd, Our fine musician groweth amorous. [*Aside.*

Hor. Madam, before you touch the instrument, To learn the order of my fingering, I must begin the rudiments of art; To teach you gamut in a briefer sort, More pleasant, pithy, and effectual, Than hath been taught by any of my trade: And there it is in writing, fairly drawn.

Bian. Why, I am past my gamut long ago.

Hor. Yet read the gamut of Hortensio.

Bian. [*Reads.*] Gam ut, I am, the ground of all accord,

A re, to plead Hortensio's passion;

B mi, Bianca, take him for thy lord,

C faut, that loves with all affection;

D sol re, one cliff, two notes have I;

E la mi, show pity, or I die.

Call you this—gamut? tut! I like it not:

Old fashions please me best; I am not so nice, To change true rules for odd inventions.

[*Enter a Servant.*

Serv. Mistress, your father prays you leave your books,

1 Pedant.

And help to dress your sister's chamber up; You know, to-morrow is the wedding day.

Bian. Farewell, sweet masters, both; I must be gone. [*Exeunt Bianca and Servant.*

Luc. Faith, mistress, then I have no cause to stay. [*Exit.*

Hor. But I have cause to pry into this pedant: Methinks, he looks as though he were in love:— Yet if thy thoughts, Bianca, be so humble, To cast thy wand'ring eyes on every stale,¹ Seize thee, that list: If once I find thee ranging, Hortensio will be quit with thee by changing. [*Exit.*

SCENE II.—BEFORE BAPTISTA'S HOUSE.

Enter Baptista, Gremio, Tranio, Katharina, Bianca, Lucentio, and Attendants.

Bap. Signior Lucentio, [*To Tranio.*] this is the pointed day [*cried,* That Katharine and Petruchio should be married yet we hear not of our son-in-law: What will be said? what mockery will it be, To want the bridegroom, when the priest attends To speak the ceremonial rites of marriage? What says Lucentio to this shame of ours?

Kath. No shame but mine: I must, forsooth, be forced

To give my hand, opposed against my heart, Unto a mad-brain rudesby,² full of spleen³: Who woo'd in haste, and means to wed at leisure. I told you, I, he was a frantick fool, Hiding his bitter jests in blunt behaviour: And, to be noted for a merry man, He'll woo a thousand, point the day of marriage, Make friends, invite, yes, and proclaim the banns; Yet never means to wed where he hath woo'd. Now must the world point at poor Katharine, And say,—*Lo, there is mad Petruchio's wife,* If it would please him come and marry her.

Tra. Patience, good Katharine and Baptista Upon my life, Petruchio means but well, [too; Whatever fortune stays him from his word: Though he be blunt, I know him passing wise; Though he be merry, yet withal he's honest.

Kath. 'Would Katharine had never seen him though!

[*Exit, weeping, followed by Bianca and others.*

B. Go, girl; I cannot blame thee now to weep: For such an injury would vex a saint, Much more a shrew of thy impatient humour.

[*Enter Biondello.*

Bion. Master, master! news, old news, and such news as you never heard of!

Bap. Is it new and old too? how may that be?

Bio. Why, is it not news, to hear of Petruchio's coming?

Bap. Is he come?

Bion. Why, no, sir.

Bap. What then?

Bion. He is coming.

Bap. When will he be here?

Bion. When he stands where I am, and sees you there.

Bra. But, say, what:—To thine old news.

Bion. Why, Petruchio is coming, in a new

1 Bait.

2 Rude fellow.

3 Caprice.

hat and an old jerkin; a pair of boots that have been candle-cases, one buckled, another laced; an old rusty sword ta'en out of the town armory, with a broken hilt and chapeless; with two broken points: His horse hipped with an old mothy saddle, the stirrups of no kindred; besides, possessed with the glanders, and like to mose in the chine; troubled with the lampass, infected with the fashions, full of wind-galls, sped with spavins, raied with the yellows, past cure of the fives, stark spoiled with the staggers, begnawn with the bots; swayed in the back, and shoulder-shotten; ne'er legg'd before, and with a half-checkedbit, and a head-stall of sheep's leather; which, being restrained to keep him from stumbling, hath been often burst, and now repaired with knots: one girt six times pieced, and a woman's crupper of velure,¹ which hath two letters for her name, fairly set down in studs, and here and there pieced with pack-thread.

Bap. Who comes with him?

Bion. O, sir, his lackey, for all the world caparisoned like the horse; with a linen stock² on one leg, and a kersey boot-hose on the other, gartered with a red and blue list: an old hat, and *The humour of forty fancies* pricked in't for a feather: a monster, a very monster in apparel; and not like a Christian footboy, or a gentleman's lackey.

Tra. 'Tis some odd humour pricks him to this fashion;

Yet oftentimes he goes but mean apparell'd.

Bap. I am glad he is come, howsoe'er he comes.

Bion. Why, sir, he comes not.

Bap. Didst thou not say, he comes?

Bion. Who? that Petruchio came?

Bap. Ay, that Petruchio came.

Bion. No, sir: I say, his horse comes with him on his back.

Bap. Why, that's all one.

Bion. Nay, by saint Jany, I hold you a penny, A horse and a man is more than one, and yet not many.

Enter Petruchio and Grumio.

Pet. Come, where be these gallants? who is

Bap. You are welcome, sir. [at home?]

Pet. And yet I come not well.

Bap. And yet you halt not.

Tra. Not so well apparell'd

As I wish you were.

Pet. Were it better I should rush in thus.

But where is Kate? where is my lovely bride?—

How does my father?—Gentles, methinks you And wherefore gaze this goodly company frown: As if they saw some wondrous monument, Some comet, or unusual prodigy? [day:]

Bap. Why, sir, you know this is your wedding—First were we sad, fearing you would not come; Now sadder, that you come so unprovided. Fye! doff this habit, shame to your estate, An eye-sore to our solemn festival.

Tra. And tell us, what occasion of import Hath all so long detain'd you from your wife, And sent you hither so unlike yourself?

Pet. Tedious it were to tell, and harsh to hear; Sufficeth, I am come to keep my word,

1 Velvet.

2 Stocking.

Though in some part enforced to digress;

Which, at more leisure, I will so excuse

As you shall well be satisfied withal.

But, where is Kate? I stay too long from her;

The morning wears, 'tis time we were at church.

Tra. See not your bride in these unreverent Go to my chamber, put on clothes of mine. [robes;

Pet. Not I, believe me; thus I'll visit her.

Bap. But thus, I trust, you will not marry her.

Pet. Good sooth, even thus; therefore have done with words:

To me she's married, not unto my clothes:

Could I repair what she will wear in me,

As I can change these poor accoutrements,

'Twere well for Kate, and better for myself.

But what a fool am I, to chat with you,

When I should bid good-morrow to my bride,

And seal the title with a lovely kiss?

[*Exeunt Petruchio, Grumio, and Biondello.*]

Tra. He hath some meaning in his mad attire:

We will persuade him, be it possible,

To put on better ere he go to church.

Bap. I'll after him, and see the event of this.

[*Exit.*]

Tra. But, sir, to her love concerneth us to add

Her father's liking: Which to bring to pass,

As I before imparted to your worship,

I am to get a man,—whate'er he be,

It skills¹ not much; we'll fit him to our turn,—

And he shall be Vincentio of Pisa;

And make assurance, here in Padua,

Of greater sums than I have promised.

So shall you quietly enjoy your hope,

And marry sweet Bianca with consent.

Luc. Were it not that my fellow-schoolmaster

Doth watch Bianca's steps so narrowly,

'Twere good, methinks, to steal our marriage;

Which once perform'd, let all the world say,—no,

I'll keep mine own, despite of all the world.

Tra. That by degrees we mean to look into,

And watch our vantage in this business:

We'll over-reach the grey-beard, Gremio;

The narrow-prying father, Minola;

The quaint² musician, amorous Licio;

All for my master's sake, Lucentio.—

Re-enter Gremio.

Signior Gremio, came you from the church?

Gre. As willingly as e'er I came from school.

Tra. And is the bride and bridegroom coming home?

[*deed,*]

Gre. A bridegroom, say you? 'tis a groom, in A grumbling groom, and that the girl shall find.

Tra. Curster than she? why, 'tis impossible.

Gre. Why, he's a devil, a devil, a very fiend. Tut! she's a lamb, a dove, a fool to him.

I'll tell you, Sir Lucentio: When the priest

Should ask—if Katharine should be his wife,

Ay, by gogs-wouns, quoth he; and swore so loud,

That, all amaz'd, the priest let fall the book:

And, as he stoop'd again to take it up,

The mad-brain'd bridegroom took himsuch a cuff,

That down fell priest and book, and book and

Now take them up, quoth he, *if any list.* [priest:]

Tra. What said the wench, when he arose again?

Gre. Trembled and shook; for why, he stamp'd, and swore,

1 Matters.

2 Dainty.

As if the vicar meant to cozen¹ him.
 But after many ceremonies done,
 He calls for wine:—*A health*, quoth he; as if
 He had been aboard carousing to his mates
 After a storm:—Quaff'd off the muscadel,
 And threw the sops all in the sexton's face;
 Having no other reason,—
 But that his beard grew thin and hungerly,
 And seem'd to ask him sops as he was drinking.
 This done, he took the bride about the neck;
 And kiss'd her lips with such a clamorous smack,
 That, at the parting, all the church did echo.
 I, seeing this, came thence for very shame;
 And, after me, I know the rout is coming;
 Such a mad marriage never was before:
 Hark, hark! I hear the minstrels play. [*Musick.*]

Enter Petruchio, Katharina, Bianca, Baptista, Hortensio, Grumio, and Train.

P. Gentlemen and friends, I thank you for your
 I know, you think to dine with me to-day, [pains:
 And have prepared great store of wedding cheer;
 But so it is, my haste doth call me hence,
 And therefore here I mean to take my leave.

Bap. Is't possible, you will away to night?

Pet. I must away to-day, before night come:—
 Make it no wonder; if you knew my business,
 You would entreat me rather go than stay,
 And, honest company, I thank you all,
 That have beheld me give away myself
 To this most patient, sweet, and virtuous wife:
 Dine with my father, drink a health to me;
 For I must hence, and farewell to you all.

Tra. Let us entreat you stay till after dinner.

Pet. It may not be.

Gre. Let me entreat you.

Pet. It cannot be.

Kath. Let me entreat you.

Pet. I am content.

Kath. Are you content to stay?

Pet. I am content you shall entreat me stay?

But yet not stay, entreat me how you can.

Kath. Now, if you love me, stay.

Pet. Grumio, my horses.

Gru. Ay, sir, they be ready; the oats have
 eaten the horses.

Kath. Nay, then,

Do what thou canst, I will not go to-day;
 No, nor to-morrow, nor till I please myself.
 The door is open, sir, there lies your way,
 You may be jogging, whiles your boots are green;
 For me, I'll not be gone, till I please myself;—
 'Tis like you'll prove a jolly surly groom,
 That take it on you at the first so roundly.

P. O, Kate, content thee; pr'ythee be not angry.

Kath. I will be angry: What hast thou to do?
 Father, be quiet: he shall stay my leisure.

Gre. Ay, marry, sir: now it begins to work.
 K. Gentlemen, forward to the bridal dinner.—
 I see, a woman may be made a fool,
 If she had not a spirit to resist. [mand:—

Pet. They shall go forward, Kate, at thy com-
 Obeys the bride, you that attend on her:

Go to the feast, revel, and domineer,
 Be mad, and merry,—or go hang yourselves;
 But for my bonny Kate, she must with me.

Nay, look not big, nor stamp, nor stare, nor fret;

¹ Cheat.

I will be master of what is mine own:
 She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,
 My household stuff, my field, my barn,
 My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything;
 And here she stands, touch her whoever dare;
 I'll bring my action on the proudest he
 That stops my way in Padua.—Grumio,
 Draw forth thy weapon; we're beset with thieves;
 Rescue thy mistress, if thou be a man:—
 Fear not, sweet wench, they shall not touch thee,
 I'll buckler thee against a million. [Kate:—

[*Exeunt Petruchio, Katharina, and Grumio.*]

Bap. Nay, let them go, a couple of quiet ones.

Gre. Went they not quickly, I should die
 with laughing.

Tra. Of all mad matches, never was the like!

L. Mistress, what's your opinion of your sister?

Bi. That being mad herself, she's madlymated.

Gre. I warrant him, Petruchio is Kated.

Bap. Neighbours and friends, though bride
 and bridegroom wants

For to supply the places at the table,

You know, there wants no junkets¹ at the feast;—

Lucentio, you shall supply the bridegroom's
 And let Bianca take her sister's room. [place;]

T. Shall sweet Bianca practise how to bride it?

Bap. She shall, Lucentio.—Come, gentlemen,
 let's go. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

A HALL IN PETRUCHIO'S COUNTRY HOUSE.

Enter Grumio.

Gru. Fie, fie, on all tired jades, on all mad
 masters! and all foul ways! Was ever man so
 beaten? was ever man so rayed²; was ever man
 so weary? I am sent before to make a fire, and
 they are coming after to warm them. Now, were
 I not a little pot, and soon hot, my very lips
 might freeze to my teeth, ere I should come by
 a fire to thaw me:—But, I, with blowing the
 fire, shall warm myself; for, considering the
 weather, a taller man than I will take cold.
 Holla, ho! Curtis!

Enter Curtis.

Curt. Who is that calls so coldly?
 Gru. A piece of ice: If thou doubt it, thou
 mayst slide from my shoulder to my heel, with
 no greater a run but my head and my neck. A
 fire, good Curtis.

Curt. Is my master and his wife coming,
 Grumio?

Gru. O, ay, Curtis, ay: and therefore fire,
 fire; cast on no water.

Curt. Is she so hot a shrew as she's reported?

G. She was, good Curtis, before this frost; but,
 thou know'st, winter tames man, woman, and
 beast; for it hath tamed my old master, and my
 new mistress, and myself, fellow Curtis.

C. Away, you three-inch fool! I am no beast.

Gru. Am I but three inches? why, thy horn
 is a foot; and so long am I, at the least. But

¹ Delicacies.

² Striped.

wilt thou make a fire, or shall I complain on thee to our mistress, whose hand (she being now at hand) thou shalt soon feel, to thy cold comfort, for being slow in thy hot office?

Curt. I pry'thee, good Grumio, tell me, How goes the world?

Gru. A cold world, Curtis, in every office but thine; and, therefore, fire; Do thy duty, and have thy duty; for my master and mistress are almost frozen to death.

Curt. There's fire ready: And therefore, good Grumio, the news?

Gru. Why, *Jack boy! ho boy!*¹ and fire; for I have caught extreme cold. Where's the cook? is supper ready, the house trimmed, rushes strewed; cobwebs swept; the serving-men in their new fustian; their white stockings, and every officer his wedding-garment on? Be the jacks fair within, the jills fair without,² the carpets laid, and everything in order?

C. Allready; and therefore, I pray thee, news?

Gru. First, know, my horse is tired; my master and mistress fallen out.

Curt. How?

Gru. Out of their saddles into the dirt; And thereby hangs a tale.

Curt. Let's ha't, good Grumio.

Gru. Lend thine ear.

Curt. Here.

Gru. [*Striking him.*] There.

Curt. This is to feel a tale, not to hear a tale.

Gru. And therefore 'tis called a sensible tale: and this cuff was but to knock at your ear, and beseech listening. Now I begin: *Imprimis*, we came down a foul hill, my master riding behind my mistress:—

Curt. Both on one horse?

Gru. What's that to thee?

Curt. Why, a horse.

Gru. Tell thou the tale:—But hadst thou not crossed me, thou shouldst have heard how her horse fell, and she under her horse; thou shouldst have heard in how miry a place: how she was bemoiled³; how he left her with the horse upon her; how he beat me because her horse stumbled; how she waded through the dirt to pluck him off me; how he swore; how she prayed—that never prayed before; how I cried; how the horses ran away; how her bride was burst; how I lost my crupper;—with many things of worthy memory; which now shall die in oblivion, and thou return unexperienced to thy grave.

Curt. By this reckoning, he is more shrew than she.

Gru. Ay; and that, thou and the proudest of you all shall find, when he comes home. But what talk I of this?—call forth Nathaniel, Joseph, Nicholas, Philip, Walter, Sugarsoap, and the rest; let their heads be sleekly combed, their blue coats brushed, and their garters of an indifferent knit; let them curtsy with their left legs; and not presume to touch a hair of my master's horse-tail, till they kiss their hands. Are they all ready?

Curt. They are.

Gru. Call them forth.

Curt. Do you hear, ho! you must meet my master, to countenance my mistress.

Gru. Why, she hath a face of her own.

Curt. Who knows not that?

Gru. Thou, it seems; that callest for company to countenance her.

Curt. I call them forth to credit her.

G. Why, she comes to borrow nothing of them.

Enter several Servants.

Nath. Welcome home, Grumio.

Phil. How now, Grumio?

Jos. What, Grumio!

Nich. Fellow Grumio!

Nath. How now, old lad?

Gru. Welcome, you;—how now, you;—what, you;—fellow, you—and thus much for greeting. Now, my spruce companions, is all ready and all things neat?

Nath. All things are ready: How near is our master?

Gru. E'en at hand, alighted by this; and therefore be not,—silence!—I hear my master.

Enter Petruchio and Katharina.

Pet. Where be these knaves? What, no man at door,

To hold my stirrup, nor to take my horse!

Where is Nathaniel, Gregory, Philip?

All Serv. Here, here, sir; here, sir.

Pet. Here, sir! here, sir! here, sir, here, sir!—You logger-headed and unpolish'd grooms!

What, no attendance? no regard? no duty?—Where is the foolish knave I sent before?

Gru. Here, sir; as foolish as I was before.

P. You peasantswain! you malt-horse drudge! Did I not bid thee meet me in the park, And bring along these rascal knaves with thee?

G. Nathaniel's coat, sir, was not fully made, And Gabriel's pumps were all unpink'd i' the There was no link¹ to colour Peter's hat, [heel; And Walter's dagger was not come from sheathing: [Gregory;

There were none fine, but Adam, Ralph, and The rest were ragged, old, and beggarly; Yet, as they are, here are they come to meet you.

P. Go, rascals, go, and fetch my supper in.—

[*Exeunt some of the Servants.*]

[*Sings.*] *Where is the life that late I led—*
Where are those—Sit down, Kate, and wel-
Soud, soud, soud, soud!² [come.]

Re-enter Servants with supper.

Why, when, I say?—Nay, good sweet Kate, be merry.

Off with my boots, you rogues, you villains; When?

[*Sings.*] *It was the friar of orders gray,*

As he forth walked on his way:—

Out, out, you rogue! you pluck my foot awry: [*Strikes him.*] Take that, and mend the plucking off the other.—

Be merry, Kate:—Some water, here; what, ho!—Where's my spaniel Troilus?—Sirrah, get you hence,

And bid my cousin Ferdinand come hither:—

[*Exit Servant.*]

One, Kate, that you must kiss, and be acquainted with.—

¹ Pitch torch.

² Indicating weariness.

¹ An old song. ² Drinking measures. ³ Bemired.

Where are my slippers?—Shall I have some water?

[A bason is presented to him.]

Come, Kate, and wash, and welcome heartily:—

[Servant lets the ewer fall.]

You villain! will you let it fall? [Strikes him.]

K. Patience, I pray you; 'twas a fault unwilling.

Pet. A beetle-headed, flap-ear'd knave! [ing.]

Come, Kate, sit down; I know you have a stomach.

Will you give thanks, sweet Kate; or else shall

What is this? mutton? [I?—

1 Serv. Ay.

Pet. Who brought it?

1 Serv. I.

Pet. 'Tis burnt; and so is all the meat:

What dogs are these?—Where is the rascal cook?

How durst you, villains, bring it from the dresser,

And serve it thus to me that love it not?

There, take it to you, trenchers, cups, and all:

[Throws the meat, &c., about.]

You heedless jolt-heads, and unmanner'd slaves!

What, do you grumble? I'll be with you straight.

Kath. I pray you, husband, be not so disquiet;

The meat was well, if you were so contented.

P. I tell thee, Kate, 'twas burnt and dried

And I expressly am forbid to touch it, [away;

For it engenders choler, planteth anger;

And better 'twere, that both of us did fast,

Since of ourselves, ourselves are choleric, —

Than feed it with such over-roasted flesh.

Be patient; to-morrow it shall be mended,

And, for this night, we'll fast for company:

Come, I will bring thee to thy bridal chamber.

[Exeunt Petruchio, Katharina, and Curtis.]

Nath. [Advancing.] Peter, didst ever see the

Peter. He kills her in her own humour. [like?

Re-enter Curtis.

Gru. Where is he?

Curt. In her chamber,

Making a sermon of continency to her: [soul,

And rails, and swears, and rates; that she, poor

Knows not which way to stand, to look, to speak;

And sits as one new-risen from a dream.

Away, away! for he is coming hither. [Exeunt.]

Re-enter Petruchio.

Pet. Thus have I politically begun my reign,

And 'tis my hope to end successfully:

My falcon now is sharp, and passing empty;

And, till she stoop, she must not be full-gorg'd,

For then she never looks upon her lure.

Another way I have to man my haggard,¹

To make her come, and know her keeper's call,

That is, — to watch her, as we watch these kites,

That bate,² and beat, and will not be obedient.

She eat no meat to-day, nor none shall eat;

Last night she slept not, nor to-night she shall

As with the meat, some undeserved fault [not:

I'll find about the making of the bed;

And here I'll fling the pillow, there the bolster,

This way the coverlet, another way the sheets:—

Ay, and amid this hurly, I intend³

That all is done in reverend care of her;

And, in conclusion, she shall watch all night:

And, if she chance to nod, I'll rail and brawl,

And with the clamour keep her still awake.

This is the way to kill a wife with kindness;

1 To tame my hawk. 2 Flutter. 3 Pretend.

And thus I'll curb her mad and headstrong
humour:—

He that knows better how to tame a shrew,
Now let him speak; 'tis charity to shew. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

PADUA. BEFORE BAPTISTA'S HOUSE.

Enter Tranio and Hortensio.

Tra. Is't possible, friend Licio, that Bianca
Doth fancy any other but Lucentio?

I tell you, sir, she bears me fair in hand.

Hor. Sir, to satisfy you in what I have said,
Stand by, and mark the manner of his teaching.

[They stand aside.]

Enter Bianca and Lucentio.

L. Now, mistress, profit you in what you read?

B. What, master, read you? first resolve me that.

Luc. I read that I profess, the art of love.

B. And may you prove, sir, master of your art!

Luc. While you, sweet dear, prove mistress
of my heart. [They retire.]

Hor. Quick proceeders, marry! Now, tell
me, I pray,

You that durst swear that your mistress Bianca
Lov'd none in the world so well as Lucentio.

T. O despiteful love! unconstant womankind;—
I tell thee, Licio, this is wonderful.

Hor. Mistake no more: I am not Licio,
Nor a musician as I seem to be;

But one that scorn to live in this disguise,

For such a one as leaves a gentleman,
And makes a god of such a cullion:¹

Know, sir, that I am call'd—Hortensio.

Tra. Signior Hortensio, I have often heard
Of your entire affection to Bianca;

And since mine eyes are witness of her lightness,
I will with you,—if you be so contented,—

Forswear Bianca and her love for ever.

Hor. See how they kiss and court,—Signior
Lucentio,

Here is my hand, and here I firmly vow—

Never to woo her more; but to forswear her,

As one unworthy all the former favours

That I have fondly flatter'd her withal.

T. And here I take the like unfeigned oath,—
Ne'er to marry with her though she would entreat.

Fie on her! see how beastly she doth court him.

Hor. 'Would, all the world, but he, had quite
forsworn!

For me, that I may surely keep mine oath,

I will be married to a wealthy widow,

Ere three days pass; which hath as long lov'd me,

As I have lov'd this proud disdainful haggard:²

And so farewell, signior Lucentio.—

Kindness in women, not their beauteous looks,
Shall win my love:—and so I take my leave,

In resolution as I swore before.

[Exit Horten.—Lucen. and Bian. advance.]

T. Mistress Bianca, bless you with such grace
As 'longeth to a lover's blessed case!

Nay, I have ta'en you napping, gentle love;

And have forsworn you, with Hortensio.

Bian. Tranio, you jest; But have you both
forsworn me?

Tra. Mistress, we have.

1 Despicable fellow.

2 Hawk.

Luc. Then we are rid of Licio.
Tra. He'll have a widow now,
 That shall be woo'd and wedded in a day.

Bian. Heaven give him joy!

Tra. Ay, and he'll tame her.

Bian. He says so, Tranio.

Tra. Faith, he is gone unto the taming-school.

Bian. The taming-school! what, is there such a place?

Tra. Ay, mistress, and Petruchio is the master;
 That teacheth tricks eleven and twenty long,—
 To tame a shrew, and charm her chattering
 tongue.

Enter Biondello, running.

Bion. O master, master, I have watch'd so long
 That I'm dog-weary; but at last I spied
 An ancient angel¹ coming down the hill,
 Will serve the turn.

Tra. What is he, Biondello?

Bion. Master, a mercatant², or a pedant,²
 I know not what; but formal in apparel,
 In gait and countenance surely like a father.

Luc. And what of him, Tranio?

Tra. If he be credulous, and trust my tale,
 I'll make him glad to seem Vincentio;
 And give assurance to Baptista Minola,
 As if he were the right Vincentio.
 Take in your love, and then let me alone.

[*Exeunt Lucentio and Bianca.*]

Enter a Pedant.

Ped. God save you, sir!

Tra. And you, sir! you are welcome.
 Travel you far on, or are you at the furthest?

Ped. Sir, at the furthest for a week or two:
 But then up further; and as far as Rome;
 And so to Tripoly, if heaven lend me life.

Tra. What countryman, I pray?

Ped. Of Mantua.

Tra. Of Mantua, sir?—marry, heaven forbid!
 And come to Padua, careless of your life?

P. My life, sir! how, I pray? for that goes

Tra. 'Tis death for any one in Mantua [hard].
 To come to Padua; know you not the cause?
 Your ships are staid at Venice; and the duke
 (For private quarrel 'twixt your duke and him)
 Hath publish'd and proclaim'd it openly:

'Tis marvel; but that you're but newly come,
 You might have heard it else proclaim'd about.

Ped. Alas, sir, it is worse for me than so;
 For I have bills for money by exchange
 From Florence, and must here deliver them.

Tra. Well, sir, to do you courtesy,
 This will I do, and this will I advise you;—
 First, tell me, have you ever been at Pisa?

Ped. Ay, sir, in Pisa I have often been;
 Pisa, renowned for grave citizens.

Tra. Among them, know you one Vincentio?

Ped. I know him not, but I have heard of him;
 A merchant of incomparable wealth.

Tra. He is my father, sir; and, sooth to say,
 In countenance somewhat doth resemble you.

Bion. [*Aside.*] As much as an apple doth an
 oyster, and all one.

Tra. To save your life in this extremity,
 This favour will I do you for his sake;
 And think it not the worst of all your fortunes,

That you are like to Sir Vincentio.

His name and credit shall you undertake,
 And in my house you shall be friendly lodg'd;—
 Look, that you take upon you as you should;
 You understand me, sir;—so shall you stay
 Till you have done your business in the city:
 If this be courteous, sir, accept of it.

Ped. O, sir, I do; and will repute you ever
 The patron of my life and liberty.

Tra. Then go with me, to make the matter
 This, by the way, I let you understand; [good].
 My father is here look'd for every day.

To pass assurance of a dower in marriage
 'Twixt me and one Baptista's daughter here:
 In all these circumstances I'll instruct you:
 Go with me, sir, to clothe you as becomes you.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN PETRUCHIO'S HOUSE.

Enter Katharina and Grumio.

Gru. No, no, forsooth: I dare not for my life.

Kath. The more my wrong, the more his spite
 What, did he marry me to famish me? [appears:
 Beggars, that come unto my father's door,
 Upon entreaty, have a present alms;

If not, elsewhere they meet with charity:
 But I,—who never knew how to entreat,—
 Nor never needed that I should entreat,

Am starv'd for meat, giddy for lack of sleep;
 With oaths kept waking, and with brawling fed:

And that which spites me more than all these
 He does it under name of perfect love; [wants,
 As who should say,—if I should sleep, or eat,

'Twere deadly sickness, or else present death.—
 I pry'thee go, and get me some repast;

I care not what, so it be wholesome food.

Gru. What say you to a neat's foot?

K. 'Tis passing good; I pry'thee let me have it.

Gru. I fear it is too cholerick a meat;—
 How say you to a fat tripe, finely broil'd?

Kath. Like it well; good Grumio, fetch it me.

Gru. I cannot tell; I fear 'tis cholerick.

What say you to a piece of beef, and mustard?

Kath. A dish that I do love to feed upon.

Gru. Ay, but the mustard is too hot a little.

Kath. Why, then the beef, and let the mustard

rest. [mustard,

Gru. Nay, then I will not; you shall have the

Or else you get no beef of Grumio. [wilt.

Kath. Then both, or one, or any thing thou

Gru. Why then the mustard without the beef.

Kath. Go, get thee gone, thou false deluding

slave. [Beats him.

That feed'st me with the very name of meat:

Sorrow on thee, and all the pack of you,

That triumph thus upon my misery!

Go, get thee gone, I say.

Enter Petru., with a dish of meat; and Horten.

Pet. How fares my Kate? What, sweeting,
 all amori¹?

Hor. Mistress, what cheer?

Kath. 'Faith as cold as can be.

Pet. Pluck up thy spirits, look cheerfully
 upon me.

Here, love; thou seest how diligent I am,

1 Dispirited.

To dress thy meat thyself, and bring it thee;
[Sets the dish on a table.]
 I am sure, sweet Kate, this kindness merits thanks.

What, not a word? Nay then, thou lov'st it not;
 And all my pains is sorted to no proof:—
 Here, take away this dish.

Kath. Pray you, let it stand.

Pet. The poorest service is repaid with thanks;
 And so shall mine before you touch the meat.

Kath. I thank you, sir.

Hor. Signior Petrucchio, fy! you are to blame!
 Come, mistress Kate, I'll bear you company.

Pet. *[Aside.]* Eat it up all, Hortensio, if thou lov'st me.—

Much good do it unto thy gentle heart!
 Kate, eat apace:—And now, my honey love,
 Will we return unto thy father's house;
 And revel it as bravely as the best,
 With silken coats, and caps, and golden rings,
 With ruffs and cuffs, and farthingales, and things;
 With scarfs, and fans, and double change of
 bravery,¹ *[knavery.]*

With amber bracelets, beads, and all this
 What, hast thou din'd? The tailor stays thy
 leisure,

To deck thy body with his ruffling treasure.

Enter Tailor.

Come, tailor, let us see these ornaments;

Enter Haberdasher.

Lay forth the gown.—What news with you, sir?

Hab. Here is the cap your worship did bespeak.

Pet. Why, this was moulded on a porringer?

Why, 'tis a cockle, or a walnutshell,

A knack, a toy, a trick, a baby's cap;

Away with it, come, let me have a bigger.

Kath. I'll have no bigger; this doth fit the time,
 And gentlewomen wear such caps as these.

P. When you are gentle, you shall have one too,
 And not till then.

Hor. *[Aside.]* That will not be in haste.

K. Why, sir, I trust, I may have leave to speak;

And speak I will; I am no child, no babe;

Your betters have endur'd me say my mind;

And, if you cannot, best you stop your ears.

My tongue will tell the anger of my heart;

Or else my heart, concealing it, will break:

And rather than it shall, I will be free

Even to the uttermost, as I please, in words.

Pet. Why, thou say'st true; it is a paltry cap,

A custard-coffin,² a bauble, a silken pie:

I love thee well, in that thou lik'st it not.

Kath. Love me, or love me not, I like the cap;

And it I will have, or I will have none.

Pet. Thy gown? why, ay:—Come, tailor, let us

O mercy, see what masking stuff is here! *[see't.]*

What's this? a sleeve? 'tis like a demi-cannon:

What! up and down, carv'd like an apple-tart?

Here's snip, and nip, and cut, and slish, and

Like to a censer³ in a barber's shop:— *[slash.]*

Why, what, tailor, call'st thou this?

Hor. *[Aside.]* I see, she's like to have neither

cap nor gown.

Tai. You bid me make it orderly and well,

According to the fashion, and the time.

¹ Finery. ³ Brasters.

² The culinary term for raised crust.

Pet. Marry, and did; but if you be remember'd,
 I did not bid you mar it to the time.

Go, hop me over every kennel home,

For you shall hop without my custom, sir:

I'll none of it; hence, make your best of it.

Kath. I never saw a better-fashion'd gown,
 More quaint,¹ more pleasing, nor more com-
 mendable;

Belike, you mean to make a puppet of me.

Pet. Why, true; he means to make a puppet
 of thee.

Tai. She says, your worship means to make a
 puppet of her.

Pet. O monstrous arrogance! Thou liest,

Thou thread, thou thimble,
 Thou yard, three quarters, half-yard, quarter,
 nail,

Thou flea, thou nit, thou winter cricket thou:—

Brav'd in mine own house with a skein of thread!

Away thou rag, thou quantity, thou remnant:

Or I shall so bemet² thee with thy yard,

As thou shalt think on prating whilst thou liv'st!

I tell thee, I, that thou hast marr'd her gown.

Tai. Your worship is deceiv'd; the gown is made

Just as my master had direction:

Grumio gave order how it should be done.

Gru. I gave him no order, I gave him the stuff.

Tai. But how did you desire it should be made?

Gru. Marry, sir, with needle and thread.

Tai. But did you not request to have it cut?

Gru. Thou hast faced many things.

Tai. I have.

Gru. Face not me; thou hast braved many

men; brave not me: I will neither be faced nor

braved. I say unto thee,—I bid thy master cut

out the gown; but I did not bid him cut it to

pieces: *ergo*, thou liest.

Tai. Why, here is the note of the fashion to

testify.

Pet. Read it.

G. The note lies in his throat, if he says I said

Tai. *Imprimis*, a loose-bodied gown: *[so.]*

Gru. Master, if ever I said loose-bodied gown,

sew me in the skirts of it, and beat me to death

with a bottom of brown thread: I said, a gown.

Pet. Proceed.

Tai. With a small compassed cape;

Gru. I confess the cape.

Tai. With a trunk sleeve;—

Gru. I confess two sleeves.

Tai. The sleeves curiously cut.

Pet. Ay, there's the villainy.

Gru. Error i' the bill, sir; error i' the bill. I

commanded the sleeves should be cut out, and

sewed up again; and that I'll prove upon thee,

though thy little finger be armed in a thimble.

Tai. This is true, that I say; an I had thee

in place where, thou shouldst know it.

Gru. I am for thee straight: take thou the

bill, give me thy mete-yard,³ and spare not me.

Hor. Grammercy, Grumio! then he shall have

no odds.

Pet. Well, sir, in brief, the gown is not for me.

Gru. You are i' the right, sir.

Pet. *[Aside.]* Hortensio, say thou wilt see the

tailor paid:—

Go, take it hence; be gone and say no more.

¹ Elegant.

² Be-measure.

³ Measuring-yard.

H. Tailor, I'll pay thee for thy gown to-morrow.
Take no unkindness of his hasty words:
Away, I say; commend me to thy master.

[Exit Tailor.]

Pet. Well, come, my Kate; we will unto
your father's,
Even in these honest mean habiliments;
Our purses shall be proud, our garments poor:
For 'tis the mind that makes the body rich;
And as the sun breaks through the darkest
Sohonour peereth in the meanest habit. [clouds,
What, is the jay more precious than the lark,
Because his feathers are more beautiful?
Or is the adder better than the eel,
Because his painted skin contents the eye?
O, no, good Kate; neither art thou the worse
For this poor furniture, and mean array.

If thou account'st it shame, lay it on me:
And therefore frolick; we will hence forthwith,
To feast and sport us at thy father's house,
Go, call my men, and let us straight to him;
And bring our horses unto Long-lane end,
There will we mount, and thither walk on foot.—
Let's see; I think 'tis now some seven o'clock,
And well we may come there by dinner-time.

Kath. I dare assure you, sir, 'tis almost two;
And 'twill be supper time, ere you come there.

Pet. It shall be seven, ere I go to horse:
Look, what I speak, or do, or think to do,
You are still crossing it.—Sir, let's alone:
I will not go to-day; and ere I do,
It shall be what o'clock I say it is.

Hor. Why, so! this gallant will command
the sun. [Exit, &c.]

SCENE IV.

PADUA. BEFORE BAPTISTA'S HOUSE.

Enter Tranio, and the Pedant dressed like
Vincentio.

Tra. Sir, this is the house: Please it you,
that I call?

Ped. Ay, what else? and but I be deceived,
Signior Baptista may remember me,
Near twenty years ago, in Genoa, where
We were lodgers at the Pegasus.

Tra. 'Tis well;
And hold your own, in any case, with such
Austerity as 'longeth to a father.

Enter Biondello.

P. I warrant you: But, sir, here comes your
'Twere good, he were school'd. [Boy, &c.]

Tra. Fear you not him. Sirrah, Biondello,
Now do your duty thoroughly, I advise you;
Imagine 'twere the right Vincentio.

Bion. Tut! fear not me. [tista?
T. But hast thou done thy errand to Bap-
B. I told him that your father was at Venice;
And that you look'd for him this day in Padua.

Tra. Thou'rt a tall fellow; hold thee that
to drink. [sir.—
Here comes Baptista:—set your countenance,

Enter Baptista and Lucentio.

Signior Baptista, you are happily met:—
Sir, [To the Pedant.]

1 Brave.

This is the gentleman I told you of;
I pray you, stand good father to me now,
Give me Bianca for my patrimony.

Ped. Soft, son!—

Sir, by your leave; having come to Padua
To gather in some debts, my son Lucentio
Made me acquainted with a weighty cause
Of love between your daughter and himself:
And,—for the good report I hear of you:
And for the love he beareth to your daughter
And she to him,—to stay him not too long,
I am content, in a good father's care,
To have him match'd; and,—if you please to like
No worse than I, sir,—upon some agreement,
Me shall you find most ready and most willing
With one consent to have her so bestow'd;
For curious¹ I cannot be with you,
Signior Baptista, of whom I hear so well.

Bap. Sir, pardon me in what I have to say:—
Your plainness, and your shortness, please me
Right true it is, your son, Lucentio here, [well.
Doth love my daughter, and she loveth him,
Or both dissemble deeply their affections:
And therefore, if you say no more than this,
That like a father you will deal with him,
And pass² my daughter a sufficient dower,
The match is fully made, and all is done:
Your son shall have my daughter with consent.

Tra. I thank you, sir. Where then do you
know best,

We be affied;³ and such assurance ta'en,
As shall with either part's agreement stand?

Ba. Not in my house, Lucentio; for, you know
Pitchers have ears, and I have many servants:
Besides, old Grumio is heark'ning still;
And, happily,⁴ we might be interrupted.

Tra. Then at my lodging, an it like you, sir:
There doth my father lie; and there, this night,
We'll pass the business privately and well:
Send for your daughter by your servant here,
My boy shall fetch the scrivener presently.
The worst is this,—that at so slender warning,
You're like to have a thin and slender pittance.

B. It likes me well;—Cambio, hie you home,
And bid Bianca make her ready straight;
And, if you will, tell what hath happened:—
Lucentio's father is arriv'd in Padua,
And how she's like to be Lucentio's wife.

L. I pray the gods she may with all my heart!
T. Dally not with the gods, but get thee gone.
Signior Baptista, shall I lead the way?

Welcome! one mess is like to be your cheer:
Come, sir, we'll better it in Pisa.

Bap. I follow you.

[Exit Tranio, Pedant, and Baptista.]

Bion. Cambio.—

Luc. What say'st thou, Biondello?

Bion. You saw my master wink and laugh
upon you?

Luc. Biondello, what of that?

Bion. Faith nothing; but he has left me
here behind, to expound the meaning or moral
of his signs and tokens.

Luc. I pray thee moralize them.

Bion. Then thus. Baptista is safe, talking
with the deceiving father of a deceitful son.

Luc. And what of him?

1 Scrupulous. 2 Convey. 3 Betrothed. 4 Haply.

Bion. His daughter is to be brought by you to the supper.

Luc. And then?

Bion. The old priest at Saint Luke's church is at your command at all hours.

Luc. And what of all this?

Bion. I cannot tell; except they are busied about a counterfeit assurance: Take your assurance of her, *cum privilegio ad imprimendum solum*: to the church;—take the priest, clerk, and some sufficient honest witnesses: [to say, If this be not what you look for, I have no more. But, bid Bianca farewell for ever and a day.

[*Going.*

Luc. Hear'st thou, Biondello?

Bion. I cannot tarry: I knew a girl married in an afternoon as she went to the garden for parsley to stuff a rabbit; and so may you, sir; and so adieu, sir. My master hath appointed me to go to Saint Luke's, to bid the priest be ready to come against you with your appendix.

[*Exit.*

Luc. I may and will, if she be so contented: She will be pleas'd, then wherefore should I doubt?

Hap what hap may, I'll roundly go about her. It shall go hard, if Cambio go without her. [*Exit.*

SCENE V.—A PUBLIC ROAD.

Enter Petruchio, Katharina, and Hortensio.

Pet. Come on; once more toward our father's house. [moon]

Good Kate, how bright and goodly shines the *Kath.* The moon! the sun; it is not moonlight now.

Pet. I say, it is the moon that shines so bright.

Kat. I know, it is the sun that shines so bright.

P. Now, by my mother's son, and that's myself, It shall be moon, or star, or what I list, Or ere I journey to your father's house: Go on, and fetch our horses back again.—Evermore cross'd, and cross'd; nothing but cross'd!

Hor. Say as he says, or we shall never go.

K. Forward, I pray, since we have come so far, And be it moon, or sun, or what you please: And if you please to call it a rush candle, Henceforth I vow it shall be so for me.

Pet. I say, it is the moon.

Kath. I know it is.

Pet. Nay, then you lie; it is the blessed sun.

K. Then, God be blessed, it is the blessed sun:—But sun it is not, when you say it is not; And the moon changes, even as your mind. What you will have it nam'd, even that it is; And so it shall be so, for Katharine.

Hor. Petruchio, go thy ways, the field is won.

Pet. Well, forward, forward: thus the bowl should run,

And not unluckily against the bias—But soft; what company is coming here?

Enter Vincentio, in a travelling dress.
[*To Vincentio.*] Good morrow, gentle mistress: where away?

Tell me, sweet Kate, and tell me truly too, Hast thou beheld a fresher gentler woman? Such war of white and red within her cheeks!

What stars do spangle heaven with such beauty, As those two eyes become that heavenly face?—Fair lovely maid, once more good day to thee:—Sweet Kate, embrace her for her beauty's sake.

Hor. 'A will make the man mad, to make a woman of him.

K. Young budding virgin, fair, and fresh, and Whither away, or where is thy abode? [sweet, Happy the parents of so fair a child; Happier the man, whom favourable stars Allot thee for his lovely bed-fellow! [mad:

Pet. Why, how now, Kate! I hope thou art not This is a man, old, wrinkled, faded, wither'd; And not a maiden, as thou say'st he is.

Kath. Pardon, old father, my mistaking eyes, That have been so bedazzled with the sun, That every thing I look on seemeth green: Now, I perceive, thou art a reverend father; Pardon, I pray thee, for my mad mistaking.

Pet. Do, good old grandsire; and, withal, make known

Which way thou travellest: if along with us, We shall be joyful of thy company.

Vin. Fair sir,—and you my merry mistress,—That with your strange encounter much amaz'd me; [Pisa;

My name is call'd—Vincentio; my dwelling—And bound I am to Padua; there to visit A son of mine, which long I have not seen.

Pet. What is his name?

Vin. Lucentio, gentle sir.

Pet. Happily met; the happier for thy son.

And now by law, as well as reverend age,

I may entitle thee—my loving father;

The sister to my wife, this gentlewoman,

Thy son by this hath married: Wonder not,

Nor be not griev'd; she is of good esteem,

Her dowry wealthy, and of worthy birth;

Beside, so qualified as may beseeem

The spouse of any noble gentleman.

Let me embrace with old Vincentio:

And wander we to see thy honest son,

Who will of thy arrival be full joyous.

V. But is this true? or is it else your pleasure,

Like pleasant travellers, to break a jest

Upon the company you overtake?

Hor. I do assure thee, father, so it is.

Pet. Come, go along, and see the truth hereof;

For our first merriment hath made thee jealous.

[*Exeunt Petruchio, Katharina, and Vincentio.*

H. Well, Petruchio, this hath put me in heart.

Have to my widow; and if she be froward,

Then hast thou taught Hortensio to be untoward. [Exit.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

PADUA. BEFORE LUCENTIO'S HOUSE.

Enter on one side Biondello, Lucentio, and Bianca; Gremio walking on the other side.

B. Softly and swiftly, sir; for the priest is ready.

Luc. I fly, Biondello: but they may chance to need thee at home, therefore leave us.

Bion. Nay, I'll see the church o' your back ; and then come back to my master as soon as I can.

[*Exeunt Lucentio, Bianca, and Biondello.*
Gre. I marvel Cambio comes not all this while.

Enter Petruchio, Katharina, Vincentio, and Attendants.

P. Sir, here's the door, this is Lucentio's house, My father's bears more toward the market-place ; Thither must I, and here I leave you, sir.

V. You shall not choose but drink before you go ; I think, I shall command your welcome here, And by all likelihood, some cheer is toward.

[*Knocks.*

Gre. They're busy within, you were best knock louder.

Enter Pedant above, at a window.

Ped. What's he, that knocks as he would beat down the gate ?

Vin. Is signior Lucentio within, sir ? [withal.

Ped. He's within, sir, but not to be spoken

Vin. What if a man bring him a hundred pound or two, to make merry withal !

Ped. Keep your hundred pounds to yourself ; he shall need none, so long as I live.

Pet. Nay, I told you, your son was beloved in Padua.—Do you hear, sir ?—to leave frivolous circumstances,—I pray you, tell signior Lucentio, that his father is come from Pisa, and is here at the door to speak with him.

Ped. Thou liest ; his father is come from Pisa, and here looking out at the window.

Vin. Art thou his father ?

Ped. Ay, sir ; so his mother says, if I may believe her.

Pet. Why, how now, gentlemen ! [To *Vincen.*] why, this is flat knavery, to take upon you another man's name.

Ped. Lay hands on the villain ; I believe 'a means to cozen¹ somebody in this city under my countenance.

Re-enter Biondello.

Bion. I have seen them in the church together : But who is here ? mine old master Vincentio ? now we are undone, and brought to nothing.

Vin. [Seeing *Bion.*] Come hither, crack-

Bion. I hope, I may choose, sir. [hemp.²
Vin. Come hither, you rogue : What, have you forgot me ?

Bion. Forgot you ? no, sir : I could not forget you, for I never saw you before in all my life.

Vin. What, you notorious villain, didst thou never see thy master's father, Vincentio ?

Bion. What, my old, worshipful old master ? yes, marry, sir ; see where he looks out of the window.

Vin. Is't so, indeed ? [Beats *Biondello.*

Bion. Help, help, help ! here's a madman will murder me. [Exit.

Ped. Help, son ! help, signior Baptista !

[Exit, from the window.

Pet. Pr'ythee, Kate, let's stand aside, and see the end of this controversy. [They retire.

1 Cheat.

2 One who deserves to be hanged.

Re-enter Pedant below ; Baptista, Tranio, and Servants.

Tra. Sir, what are you, that offer to beat my servant ?

Vin. What am I, sir ? nay what are you, sir ?—O immortal gods ! O fine villain ! A silken doublet ! a velvet hose ! a scarlet cloak ! and a copatain¹ hat !—O, I am undone ! I am undone ! while I play the good husband at home, my son and my servant spend all at the university.

Tra. How now ! what's the matter ?

Bap. What, is the man lunatick ?

Tra. Sir, you seem a sober ancient gentleman by your habit, but your words show you a madman : Why, sir, what concerns it you, if I wear pearl and gold ? I thank my good father, I am able to maintain it.

Vin. Thy father ? O, villain ! he is a sail-maker in Bergamo.

Bap. You mistake, sir ; you mistake, sir : Pray, what do you think is his name ?

Vin. His name ? as if I knew not his name : I have brought him up ever since he was three years old, and his name is—Tranio.

Ped. Away, away, mad ass ! his name is Lucentio ! and he is mine only son, and heir to the lands of me, signior Vincentio.

Vin. Lucentio ! O, he hath murdered his master !—Lay hold on him, I charge you, in the duke's name.—O, my son, my son !—tell me, thou villain, where is my son Lucentio ?

Tra. Call forth an officer :—[Enter one with an Officer.] Carry this mad knave to the gaol :—Father Baptista, I charge you, see that he be forthcoming.

Vin. Carry me to the gaol !

Gre. Stay, officer ; he shall not go to prison.

Bap. Talk not, signior Gremio ; I say he shall go to prison.

Gre. Take heed, signior Baptista, lest you be cheated in this business ; I dare swear, this is the right Vincentio.

Ped. Swear, if thou darest.

Gre. Nay, I dare not swear it.

Tra. Then thou wert best say, that I am not Lucentio.

Gre. Yes, I know thee to be signior Lucentio.

P. Away with the dotard ; to the gaol with him.

V. Thus strangers may be haled and abused :—O monstrous villain !

Re-enter Biondello, with Lucentio, and Bianca.

Bion. O, we are spoiled, and—Yonder he is ; deny him, forswear him, or else we are all undone.

Luc. [Kneeling.] Pardon, sweet father.

Vin. Lives my sweetest son ?

Biondello, Tranio, and Pedant run out.

Bion. [Kneeling.] Pardon, dear father.

Bap. How hast thou offended ?—

Where is Lucentio ?

Luc. Here's Lucentio,

Right son unto the right Vincentio ;

That have by marriage made thy daughter mine, While counterfeit supposes blear'd thine eyne.²

Gre. Here's packing,³ with a witness, to deceive us all !

1 With a conical crown.

2 Dimmed thine eyes.

3 Tricking.

Vin. Where is that villain Tranio,
That fac'd and brav'd me in this matter so?

Bap. Why, tell me, is not this my Cambio?

Bian. Cambio is chang'd into Lucentio.

L. Love wrought these miracles. Bianca's love
Made me exchange my state with Tranio,
While he did bear my countenance in the town;
And happily I have arriv'd at last
Unto the wished haven of my bliss:—

What Tranio did, myself enforc'd him to;
Then pardon him, sweet father, for my sake.

Vin. I'll slit the villain's nose, that would
have sent me to the gaol.

Ba. [*To Luc.*] But do you hear, sir? Have you
married my daughter without asking my good-
will?

Vin. Fear not, Baptista; we will content you;
go to; But I will in, to be revenged for this
villainy. [*Exit.*]

B. And I, to sound the depth of this knavery. [*Ex.*]

Luc. Look not pale, Bianca; thy father will
not frown. [*Exeunt Luc. and Bian.*]

Gre. My cake is dough! But I'll in among
the rest:

Out of hope of all,—but my share of the feast. [*Ex.*]

Petruchio and Katharina advance.

K. Husband, let's follow, to see the end of this
Pet. First kiss me, Kate, and we will. [*ado.*]

Kath. What, in the midst of the street?

Pet. What, art thou ashamed of me?

K. No, sir: Heaven forbid:—but ashamed to kiss.

Pet. Why, then let's home again:—Come,
sirrah, let's away. [*thee, love, stay.*]

Kath. Nay, I will give thee a kiss: now pray

Pet. Is not this well?—Come, my sweet Kate;
Better once than never, for never too late.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN LUCENTIO'S HOUSE.

*A Banquet set out. Enter Baptista, Vincentio,
Gremio, the Pedant, Lucentio, Bianca. Pe-
truchio, Katharina, Hortensio and Widow,
Tranio, Biondello, Grumio, and others.*

L. At last, though long, our jarring notes agree,
And time it is, when raging war is done,
To smile at 'scapes and perils overblown.—
My fair Bianca, bid my father welcome,
While I with self-same kindness welcome thine:—
Brother Petruchio,—sister Katharina,—
And thou, Hortensio, with thy loving widow,
Feast with the best, and welcome to my house;
My banquet is to close our stomachs up,
After our great good cheer. Pray you, sit down,
For now we sit to chat, as well as eat.

[*They sit at table.*]

Pet. Nothing but sit and sit, and eat and eat!

Ba. Padua affords this kindness, son Petruchio.

Pet. Padua affords nothing but what is kind.

Hor. For both our sakes, I would that word
were true.

P. Now, for my life, Hortensio fears his widow.

Wid. Then never trust me if I be afraid.

Pet. You are sensible, and yet you miss my
sense; I mean, Hortensio is afraid of you.

Wid. He that is giddy, thinks the world turns
round.

1 Implying disappointment.

Pet. Roundly replied. [*round:—*]

Kath. He that is giddy, thinks the world turns
I pray you, tell me what you meant by that.

W. Your husband, being troubled with a shrew,
Measures my husband's sorrow by his woe:

And now you know my meaning.

Kath. A very mean meaning.

Wid.

Right, I mean you.

Kath. And I am mean, indeed, respecting you.

Pet. To her Kate!

Hor. To her, widow!

[*down.*]

P. A hundred marks, my Kate does put her

B. How likes Gremio these quick-witted folks?

Gre. Believe me, sir, they butt together well.

Bian. Head, and butt? an hasty-witted body
Would say, your head and butt were head and
horn. [*you?*]

V. Ay, mistress bride, hath that awaken'd

Bian. Ay, but not frighted me; therefore I'll
sleep again. [*begin.*]

Pet. Nay, that you shall not; since you have
Have at you for a bitter jest or two.

Bia. Am I your bird? I meant to shift my bush,
And then pursue me as you draw your bow:—
You are welcome all.

[*Exeunt Bianca, Katharina, and Widow.*]

Pet. She hath prevented me.—Here, signior
Tranio,

This bird you aim'd at, though you hit her not;
Therefore, a health to all that shot and miss'd.

Tra. O, sir, Lucentio slipp'd me like his grey-
hound,

Which runs himself, and catches for his master.

P. A good swift simile, but something currish.

T. 'Tis well, sir, that you hunted for yourself;
'Tis thought, your deer does hold you at a bay.

Bap. O ho, Petruchio, Tranio hits you now.

Luc. I thank thee for that gird, good Tranio.

Hor. Confess, confess, hath he not hit you here?

Pet. 'A has a little gall'd me, I confess;
And as the jest did glance away from me,

'Tis ten to one it maim'd you two outright.

Bap. Now, in good sadness, son Petruchio,
I think thou hast the verriest shrew of all.

Pet. Well, I say—no; and therefore, for assur-
Let's each one send unto his wife; [*ance,*]

And he, whose wife is most obedient
To come at first when he doth send for her,

Shall win the wager which we will propose.

Hor. Content:—What is the wager?

Luc. Twenty crowns.

Pet. Twenty crowns!
I'll venture so much on my hawk, or hound,

But twenty times so much upon my wife.

Luc. A hundred then.

Hor. Content.

Pet. A match; 'tis done.

Hor. Who shall begin?

Luc. That will I. Go,

Biondello, bid your mistress come to me.

Bian. I go. [*Exit.*]

Bap. Son, I will be you: half, Bianca comes.

Luc. I'll have no halves: I'll bear it all myself.

Re-enter Biondello.

How now! what news?

Bion. Sir, my mistress sends you word
1 Sarcasm.

That she is busy, and she cannot come.

Pet. How! she is busy, and she cannot come! Is that an answer?

Gre. Ay, and a kind one too: Pray heaven, sir, your wife send you not a worse.

Pet. I hope, better. [wife]
Hor. Sirrah, Biondello, go, and entreat my To come to me forthwith. [*Exit Biondello.*]

Pet. O, ho! entreat her!

Nay, then she must needs come.

Hor. I am afraid, sir,

Do what you can, yours will not be entreated.

Re-enter Biondello.

Now, where's my wife? [hand;

B. She says, you have some goodly jest in She will not come; she bids you come to her.

Pet. Worse, and worse; she will not come!

Intolerable, not to be endur'd! [O vile,

Sirrah, Grumio, go to your mistress;

Say, I command her come to me. [*Exit Grumio.*]

Hor. I know her answer.

Pet. What?

Hor. She will not come.

P. The fouler fortune mine, and there an end.

Enter Katherina.

Bap. Now, by my holidame, here comes Katharina? [me?

K. What is your will, sir, that you send for

P. Where is your sister, and Hortensio's wife?

Kath. They sit conferring by the parlour fire.

Pet. Go fetch them hither; if they deny to come, [bands:

Swinge¹ me them soundly forth unto their husband, I say, and bring them hither straight.

[*Exit Katharina.*]

Luc. Here is a wonder, if you talk of a wonder.

Hor. And so it is; I wonder what it bodes.

P. Marry, peace it bodes, and love and quiet life,

An awful rule, and right supremacy; [happy. And, to be short, what not, that's sweet and

Bap. Now fair befall thee, good Petrucchio!

The wager thou hast won; and I will add

Unto their losses twenty thousand crowns;

Another dowry to another daughter,

For she is chang'd, as she had never been.

Pet. Nay, I will win my wager better yet;

And show more sign of her obedience,

Her new-built virtue and obedience.

Re-enter Katharina, with Bianca and Widow.

See, where she comes; and brings your froward wives

As prisoners to her womanly persuasion.—

Katharine, that cap of yours becomes you not;

Off with that bauble, throw it under foot.

[*Kath. pulls off her cap, and throws it down.*]

Wid. Well! let me never have a cause to sigh,

Till I be brought to such a silly pass!

Bian. Fie! what a foolish duty call you this?

Luc. I would, your duty were as foolish too:

The wisdom of your duty, fair Bianca, [time.

Hath cost me an hundred crowns since supper—

B. The more fool you, for laying on my duty.

Pet. Katharine, I charge thee, tell these

headstrong women [bands.

What duty they do owe their lords and hus-

1 Sway

Wid. Come, come, you're mocking; we will have no telling.

Pet. Come on, I say; and first begin with her.

Wid. She shall not.

P. I say, she shall;—and first begin with her.

Kath. Fie, fie! unknit that threat'ning unkind brow;

And dart not scornful glances from those eyes,

To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor;

It blots thy beauty, as frosts bite the meads;

Confound thy fame, as whirlwinds shake fair

And in no sense is meet, or amiable. [buds,

A woman mov'd, is like a fountain troubled,

Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty;

And, while it is so, none so dry or thirsty

Will deign to sip, or touch one drop of it.

Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,

Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,

And for thy maintenance: commits his body

To painful labour, both by sea and land;

To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,

While thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;

And craves no other tribute at thy hands,

But love, fair looks, and true obedience;—

Too little payment for so great a debt.

Such duty as the subject owes the prince,

Even such, a woman oweth to her husband:

And when she's froward, peevish, sullen, sour,

And not obedient to his honest will,

What is she, but a foul contending rebel,

And graceless traitor to her loving lord?

I am asham'd, that women are so simple

To offer war, where they should kneel for peace:

Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,

When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.

Why are our bodies soft, and weak, and smooth,

Unapt to toil and trouble in the world;

But that our soft conditions¹ and our hearts,

Should well agree with our external parts?

Come, come, you froward and unable worms!

My mind hath been as big as one of yours,

My heart as great; my reason, haply more

To bandy word for word, and frown for frown:

But now, I see our lances are but straws; [pare,—

Our strength as weak, our weakness past com-

That seeming to be most, which we least are.

Then vail your stomachs,² for it is no boot;

And place your hands below your husband's

foot:

In token of which duty, if he please,

My hand is ready, may it do him ease.

Pet. Why, there's a wench!—Come on, and

kiss me, Kate. [ha't.

L. Well, go thy ways, old lad; for thou shalt

Vin. 'Tis a good hearing, when children are

toward. [froward.

Luc. But a harsh hearing, when women are

Pet. Come, Kate, we'll to bed:—

We three are married, but you two are sped.

[*To Lucentio.*] 'Twas I won the wager, though

you hit the white:

And, being a winner, God give you good night!

[*Exeunt Petrucchio and Kath.*]

Hor. Now go thy ways, thou hast tam'd a

curst shrew.

Luc. 'Tis a wonder, by your leave, she will be

tam'd so. [*Exeunt.*]

1 Dispositions.

2 Abate your spirits.

Winter's Tale.

Persons Represented.

LEONTES, *King of Sicilia.*

MAMILLIUS, *his Son.*

CAMILLO,

ANTIGONUS,

CLEOMENES,

DION,

Another Sicilian Lord.

ROGERO, *a Sicilian Gentleman.*

An Attendant on the young Prince Mamillius.

Officers of a Court of Judicature.

POLIXENES, *King of Bohemia.*

FLORIZEL, *his Son.*

ARCHIDAMUS, *a Bohemian Lord.*

A Mariner.

Goaler.

An old Shepherd, reputed Father of Perdita.

Clown, his Son.

Servant to the old Shepherd.

AUTOLYCUS, *a Rogue.*

Time, as Chorus.

HERMIONE, *Queen to Leontes.*

PERDITA, *Daughter to Leontes and Hermione.*

PAULINA, *Wife to Antigonus.*

EMILIA, *a Lady,*

Two other Ladies, } *attending the Queen.*

MOPSA,

DORCAS, } *Shepherdesses.*

Lords, Ladies, and Attendants; Satyrs for a Dance; Shepherds, Shepherdesses, Guards, &c.

SCENE.—*Sometimes in Sicilia, sometimes in Bohemia.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—SICILIA. AN ANTECHAMBER IN LEONTES' PALACE.

Enter Camillo and Archidamus.

Arch. If you shall chance, Camillo, to visit Bohemia, on the like occasion whereon my services are now on foot, you shall see, as I have said, great difference betwixt our Bohemia and your Sicilia.

Cam. I think, this coming summer, the king of Sicilia means to pay Bohemia the visitation which he justly owes him.

Arch. Wherein our entertainment shall shame us, we will be justified in our loves: for, indeed,—

Cam. 'Beseech you,—

Arch. Verily, I speak it in the freedom of my knowledge: we cannot with such magnificence—in so rare—I know not what to say.—We will give you sleepy drinks: that your senses, unintelligent of our insufficiency, may, though they cannot praise us, as little accuse us.

Cam. You pay a great deal too dear, for what's given freely.

Arch. Believe me, I speak as my understanding instructs me, and as mine honesty puts it to utterance.

Cam. Sicilia cannot show himself over-kind to Bohemia. They were trained together in their childhoods; and there rooted betwixt them then such an affection, which cannot choose but branch now. Since their more mature dignities, and royal necessities, made separation of their society, their encounters, though not personal, have been royally attorned,¹ with interchange of gifts, letters, loving embassies; that they have seemed to be together, though absent; shook

hands, as over a vast¹; and embraced, as it were, from the ends of opposed winds. The heavens continue their loves!

Arch. I think, there is not in the world either malice, or matter, to alter it. You have an unspeakable comfort of your young prince Mamillius; it is a gentleman of the greatest promise, that ever came into my note.

Cam. I very well agree with you in the hopes of him: it is a gallant child; one that, indeed, physicks² the subject, makes old hearts fresh: they, that went on crutches ere he was born, desire yet their life, to see him a man.

Arch. Would they else be content to die?

Cam. Yes: if there were no other excuse why they should desire to live.

Arch. If the king had no son, they would desire to live on crutches till he had one. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.—A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

Enter Leontes, Polixenes, Hermione, Mamillius, Camillo, and Attendants.

Pol. Nine changes of the wat'ry star have been The shepherd's note, since we have left our throne Without a burden: time as long again Would be fill'd up, my brother, with our thanks; And yet we should for perpetuity, Go hence in debt: And therefore, like a cipher, Yet standing in rich place, I multiply, With one we-thank-you, many thousands more That go before it.

Leon. Stay your thanks awhile; And pay them when you part.

Pol. Sir, that's to-morrow. I am question'd by my fears, of what may chance, Or breed upon our absence: That may blow No sneaping³ winds at home, to make us say,

¹ By proxy.

¹ Wide waste. ² Assuages trouble in. ³ Nipping.

This is put forth too truly! Besides, I have stay'd
To tire your royalty.

Leon. We are tougher, brother,
Than you can put us to't.

Pol. No longer stay.

Leon. One seven-night longer.

Pol. Very sooth, to-morrow.

Leon. We'll part the time between's then:
I'll no gainsaying. [and in that

Pol. Press me not, 'beseech you so:
There is no tongue that moves, none, none i'
the world,

So soon as yours, could win me: so it should now,
Were there necessity in your request, although
'Twere needful I denied it. My affairs
Do even drag me homeward: which to hinder,
Were, in your love, a whip to me; my stay,
To you a charge, and trouble: to save both,
Farewell, our brother.

Leon. Tongue-tied, our queen? speak you.

H. I had thought, sir, to have held my peace,
until

You had drawn oaths from him, not to stay.

You, sir,

Charge him too coldly: Tell him, you are sure,
All in Bohemia's well: this satisfaction
The by-gone day proclaim'd; say this to him,
He's beat from his best ward.

Leon. Well said, Hermione.

H. To tell, he longs to see his son, were strong;
But let him say so then, and let him go;
But let him say so, and he shall not stay,
We'll thrack him hence with distaffs.—

[*To Polixenes.*] Yet of your royal presence I'll
adventure

The borrow of a week. When at Bohemia
You take my lord, I'll give him my commission,
To let¹ him there a month, behind the gest²
Prefix'd for his parting: yet, good deed,³ *Leontes*,
I love thee not a jar⁴ o' the clock behind
What lady she her lord.—You'll stay?

Pol. No, madam.

Her. Nay, but you will.

Pol. I may not, verily.

Her. Verily!

You put me off with limber⁵ vows: But I,
Though you would seek to unsphere the stars
with oaths,

Should yet say, *Sir, no going.* Verily,

You shall not go; a lady's verily is

As potent as a lord's. Will you go yet?

Force me to keep you as a prisoner,

Not like a guest; so you shall pay your fees,
When you depart, and save your thanks. How
say you?

My prisoner? or my guest? by your dread verily,
One of them you shall be.

Pol. Your guest then, madam:
To be your prisoner, should import offending;
Which is for me less easy to commit,
Than you to punish.

Her. Not your gaoler then,
But your kind hostess. Come, I'll question you
Of my lord's tricks, and yours, when you were
You were pretty lordlings then. [boys:

1 Retard.

2 Stages during a royal progress.

3 Indeed.

4 Tick.

5 Pleasant.

Pol.

We were, fair queen,
Two lads, that thought there was no more behind,
But such a day to-morrow as to-day,
And to be boy eternal.

H. Was not my lord the verier wag o' the two?

Pol. We were as twinn'd lambs, that did frisk
i' the sun,

And bleat the one at the other; what we chang'd,
Was innocence for innocence; we knew not
The doctrine of ill-doing, no, nor dream'd
That any did: Had we pursued that life,
And our weak spirits ne'er been higher rear'd
With stronger blood, we should have answer'd
heaven

Boldly, *Not Guilty*: the imposition clear'd,
Hereditary ours.

Her.

By this we gather,
You have tripp'd since.

Pol.

O my most sacred lady,
Temptations have since then been born to us: for
In those unfledg'd days was my wife a girl;
Your precious self had then not cross'd the eyes
Of my young play-fellow.

Her.

Grace to boot!
Of this make no conclusion; lest you say,
Your queen and I are devils: Yet, go on;
The offences we have made you do, we'll answer;
If you first sinn'd with us, and that with us
You did continue fault, and that you slipp'd not
With any but with us.

Leon.

Is he won yet?

Her.

He'll stay, my lord.

Leon.

At my request, he would not.
Hermione, my dearest, thou never spok'st
To better purpose.

Her.

Never?

Leon.

Never, but once.

Her. What? have I twice said well? when
was't before? [make us
I pr'ythee, tell me: Cram us with praise, and
As fat as tame things: One good deed, dying
tongueless,

Slaughters a thousand, waiting upon that.
Our praises are our wages: You may ride us,
With one soft kiss, a thousand furlongs, ere
With spur we heat an acre. But to the gaol;—
My last good deed was, to entreat his stay;
What was my first? it has an elder sister,
Or I mistake you; O, would her name were Grace
But once before I spoke to the purpose: When?
Nay, let me have't, I long.

Leon.

Why, that was when
Three crabbed months had sour'd themselves to
death,

Ere I could make thee open thy white hand,
And clap thyself my love; then didst thou utter,
I am yours for ever.

Her.

It is Grace, indeed.— [twice:
Why, lo you now, I have spoke to the purpose
The one for ever earn'd a royal husband;
The other, for some while a friend.

[*Giving her hand to Polixenes.*

Leon.

[*Aside.*] Too hot, too hot:
To mingle friendship far, is mingling bloods.
I have tremor cordis¹ on me:—my heart dances;
But not for joy,—not joy.—This entertainment
May a free face put on: derive a liberty

1 Trembling of the heart.

From heartiness, from bounty, fertile bosom,
And well become the agent: it may, I grant:
But as now they are, making practis'd smiles,
As in a looking-glass; and then to sigh, as 'twere
The mort¹ of the deer! O, that is entertainment
My bosom likes not, nor my brows.—Mamillius,
Art thou my boy?

Mam. Ay, my good lord.

Leon. I fecks? [thy nose?—
Why that's my bawcock.² What, hast smutch'd
They say, it's a copy out of mine. Come, captain,
We must be neat; not neat, but cleanly, captain:
And yet the steer, the heifer, and the calf,
Are all call'd, neat,—Still virginalling³

[*Observing Polixenes and Hermione.*

Upon his palm?—How now, you wanton calf?
Art thou my calf?

Mam. Yes, if you will, my lord.

Leon. Thou want'st a rough pash,⁴ and the
shoots that I have,⁵

To be full like me;—yet, they say we are
Almost as like as eggs; women say so,
That will say anything: but were they false!
As o'er-died blacks, as wind, as waters; false
As dice are to be wish'd, by one that fixes
No bourn⁶ 'twixt his and mine; yet were it true
To say this boy were like me.—Come, sir page,
Look on me with your welkin⁷ eye: Sweet
villain!

[*be?*
Most dear'st! my collop!—Can thy dam?—may't
Affection! thy intention⁸ stabs the centre:
Thou dost make possible, things not so held,
Communicat'st with dreams;—(How can this
With what's unreal thou co-active art, [*be?*—
And fellow'st nothing: Then 'tis very credent,⁹
Thou may'st co-join with something; and thou
dost:

(And that beyond commission; and I find it.)
And that to the infection of my brains,
And hardening of my brows.

Pol. What means Sicilia?

Her. He something seems unsettled.

Pol. How, my lord?
What cheer? how is't with you, best brother?

Her. You look,
As if you held a brow of much distraction:
Are you mov'd, my lord?

Leon. No, in good earnest.—
How sometimes nature will betray its folly,
Its tenderness, and make itself a pastime
To harder bosoms! Looking on the lines
Of my boy's face, methoughts, I did recoil
Twenty-three years: and saw myself unbreech'd,
In my green velvet coat; my dagger muzzled,
Lest it should bite its master, and so prove,
As ornaments oft do, too dangerous.

How like, methought, I then was to this kernal,
This squash,¹⁰ this gentleman:—Mine honest
Will you take eggs for money?¹¹ [*friend,*

Mam. No, my lord, I'll fight.

Leon. You will? why, happy man be his dole!¹²

—My brother,

Are you so fond of your young prince, as we
Do seem to be of ours?

Pol. If at home, sir,
He's all my exercise, my mirth, my matter:
Now my sworn friend, and then mine enemy;
My parasite, my soldier, statesman, all:
He makes a July's day short as December;
And, with its varying childness, cures in me
Thoughts that would thicken my blood.

Leon. So stands this squire
Offic'd with me: We two will walk, my lord,
And leave you to your graver steps—Hermione,
How thou lov'st us, show in our brother's wel-
Let what is dear in Sicily be cheap: [*come;*
Next to myself, and my young rover, he's
Apparent¹ to my heart.

Her. If you would seek us,
We are your's i' the garden: Shall's attend you
there?

[*be found,*
Leon. To your own bent's dispose you: you'll
Be you beneath the sky:—I am angling now,
Though you perceive me not how I give line.
Go to, go to! [*Aside. Observing Pol. and Her.*]
How she holds up the neb,² the bill to him,
And arms her with the boldness of a wife.
To her allowing³ husband! Gone already.

[*Ereunt Polixenes, Hermione, and
Attendants.*

Go, play, boy, play;—thy mother plays, and I,
Play too; but so disgrac'd a part, whose issue
Will hiss me to my grave; contempt and clamour
Will be my knell.—Go, play, boy, play;—There
have been,

Or I am much deceiv'd, cuckolds ere now;
And many a man there is, even at this present,
Now, while I speak this, holds his wife by the arm,
That little thinks she's false: Should all despair,
That have revolted wives, the tenth of mankind
Would hang themselves; but many a thousand
of us

Have the disease and feel't not.—How now,
Mam. I am like you, they say. [*boy?*

Leon. Why, that's some comfort.—

What! Camillo there?

Cam. Ay, my good lord.

Leon. Go play, Mamillius; thou'rt an honest
man.— [*Exit Mamillius.*
Camillo, this great sir will yet stay longer.

C. You had much ado to make his anchor hold,
When you cast out it still came home.

Leon. Didst note it?

Cam. He would not stay at your petitions;
His business more material. [*made*

Leon. Didst perceive it?
They're herewith me already; whispering round—
Sicilia is a so-forth; 'Tis far gone, [*ing,*⁴
When I shall gust⁵ it last.—How cam't, Camillo,
That he did stay?

Cam. At the good queen's entreaty.

Leon. At the queen's be't: good should be per-
But so it is, it is not. Was this taken [*tinent;*
By any understanding pate but thine?
For thy conceit is soaking, will draw in
More than the common blocks:—not noted, is't,
But of the finer natures? by some severals

1 The tune played at the death of the deer.

2 Fine fellow.

3 Playing on a Spinnet.

4 Head.

5 Budding horns.

6 Boundary.

7 Blue, like the sky.

8 Eagerness.

9 Credible.

10 Pea-cod.

11 Will you be cajoled?

12 Lot.

1 Hair-apparent.

2 Mouth.

3 Approving.

4 Tell secretly in the ear.

5 Taste.

Of head-piece extraordinary? lower messes,¹
Perchance, are to this business purblind: say.
Cam. Business, my lord? I think, most under-
Bohemia stays here longer. [stand

Leon. Ha?

Cam. Stays here longer.

Leon. Ay, but why?

C. To satisfy your highness, and the entreaties
Of our most gracious mistress.

Leon. Satisfy

The entreaties of your mistress?—satisfy?—
Let that suffice. I have trusted thee, Camillo,
With all the nearest things to my heart, as well
My chamber-councils: wherein, priest-like, thou
Hast cleans'd my bosom: I from thee departed
Thy penitent reformed: but we have been
Deceiv'd in thy integrity, deceiv'd
In that which seems so.

Cam. Be it forbid, my lord!

L. To bide upon't;—Thou art not honest: or,
If thou inclin'st that way, thou art a coward;
Which boxes² honesty behind, restraining
From course required: Or else thou must be
A servant, grafted in my serious trust, [counted
And therein negligent; or else a fool,
That seest a game play'd home, the rich stake
And tak'st it all for jest. [drawn,

Cam. My gracious lord,
I may be negligent, foolish, and fearful;
In every one of these no man is free,
But that his negligence, his folly, fear,
Amongst the infinite doings of the world,
Sometime puts forth: In your affairs, my lord,
If ever I were wilful-negligent,
It was my folly; if industriously
I play'd the fool, it was my negligence
Not weighing well the end; if ever fearful
To do a thing, where I the issue doubted,
Whereof the execution did cry out
Against the non-performance, 'twas a fear
Which oft affects the wisest: these, my lord,
Are such allow'd infirmities, that honesty
Is never free of. But, 'beseech your grace,
Be plainer with me; let me know my trespass
By its own visage: if I then deny it,
'Tis none of mine.

Leon. Have not you seen, Camillo,
(But that's past doubt: you have) or heard
(For, to a vision so apparent, rumour
Cannot be mute,) or thought (for cogitation
Resides not in that man, that does not think it,)
My wife is slippery? If thou wilt confess,
(Or else be impudently negative,
To have no eyes, no ears, nor thought,) then say,
My wife's a woman that deserves a name
Too rank to mention: say it, and justify it.

Cam. I would not be a stander-by, to hear
My sovereign mistress clouded so, without
My present vengeance taken: 'Shrew my heart,
You never spoke what did become you less
Than this: which to reiterate, were sin
As deep as that, though true.

Leon. Is whispering nothing?

Is leaning cheek to cheek? Is meeting noses?
Kissing with inside lips? stopping the career
Of laughter with a sigh? (a note infallible
Of breaking honesty:) wishing clocks more swift?

1 Inferiors.

2 Hamstrings.

Hours, minutes? noon, midnight? and all eyes
blind

With the pin and web,¹ but theirs, theirs only,
That would unseen be wicked? is this nothing?
Why, then the world, and all that's in't, is
nothing;

The covering sky is nothing; Bohemia nothing;
My wife is nothing; nor nothing have these
If this be nothing. [nothings,

Cam. Good my lord, be cured
Of this disease² of opinion, and betimes;

For 'tis most dangerous.

Leon. Say, it be; 'tis true.

Cam. No, no, my lord.

Leon. It is; you lie, you lie:

I say, thou liest, Camillo, and I hate thee;
Pronounce thee a gross lout: a mindless slave:
Or else a hovering temporizer, that
Canst with thine eyes at once see good and evil,
Inclining to them both: Were my wife's liver
Infected as her life, she would not live
The running of one glass.

Cam. Who does infect her?

Leon. Why he, that wears her like her medal,
About his neck, Bohemia: Who—if I [hanging
Had servants true about me, that bare eyes
To see alike mine honour as their profits,
Their own particular thrifts,—they would do that
Which should undo more doing: Ay, and thou,
His cup bearer,—whom I from meaner form [see
Have bench'd, and rear'd to worship; who may'st
Plainly, as heaven sees earth, and earth sees
heaven,

How I am galled,—thou might'st bespice a cup,
To give mine enemy a lasting wink;
Which draught to me were cordial.

Cam. Sir, my lord,
I could do this: and that with no rash potion,
But with a lingering dram, that should not work
Maliciously like poison: But I cannot
Believe this crack to be in my dread mistress,
So sovereignly being honourable.
I have lov'd thee,—

Leon. Make 't thy question, and go rot!
Dost think, I am so muddy, so unsettled,
To appoint myself in this vexation? sully
The purity and whiteness of my sheets,
Which to preserve, is sleep; which being spotted,
Is goads, thorns, nettles, tails of wasps?
Give scandal to the blood of the prince my son,
Who, I do think, is mine, and love as mine;
Without ripe moving to't? Would I do this?
Could man so blench²?

Cam. I must believe you, sir;
I do: and will fetch off Bohemia for't:
Provided, that when he's remov'd, your highness
Will take again your queen, as yours at first;
Even for your son's sake; and, thereby, for sealing
The injury of tongues, in courts and kingdoms
Known and allied to yours.

Leon. Thou dost advise me,
Even so as I mine own course have set down:
I'll give no blemish to her honour, none.

Cam. My lord,
Go then; and with a countenance as clear
As friendship wears at feasts, keep with Bohemia
And with your queen: I am his cupbearer;

1 Disorders of the eye.

2 Shrink.

If from me he have wholesome beverage,
Account me not your servant.

Leon. This is all ;
Do't, and thou hast the one half of my heart ;
Do't not, thou split'st thine own.

Cam. I'll do't, my lord.

Leon. I will seem friendly, as thou hast
advis'd me. [*Exit.*]

Cam. O miserable lady !—But, for me,
What case stand I in ? I must be the poisoner
Of good Polixenes : and my ground to do't
Is the obedience to a master ; one,
Who, in rebellion with himself, will have
All that are his, so too.—To do this deed,
Promotion follows : If I could find example
Of thousands, that had struck anointed kings,
And flourish'd after, I'd not do't : but since
Nor brass nor stone, nor parchment, bears not
Let villainy itself forswear't. I must [one,
Forsake the court : to do't, or no, is certain
To me a break-neck. Happy star, reign now !
Here comes Bohemia.

Enter Polixenes.

Pol. This is strange, methinks,
My favour here begins to warp. Not speak?—
Good-day, Camillo.

Cam. Hail, most royal sir !

Pol. What is the news i' the court !

Cam. None rare, my lord.

Pol. The king hath on him such a countenance,
As he had lost some province, and a region,
Lov'd as he loves himself : even now I met him
With customary compliment ; when he,
Waving his eyes to the contrary, and falling
A lip of much contempt, speeds from me : and
So leaves me, to consider what is breeding,
That changes thus his manners.

Cam. I dare not know, my lord.

P. How ! dare not ? do not. Do you know, and
Be intelligent to me ? 'Tis thereabouts ; [dare not
For, to yourself, what you do know, you must ;
And cannot say, you dare not. Good Camillo,
Your chang'd complexions are to me a mirror,
Which shows me mine chang'd to : for I must be
A party in this alteration, finding
Myself thus alter'd with it.

Cam. There is a sickness
Which puts some of us in distemper ; but
I cannot name the disease ; and it is caught
Of you that yet are well.

Pol. How ? caught of me ?
Make me not sighted like the basilisk : [better
I have look'd on thousands, who have sped the
By my regard, but kill'd none so. Camillo,—
As you are certainly a gentleman ; thereto
Clerk-like, experienc'd, which no less adorns
Our gentry, than our parents' noble names,
In whose success we are gentle,—I beseech you,
If you know aught which does behove my know-
Thereof to be inform'd, imprison it not [ledge
In ignorant concealment.

Cam. I may not answer.

Pol. A sickness caught of me, and yet I well !
I must be answer'd.—Dost thou hear, Camillo,
I conjure thee, by all the parts of man, [least
Which honour does acknowledge,—whereof the

Is not this suit of mine,—that thou declare
What incidency thou dost guess of harm
Is creeping toward me ; how far off, how near ;
Which way to be prevented, if to be ;
If not, how best to bear it.

Cam. Sir, I'll tell you ;
Since I am charg'd in honour, and by him
That I think honourable : Therefore, mark my
counsel ;

Which must be even as swiftly follow'd, as
I mean to utter it ; or both yourself and me
Cry, *lost*, and so good night.

Pol. On, good Camillo.

Cam. I am appointed him to murder you.

Pol. By whom, Camillo ?

Cam. By the king.

Pol. For what ?

C. He thinks, nay, with all confidence he
As he had seen't, or been an instrument [swears,
To vice¹ you to't,—that you have touch'd his
Forbiddenly. [*Queen*

Pol. O, then my best blood turn
To an infected jelly ; and my name
Be yok'd with his, that did betray the best !

Turn then my freshest reputation to
A savour, that may strike the dullest nostril
Where I arrive ; and my approach be shunn'd,
Nay, hated too, worse than the great'st infection
That e'er was heard, or read !

Cam. Swear his thought over
By each particular star in heaven, and
By all their influences, you may as well
Forbid the sea for to obey the moon,
As or, by oath, remove, or counsel, shake
The fabrick of his folly ; whose foundation
Is pil'd upon his faith, and will continue
The standing of his body.

Pol. How should this grow ?

Cam. I know not : but, I am sure, 'tis safer to
Avoid what's grown, than question how 'tis born.
If therefore you dare trust my honesty,—
That lies enclosed in this trunk, which you
Shall bear along impawn'd,—away to-night.
Your followers I will whisper to the business ;
And will, by twos, and threes, at several posterns,
Clear them o' the city : For myself, I'll put
My fortunes to your service, which are here
By this discovery lost. Be not uncertain ;
For, by the honour of my parents, I
Have utter'd truth : which if you seek to prove,
I dare not stand by ; nor shall you be safer
Than one condemn'd ; by the king's own mouth,
Is execution sworn. [*thereon*

Pol. I do believe thee :

I saw his heart in his face. Give me thy hand ;
Be pilot to me, and thy places shall
Still neighbour mine ; My ships are ready, and
My people did expect my hence departure
Two days ago.—This jealousy
Is for a precious creature : as she's rare,
Must it be great ; and, as his person's mighty,
Must it be violent ; and as he does conceive
He is dishonour'd by a man which ever
Profess'd to him, why, his revenges must
In that be made more bitter. Fear o'er shades me,
Good expedition be my friend, and comfort [ing
The gracious queen, part of his theme, but not-

¹ Succession.

² Well born.

¹ Persuade.

Of his ill-ta'en suspicion! Come, Camillo;
I will respect thee as a father, if
Thou bear'st my life off hence: Let us avoid.
Cam. It is in mine authority to command
The keys of all the posterns: Please your highness
To take the urgent hour: come, sir, away.
[Exeunt.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Hermione, Mamillius, and Ladies.

Her. Take the boy to you: he so troubles me,
'Tis past enduring.

1 Lady. Come, my gracious lord,
Shall I be your play-fellow?

Mam. No, I'll none of you.

1 Lady. Why, my sweet lord?

Mam. You'll kiss me hard; and speak to me as
I were a baby still.—I love you better. *[if]*

2 Lady. And why so, my good lord?

Mam. Not for because
Your brows are blacker yet black brows, they say,
Become some women best; so that there be not
Too much hair there, but in a semi-circle,
Or half-moon made with a pen.

2 Lady. Who taught you this?

M. I learn'd it out of women's faces.—Pray now
What colour are your eyebrows?

1 Lady. Blue, my lord.

M. Nay, that's a mock; I have seen a lady's nose
That has been blue, but not her eyebrows.

2 Lady. Hark ye; we shall
Present our services to a fine new prince,
One of these days; and then you'd wanton with us
If we would have you.

1 Lady. Good time encounter her!

Her. What wisdom stirs amongst you? Come,
sir, now

I am for you again: Pray you sit by us,
And tell's a tale.

Mam. Merry, or sad, shall't be!

Her. As merry as you will.

Mam. A sad tale's best for winter:
I have one of sprites and goblins.

Her. Let's have that, sir.
Come on, sit down:—Come on, and do your best
To fright me with your sprites: you're powerful

Mam. There was a man,—— *[at it]*

Her. Nay, come, sit down; then on.

Mam. Dwelt by a church-yard;—I will tell it
Yon crickets shall not hear it. *[softly.]*

Her. Come on then,
And give't me in mine ear.

Enter Leontes, Antigonus, Lords, and others.

Leon. Was he met there? his train? Camillo
with him? *[never]*

1 Lord. Behind the tuft of pines I met them;
Saw I men scour so on their way: I ey'd them
Even to their ships.

Leon. How bless'd am I,
In my just censure! in my true opinion?—
Alack, for lesser knowledge! How accurs'd,
In being so blest!—There may be in the cup

1 Judgment.

A spider steep'd, and one may drink, depart,
And yet partake no venom; for his knowledge
Is not infected: but if one present
The abhor'd ingredient to his eye, make known
How he hath drank, he cracks his gorge, his sides,
With violent hefts¹:—I have drank, and seen the
spider.

Camillo was his help in this, his pander:—
There is a plot against my life, my crown;
All's true that is mistrusted:—that false villain,
Whom I employ'd, was pre-employ'd by him:
He has discover'd my design, and I
Remain a pinch'd thing²: yea, a very trick
For them to play at will:—How came the posterns
So easily open?

1 Lord. By his great authority;
Which often hath no less prevail'd than so,
On your command.

Leon. I know't too well.—
Give me the boy; I am glad, you did not nurse
him:

Though he does bear some signs of me, yet you
Have too much blood in him.

Her. What is this? sport?

L. Bear the boy hence, he shall not come about
Away with him: for 'tis Polixenes *[her:]*
Has made thee thus.

Her. But I'd say, he had not,
And, I'll be sworn, you would believe my saying,
Howe'er you lean to the nayward.

Leon. You, my lords,
Look on her, mark her well; be but about
To say, *she is a goodly lady*, and
The justice of your hearts will thereto add,
'Tis *pity she's not honest, honourable*:

Praise her but for this her without-door form,
(Which, on my faith, deserves high speech,) and
straight

The shrug, the hum, or ha; these petty brands,
That calumny doth use:—O, I am out,
That mercy does: for calumny will sear³ [ha's,
Virtue itself:—These shrugs, these hums, and
When you have said, *she's goodly*, come between,
Ere you can say *she's honest*: But be it known,
From him that has most cause to grieve it should
She's an adulteress. *[be,*

Her. Should a villain say so,
The most replenish'd villain in the world,
He were as much more villain: you, my lord,
Do but mistake.

Leon. You have mistook, my lady,
Polixenes for Leontes: O thou thing,
Which I'll not call a creature of thy place,
Lest barbarism, making me the precedent,
Should a like language use to all degrees,
And mannerly distinguishment leave out
Betwixt the prince and beggar!—I have said,
She's an adulteress; I have said with whom:
More, she's a traitor; and Camillo is
A federaly⁴ with her; and one that knows
What she should shame to know herself;
She's even as bad as those
That vulgar give bold titles, ay and privy
To this their late escape.

Her. No, by my life,
Privy to none of this: How will this grieve you,
When you shall come to clearer knowledge, that

1 Heavings. 2 Puppet. 3 Brand. 4 Confederate.

You thus have publish'd me? Gentle, my lord,
You scarce can right me thoroughly then, to say
You did mistake.

Leon. No, no; if I mistake
In those foundations which I build upon,
The centre is not big enough to bear
A school-boy's top.—Away with her to prison:
He, who shall speak for her, is afar off guilty,¹
But² that he speaks.

Her. There's some ill planet reigns:
I must be patient, till the heavens look
With an aspect more favourable. Good my lords,
I am not prone to weeping, as our sex
Commonly are; the want of which vain dew,
Perchance, shall dry your pities: but I have
That honourable grief lodg'd here, which burns
Worse than tears drown: 'Beseech you all, my
lords,

With thoughts so qualified as your charities
Shall best instruct you, measure me;—and so
The king's will be perform'd!

Leon. [To the Guards.] Shall I be heard?

Her. Who is't that goes with me?—'Beseech
your highness,
My women may be with me; for, you see,
My plight requires it. Do not weep, good fools;
There is no cause: when you shall know your
mistress

Has deserv'd prison, then abound in tears,
As I come out: this action, I now go on,
Is for my better grace.—Adieu, my lord:
I never wish'd to see you sorry; now,
I trust, I shall.—My women, come; you have
Leon. Go do our bidding; hence. [leave.

[*Exeunt Queen and Ladies.*]

1 *Lord.* 'Beseech your highness, call the queen
again.

A. Be certain what you do, sir; lest your justice
Prove violence; in the which three great ones
Yourself, your queen, your son. [suffer,

1 *Lord.* For her, my lord,—
I dare my life lay down, and will do't, sir,
Please you to accept it, that the queen is spotless
I' the eyes of heaven, and to you; I mean,
In this which you accuse her.

Ant. If it prove
She's otherwise, I'll keep my stables where
I lodge my wife; I'll go in couples with her;
Than when I feel, and see her, no further trust
For every woman in the world is false, [her;
If she be.

Leon. Hold your peace.

1 *Lord.* Good my lord,—

Ant. It is for you we speak, not for ourselves:
You are abus'd, and by some putter on³;
Would I knew the villain.

Leon. Cease; no more.
You smell this business with a sense as cold
As is a dead man's nose: I see't and feel't
As you feel doing thus; and see withal
The instruments that feel.

Ant. If it be so,
We need no grave to bury honesty;
There's not a grain of it, the face to sweeten
Of the whole dungy earth.

Leon. What! lack I credit?

1 *Lo.* I had rather you did lack, than I, my lord,

1 Partly guilty.

2 *In.*

3 *Instigator.*

Upon this ground: and more it would content me
To have her honour true, than your suspicion;
Be blam'd for't how you might.

Leon. Why, what need we
Commune with you of this? but rather follow
Our forceful instigation? Our prerogative
Call not your counsels; but our natural goodness
Imparts this: which,—if you (or stupified,
Or seeming so in skill,) cannot, or will not,
Relish as truth, like us; inform yourselves,
We need no more of your advice: the matter,
The loss, the gain, the ordering on't, is all
Properly ours.

Ant. And I wish, my liege,
You had only in your silent judgment tried it,
Without more overture.

Leon. How could that be?
Either thou art most ignorant by age,
Or thou wert born a fool. Camillo's flight,
Added to their familiarity,
(Which was as gross as ever touch'd conjecture,
That lack'd sight only, nought for approbation,¹
But only seeing, all other circumstances
Made up to the deed,) doth push on this proceed—
Yet, for a greater confirmation, [ing:
(For, in an act of this importance, 'twere
Most piteous to be wild,) I have despatch'd in
To sacred Delphos, to Apollo's temple, [post,
Cleomenes and Dion, whom you know
Of stuff'd sufficiency²: Now, from the oracle
They will bring all; whose spiritual counsel had,
Shall stop or spur me. Have I done well?

1 *Lord.* Well done, my lord.

Leon. Though I am satisfied, and need no more
Than what I know, yet shall the oracle
Give rest to the minds of others: such as he,
Whose ignorant credulity will not
Come up to the truth: So have we thought it good,
From our free person she should be confin'd;
Lest that the treachery of the two, fled hence,
Be left her to perform. Come, follow us;
We are to speak in publick: for this business
Will raise us all.

Ant. [Aside.] To laughter, as I take it,
If the good truth were known. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE OUTER ROOM OF A PRISON.

Enter Paulina and Attendants.

Paul. The keeper of the prison,—call to him:—

[*Exit an Attendant.*]

Let him have knowledge who I am.—Good lady!
No court in Europe is too good for thee,
What dost thou then in prison?—Now, good sir,

Re-enter Attendant, with the Keeper.

You know me, do you not?

Keep. For a worthy lady,
And one whom much I honour.

Paul. Pray you, then,
Conduct me to the queen.

Keep. I may not, madam; to the contrary
I have express commandment.

Paul. Here's ado,
To lock up honesty and honour from
The access of gentle visitors!—Is it lawful,

1 *Proof.*

2 Of abilities more than enough.

Pray you, to see her women? any of them? Emilia?

Keep. So please you, madam, to put Apart these your attendants, I shall bring Emilia forth.

Paul. I pray now, call her. Withdraw yourselves. [*Exeunt Attend.*]

Keep. And, madam, I must be present at your conference.

Paul. Well, be it so, pr'ythee. [*Exit Keeper.*]
Here's such ado to make no stain a stain,
As passes colouring.

Re-enter Keeper, with Emilia.

Dear gentlewoman, how fares our gracious lady?

Emil. As well as one so great, and so forlorn,
May hold together: On her frights and griefs,
(Which never tender lady hath borne greater,) She is, something before her time, deliver'd.

Paul. A boy!

Emil. A daughter, and a goodly babe,
Lusty, and like to live: the queen receives
Much comfort in't: says, *My poor prisoner,*
I am innocent as you.

Paul. I dare be sworn:—
These dangerous unsafe luns¹ o' the king!
beshrew them!

He must be told on't, and he shall: the office
Becomes a woman best; I'll take't upon me;
If I prove honey-mouth'd let my tongue blister;
And never to my red-look'd anger be
The trumpet any more: Pray you, Emilia,
Commend my best obedience to the queen;
If she dares trust me with her little babe,
I'll show't the king, and undertake to be
Her advocate to th' loudest: We do not know
How he may soften at the sight o' the child;
The silence often of pure innocence
Persuades, when speaking fails.

Emil. Most worthy madam,
Your honour, and your goodness, is so evident,
That your free undertaking cannot miss
A thriving issue; there is no lady living,
So meet for this great errand: Please your lady-
To visit the next room, I'll presently [*ship*]
Acquaint the queen of your most noble offer;
Who, but to-day, hammer'd of this design;
But durst not tempt a minister of honour,
Lest she should be denied.

Paul. Tell her, Emilia,
I'll use that tongue I have: if wit flow from it,
As boldness from my bosom, let it not be doubted
I shall do good.

Emil. Now be you blest for it! [nearer.
I'll to the queen: Please you, come something
K. Madam, if't please the queen to send the
I know not what I shall incur, to pass it, [babe,
Having no warrant.

Paul. You need not fear it, sir:
The child was prisoner to the womb; and is,
By law and process of great nature, thence
Freed and enfranchis'd: not a party to
The anger of the king; nor guilty of,
If any be, the trespass of the queen.

Keep. I do believe it.

Paul. Do not you fear: upon
Mine honour, I will stand 'twixt you and danger.
[*Exeunt.*]

1 Mad fits.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Leontes, Antigonus, Lords, and other Attendants.

L. Nornight, nor day, no rest: It is but weakness
To hear the matter thus; mere weakness, if
The cause were not in being;—part o' the cause,
She, the adulteress;—for the harlot king
Is quite beyond mine arm, out of the blank
And level of my brain, plot-proof: but she
I can hook to me: Say, that she were gone,
Given to the fire, a moiety of my rest
Might come to me again.—Who's there?

1 *Atten.* [*Advancing.*] My lord?

Leon. How does the boy?

1 *Atten.* He took good rest to-night:
'Tis hop'd, his sickness is discharg'd.

Leon. To see,
His nobleness!

Conceiving the dishonour of his mother,
He straight declin'd, droop'd, took it deeply;
Fasten'd and fix'd the shame on't in himself;
Throw off his spirit, his appetite, his sleep, [go
And downright languish'd.—Leave me solely!—
See how he fares. [*Exit Attend.*—Fie, fie! no
thought of him;

The very thought of my revenges that way
Recoil upon me; in himself too mighty;
And in his parties, his alliance,—Let him be,
Until a time may serve for present vengeance,
Take it on her. Camillo and Polixenes
Laugh at me; make their pastime at my sorrow:
They should not laugh if I could reach them; nor
Shall she, within my power.

Enter Paulina, with a Child.

1 *Lord.* You must not enter.

P. Nay, rather, good my lords, be second to me:
Fear you his tyrannous passion more, alas,
Than the queen's life? a gracious innocent soul;
More free, than he is jealous.

Ant. That's enough.

1 *Atten.* Madam, he hath not slept to-night;
None should come at him. [*commanded*]

Paul. Not so hot, good sir;
I come to bring him sleep. 'Tis such as you,—
That creep like shadows by him, and do sigh
At each his needless heaving,—such as you
Nourish the cause of his awaking: I
Do come with words as med'cal as true;
Honest, as either; to purge him of that humour,
That presses him from sleep.

Leon. What noise there, ho?

P. No noise, my lord; but needful conference,
About some gossipings for your highness.

Leon. How?

Away with that audacious lady: Antigonus,
I charg'd thee, that she should not come about
I knew, she would. [me;

Ant. I told her so, my lord,
On your displeasure's peril, and on mine,
She should not visit you.

Leon. What, canst not rule her?

Paul. From all dishonesty, he can; in this,
(Unless he take the course that you have done,
Commit me, for committing honour,) trust it,
He shall not rule me.

1 Alone.

Ant. Lo you now ; you hear !
When she will take the rein, I let her run ;
But she'll not stumble.

Paul. Good my liege, I come, —
And, I beseech you, hear me, who profess
Myself your loyal servant, your physician,
Your most obedient counsellor ; yet that dare
Less appear so, in comforting¹ your evils,
Than such as most seem yours : — I say, I come
From your good queen.

Leon. Good queen !
Paul. Good queen, my lord, good queen : I
say good queen ;

And would by combat make her good, so were I
A man, the worst² about you.

Leon. Force her hence.
Paul. Lethim, that makes but trifles of his eyes,
First hand me : on mine own accord, I'll off ;
But first, I'll do my errand. — The good queen,
For she is good, hath brought you forth a daugh-
Here 'tis ; commends it to your blessing. [ter ;
[Laying down the Child.

Leon. Out !
A mankind³ witch ! Hence with her, out o' door :
A most intelligencing bawd !

Paul. Not so :
I am as ignorant in that, as you
In so entitling me : and no less honest
Than you are mad ; which is enough, I'll warrant,
As this world goes, to pass for honest.

Leon. Traitors !
Will you not push her out ? Give her the bastard : —
[To *Ant.*] Thou, dotard, thou art woman-tir'd,⁴
unroosted

By thy dame Partlet here, — take up the bastard ;
Take't up, I say ; give't to thy crone.⁵

Paul. For ever
Unvenerable be thy hands, if thou
Tak'st up the princess, by that forced baseness⁶
Which he has put upon't !

Leon. He dreads his wife.
Paul. So, I would, you did : then, 'twere past all
You'd call your children yours. [doubt,

Leon. A nest of traitors !
Ant. I am none, by this good light.

Paul. Nor I ; nor any,
But one, that's here ; and that's himself : for he
The sacred honour of himself, his queen's,
His hopeful son's, his babe's, betrays to slander,
Whose sting is sharper than the sword's ; and will
(For as the case now stands, it is a curse [not
He cannot be compell'd to't,) once remove
The root of his opinion, which is rotten,
As ever oak, or stone, was sound.

Leon. A callat,
Of boundless tongue ; who late hath beat her
husband,

And now baits me ! — This brat is none of mine ;
It is the issue of Polixenes :
Hence with it ; and, together with the dam,
Commit them to the fire.

Paul. It is yours ;
And, might we lay the old proverb to your charge,
So like you, 'tis the worse. — Behold, my lords,
Although the print be little, the whole matter
And copy of the father : eye, nose, lip,

The trick of his frown, his forehead ; nay, the
valley ; [smiles ;
The pretty dimples of his chin, and cheek ; his
The very mould and frame of hand, nail, finger : —
And thou, good goddess nature, which hast made
So like to him that got it, if thou hast [it
The ordering of the mind too, 'mongst all colours
No yellow ! in't ; lest she suspect as he does,
Her children not her husband's !

Leon. A gross hag ! —
And lozel,² thou art worthy to be hang'd,
That will not stay her tongue.

Ant. Hang all the husbands
That cannot do that feat, you'll leave yourself
Hardly one subject.

Leon. Once more, take her hence.
Paul. A most unworthy and unnatural lord,
Can do no more.

Leon. I'll have thee burn'd.
Paul. I care not :
It is an heretick, that makes the fire,
Notshe, which burns in't. I'll not call you tyrant ;
But this most cruel usage of your queen
(Not able to produce more accusation
Than your own weak-hing'd fancy,) something
Of tyranny, and will ignoble make you, [savours
Yea, scandalous to the world.

Leon. On your allegiance,
Out of the chamber with her. Were I a tyrant,
Where were her life ? she durst not call me so,
If she did know me one. Away with her.

Paul. I pray you, do not push me ; I'll be gone.
Look to your babe, my lord ; 'tis yours : Jove
send her hands ? —

A better guiding spirit ! — What need these
You, that are thus so tender o'er his follies,
Will never do him good, not one of you.
So, so : — Farewell ; we are gone. [Exit.

Le. Thou, traitor, hast set on thy wife to this. —
My child ? away with't ! even thou, thou hast
A heart so tender o'er it, take it hence,
And see it instantly consum'd with fire ;
Even thou, and none but thou. Take it up straight :
Within this hour bring me word 'tis done,
(And by good testimony,) or I'll seize thy life,
With what thou else call'st thine : If thou refuse,
And wilt encounter with my wrath, say so ;
The bastard brains with these my proper hands
Shall I dash out. Go, take it to the fire ;
For thou sett'st on thy wife.

Ant. I did not, sir :
These lords, my noble fellows, if they please,
Can clear me in't.

1 Lord. We can ; my royal liege,
He is not guilty of her coming hither.

Leon. You are liars all. [credit :

1 Lord. Beseech your highness, give us better
We have always truly serv'd you ; and beseech
So to esteem of us : And on our knees we beg,
(As recompense of our dear services,
Past, and to come,) that you do change this pur-
Which being so horrible, so bloody, must [pose ;
Lead on to some foul issue : We all kneel.

Le. I am a feather for each wind that blows : —
Shall I live on, to see this bastard kneel
And call me father ? Better burn it now,
Than curse it then. But, be it ; let it live :

1 Jealousy. 2 Worthless fellow,

¹ Abetting. ² Masculine. ³ Old woman. [tion.
² Meanest. ⁴ Henpecked. ⁶ Under the base designa-

It shall not neither.—[To *Antigonus*.] You, sir, come you hither;
 You that have been so tenderly officious
 With lady Margery, your midwife, there,
 To save this bastard's life:—for 'tis a bastard,
 So sure as this beard's grey,—what will you ad-
 To save this brat's life? [venture]

Ant. Any thing, my lord,
 That my ability may undergo,
 And nobleness impose; at least thus much;
 I'll pawn the little blood which I have left,
 To save the innocent: any thing possible.

Le. It shall be possible: Swear by this sword,¹
 Thou wilt perform my bidding.

Ant. I will, my lord.
Leon. Mark, and perform it; (seest thou?) for
 Of any point in't shall not only be [the fail
 Death to thyself, but to thy lewd-tongu'd wife;
 Whom, for this time we pardon. We enjoin thee,
 As thou art liegeman to us, that thou carry
 This female bastard hence; and that thou bear it
 To some remote and desert place, quite out
 Of our dominions; and that there thou leave it,
 Without more mercy, to its own protection,
 And favour of the climate. As by strange fortune
 It came to us, I do in justice charge thee,—
 On thy soul's peril, and thy body's torture,—
 That thou commend it strangely to some place,²
 Where chance may nurse, or end it: Take it up.

Ant. I swear to do this, though a present death
 Had been more merciful.—Come on, poor babe:
 Some powerful spirit instruct the kites and ravens
 To be thy nurses! Wolves, and bears, they say,
 Casting their savageness aside, have done
 Like offices of pity.—Sir, be prosperous
 In more than this deed doth require! and bless-
 Against this cruelty, fight on thy side. [sing,
 Poor thing, condemn'd to loss! [*Ex. with the child.*]

Leon. No, I'll not rear
 Another's issue.

1 Atten. Please your highness, posts,
 From those you sent to the oracle, are come
 An hour since: Cleomenes and Dion,
 Being well arriv'd from Delphos, are both landed,
 Hasting to the court.

1 Lord. So please you, sir, their speed
 Hath been beyond account.

Leon. Twenty-three days
 They have been absent? 'Tis good speed; fore-
 The great Apollo suddenly will have [tells,
 The truth of this appear. Prepare you, lords;
 Summon a session, that we may arraign
 Our most disloyal lady: for as she hath
 Been publicly accus'd, so shall she have
 A just and open trial. While she lives,
 My heart will be a burden to me. Leave me;
 And think upon my bidding. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A STREET IN SOME TOWN.

Enter Cleomenes and Dion.

Cl. The climate's delicate; the air most sweet;
 Fertile the isle; the temple much surpassing
 The common praise it bears.

¹ By the cross at the hilt. ² To some strange place.

Dion. I shall report,
 For most it caught me, the celestial habits,
 (Methinks, I so should term them,) and the reve-
 Of the grave wearers. O, the sacrifice! [renew
 How ceremonious, solemn, and unearthly
 It was i' the offering!]

Cleo. But, of all, the burst
 And the ear-deafening voice o' the oracle,
 Kin to Jove's thunder, so surpriz'd my sense,
 That I was nothing.

Dion. If the event o' the journey
 Prove as successful to the queen,—O, be't so!—
 As it hath been to us, rare, pleasant, speedy,
 The time is worth the use on't.

Cleo. Great Apollo
 Turn all to the best! These proclamations,
 So forcing faults upon Hermione,
 I little like.

Dion. The violent carriage of it
 Will clear, or end, the business: When the oracle
 Thus (by Apollo's great divine seal'd up,)
 Shall the contents discover, something rare,
 Even then, will rush to knowledge.—Go,—
 fresh horses;—

And gracious be the issue! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A COURT OF JUSTICE.

*Leontes, Lords, and Officers, appear properly
 seated.*

Leon. The sessions (to our great grief, we
 pronounce)
 Even pushes 'gainst our heart: The party tried,
 The daughter of a king; our wife; and one
 Of us too much belov'd.—Let us be clear'd
 Of being tyrannous, since we so openly
 Proceed in justice; which shall have due course,
 Even to the guilt, or the purgation.—
 Produce the prisoner.

Off. It is his highness' pleasure, that the queen
 Appear in person here in court.—Silence!

*Hermione is brought in, guarded; Paulina
 and Ladies attending.*

Leon. Read the indictment.

Off. *Hermione, queen to the worthy Leontes,
 king of Sicilia, thou art here accused and ar-
 raigned of high treason, in committing adultery
 with Polixenes, king of Bohemia; and conspir-
 ing with Camillo to take away the life of our
 sovereign lord the king, thy royal husband;
 the pretence¹ whereof being by circumstances
 partly laid open, thou, Hermione, contrary to
 the faith and allegiance of a true subject, didst
 counsel and aid them, for their better safety to
 fly away by night.*

Her. Since what I am to say, must be but that
 Which contradicts my accusation; and
 The testimony on my part, no other
 But what comes from myself; it shall scarce
 To say, *Not guilty*: mine integrity, [boot me
 Being counted falsehood, shall, as I express it,
 Be so receiv'd. But thus,—If powers divine
 Behold our human actions (as they do,)
 I doubt not then, but innocence shall make
 False accusation blush, and tyranny
 Tremble at patience.—You, my lord, best know,

¹ Design.

(Who least will seem to do so,) my past life
 Hath been as continent, as chaste, as true,
 As I am now unhappy; which is inore
 Than history can pattern, though devils'd,
 And play'd to take spectators: For behold me,—
 A fellow of the royal bed, which owe¹
 A moiety of the throne, a great king's daughter,
 The mother to a hopeful prince,—here standing
 To prate and talk for life, and honour, 'fore
 Who please to come and hear. For life, I prize it
 As I weigh grief, which I would spare: for
 'Tis a derivative from me to mine, [honour,
 And only that I stand for. I appeal
 To your own conscience, sir, before Polixenes
 Came to your court, how I was in your grace,
 How merited to be so; since he came,
 With what encounter so uncurent I
 Have strain'd to appear thus: if one jot beyond
 The bound of honour; or, in act, or will,
 That way inclining; harden'd be the hearts
 Of all that hear me, and my near'st of kin
 Cry, Fie upon my grave!

Leon. I ne'er heard yet,
 That any of these bolder vices wanted
 Less impudence to gainsay what they did,
 Than to perform it first.

Her. That's true enough;
 Though, 'tis a saying, sir, not due to me.

Leon. You will not own it.

Her. More than mistress of,
 Which comes to me in name of fault, I must not
 At all acknowledge. For Polixenes
 (With whom I am accus'd,) I do confess,
 I lov'd him, as in honour he requir'd;
 With such a kind of love, as might become
 A lady like me; with a love, even such,
 So, and no other, as yourself commanded:
 Which not to have done, I think, had been in me
 Both disobedience and ingratitude,
 To you, and toward your friend; whose love
 had spoke,

Even since it could speak, from an infant, freely,
 That it was yours. Now, for conspiracy,
 I know not how it tastes; though it be dish'd
 For me to try how: all I know of it
 Is, that Camillo was an honest man;
 And, why he left your court, the gods them-
 Wotting no more than I, are ignorant. [selves,
Leon. You knew of his departure, as you know
 What you have underta'en to do in his absence.

Her. Sir,
 You speak a language that I understand not:
 My life stands in the level of your dreams,
 Which I'll lay down.

Leon. Your actions are my dreams;
 You had a bastard by Polixenes, [shame,
 And I but dream'd it:—As you were past all
 (Those of your fact² are so,) so past all truth:
 Which to deny, concerns more than avails³:

For as
 Thy brat hath been cast out, like to itself,
 No father owning it (which is, indeed,
 More criminal in thee, than it,) so thou
 Shalt feel our justice; in whose easiest passage,
 Look for no less than death.

Her. Sir, spare your threats;
 The bug,⁴ which you would fright mewith, I seek.

1 Own. 2 Sork. 3 Avails little. 5 Bugbear.

To me can life be no commodity:
 The crown and comfort of my life, your favour
 I do give lost; for I do feel it gone,
 But know not how it went: My second joy,
 And first-fruits of my body, from his presence,
 I am barr'd, like one infectious: My third com-
 Starr'd most unluckily, is from my breast, [fort,
 The innocent milk in its most innocent mouth,
 Haled out to murder: Myself on every post
 Proclaim'd a strumpet; With immodest hatred,
 The child-bed privilege denied, which 'longs
 To women of all fashion:—Lastly, hurried
 Here to this place, i' the open air, before
 I have got strength of limit.¹ Now, my liege,
 Tell me what blessings I have here alive,
 That I should fear to die? Therefore, proceed.
 But yet, hear this; mistake me not;—No! life,
 I prize it not a straw:—but for mine honour
 (Which I would free,) if I shall be condemn'd
 Upon surmises; all proofs sleeping else,
 But what your jealousies awake; I tell you,
 'Tis rigour, and not law.—Your honours all,
 I do refer me to the oracle;
 Apollo be my judge.

1 Lord. This your request
 Is altogether just: therefore, bring forth,
 And in Apollo's name, his oracle.

[*Exeunt certain Officers.*]

Her. The emperor of Russia was my father;
 O, that he were alive, and here beholding
 His daughter's trial! that he did but see
 The fatherness of my misery; yet with eyes
 Of pity, not revenge!

Re-enter Officers with Cleomenes and Dion.

Off. You here shall swear upon this sword of
 That you, Cleomenes and Dion, have [justice,
 Been both at Delphos; and from thence have
 brought

This seal'd up oracle, by the hand deliver'd
 Of great Apollo's priest: and that, since then,
 You have not dar'd to break the holy seal,
 Nor read the secrets in't.

Cleo. Dion. All this we swear.

Leon. Break up the seals and read.

Off. [Reads.] *Hermione is chaste, Polixenes
 blameless, Camillo a true subject, Leontes a
 jealous tyrant, his innocent babe truly begotten;
 and the king shall live without an heir, if that,
 which is lost, be not found.*

Lords. Now blessed be the great Apollo!

Her. Praised.

Leon. Hast thou read truth?

Off. Ay, my lord; even so
 As it is here set down.

Leon. There is no truth at all i' the oracle:
 The sessions shall proceed; this is mere false-
 hood.

Enter a Servant, hastily.

Serv. My lord the king, the king!—

Leon. What is the business?

Serv. O sir, I shall be hated to report it:
 The prince your son, with mere conceit and fear
 Of the queen's speed,² is gone.

Leon. How! gone?

Serv. Is dead.

1 Customary strength.

2 Of the event of the trial.

L. Apollo's angry; and the heavens themselves
Do strike at my injustice. [*Her. faints.*] How
now there?

Paul. This news is mortal to the queen:—Look
And see what death is doing. [*down,*

Leon. Take her hence:
Her heart is but o'ercharged; she will recover.—
I have too much believ'd mine own suspicion:—
'Beseech you, tenderly apply to her
Some remedies for life.—Apollo, pardon

[*Exeunt Paulina and Ladies, with Herm.*
My great profaneness 'gainst thine oracle!—
I'll reconcile me to Polixenes;

New woo my queen; recall the good Camillo;
Whom I proclaim a man of truth, of mercy:
For, being transported by my jealousies
To bloody thoughts and to revenge, I chose
Camillo for the minister, to poison
My friend Polixenes: which had been done,
But that the good mind of Camillo tardied
My swift command, though I with death, and with
Reward, did threaten and encourage him,
Not doing it, and being done: he, most humane,
And fill'd with honour, to my kingly guest
Unclass'd my practice; quit his fortunes here,
Which you knew great; and to the certain hazard
Of all uncertainties himself commended,
No richer than his honour:—How he glisters
Thorough my rust! and how his piety
Does my deeds make the blacker!

Re-enter Paulina.

Paul. Woe the while:
O, cut my lace; lest my heart, cracking it,
Break too!

1 Lord. What fit is this, good lady?

P. What studied torments, tyrant, hast for me?
What wheels? racks? fires? What flaying? boiling,
In leads, or oills? what old, or newer torture
Must I receive; whose every word deserves
To taste of thy most worst? Thy tyranny
Together working with thy jealousies,—
Fancies too weak for boys, too green and idle
For girls of nine!—O, think, what they have done,
And then run mad indeed; stark mad! for all
Thy bygone fooleries were but spices of it.
That thou betray'dst Polixenes, 'twas nothing;
That did but show thee, of a fool, inconstant,
And horribly ungrateful: nor wast much,
Thou wouldst have poison'd good Camillo's
To have him kill a king; poor trespasses, [honour,
More monstrous standing by: whereof I reckon
The casting forth to crows thy baby daughter,
To be or none or little: though a devil
Would have shed water¹ out of fire ere done't.
Nor is't directly laid to thee, the death
Of the young prince, whose honourable thoughts
(Thoughts high for one so tender,) cleft the heart
That could conceive, a gross and foolish sire
Blemish'd his gracious dam: this is not, no,
Laid to thy answer: But the last,—O, lords,
When I have said, cry, woe!—the queen, the queen,
The sweetest, dearest, creature's dead; and ven-
Not dropp'd down yet. [*gance for't*

1 Lord. The higher powers forbid!

Paul. I say, she's dead; I'll swear't; if word,
nor oath,

1 Tears.

Prevail not, go and see: if you can bring
Tincture, or lustre, in her lip, her eye,
Heat outwardly, or breath within, I'll serve you
As I would do the gods.—But, O, thou tyrant!
Do not repent these things for they are heavier
Than all thy woes can stir: therefore betake thee
To nothing but despair. A thousand knees
Ten thousand years together, naked, fasting,
Upon a barren mountain, and still winter
In storm perpetual, could not move the gods
To look that way thou wert.

Leon. Go on, go on:
Thou canst not speak too much: I have deserv'd
All tongues to talk their bitterest.

1 Lord. Say no more;
Howe'er the business goes, you have made fault
I' the boldness of your speech.

Paul. I am sorry for't;
All faults I make, when I shall come to know them,
I do repent: Alas, I have show'd too much
The rashness of a woman: he is touch'd [help,
To the noble heart.—What's gone, and what's past
Should be past grief: Do not receive affliction
At my petition, I beseech you; rather
Let me be punish'd, that have minded you
Of what you should forget. Now, good my liege,
Sir, royal sir, forgive a foolish woman:
The love I bore your queen,—lo, fool again!—
I'll speak of her no more, nor of your children;
I'll not remember you of my own lord,
Who is lost too: Take your patience to you,
And I'll say nothing.

Leon. Thou didst speak but well,
When most the truth; which I receive much better
Than to be pitied of thee. Pry'thee, bring me
To the dead bodies of my queen and son:
One grave shall be for both; upon them shall
The causes of their death appear, unto
Our shame perpetual: Once a day I'll visit
The chapel where they lie; and tears shed there
Shall be my recreation: So long as
Nature will bear up with this exercise,
So long I daily vow to use it. Come,
And lead me to these sorrows. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

BOHEMIA. A DESERT COUNTRY NEAR THE SEA.

*Enter Antigonus, with the Child; and a
Mariner.*

Ant. Thou art perfect,¹ then our ship hath
The deserts of Bohemia? [*touch'd upon*

Mar. Ay, my lord, and fear
We have landed in ill time: the skies look grimly,
And threaten present blusters. In my conscience,
The heavens with that we have in hand are angry,
And frown upon us. [*aboard;*

Ant. Their sacred wills be done!—Go, get
Look to thy bark; I'll not be long, before
I call upon thee.

Mar. Make your best haste; and go not
Too far i' the land: 'tis like to be loud weather,
Besides, this place is famous for the creatures
Of prey, that keep upon't.

Ant. Go thou away:
I'll follow instantly.

1 Assured.

Mar. I am glad at heart
To be so rid o' the business. [*Exit.*
Ant. Come, poor babe:—
I have heard, (but not believ'd,) the spirits of
the dead
May walk again: if such thing be, thy mother
Appear'd to me last night; for ne'er was dream
So like a waking. To me comes a creature,
Sometimes her head on one side, some another;
I never saw a vessel of like sorrow,
So fill'd, and so becoming: in pure white robes,
Like very sanctity, she did approach
My cabin where I lay: thrice bow'd before me;
And gasping to begin some speech, her eyes
Became two spouts: the fury spent, anon
Did this break from her: *Good Antigonus,*
Since fate, against thy better disposition,
Hath made thy person for the thrower-out
Of my poor babe, according to thine oath,—
Places remote enough are in Bohemia,
There weep, and leave it crying; and, for the
Is counted lost for ever, Perdita, [*babe*
I pr'ythee, call't; for this ungentle business,
Put on thee by my lord, thou ne'er shalt see
Thy wife Paulina more:—and so, with shrieks,
She melted into air. Affrighted much,
I did in time collect myself; and thought
This was so, and no slumber. Dreams are toys:
Yet, for this once, yea, superstitiously,
I will be squared by this. I do believe,
Hermione hath suffer'd death; and that
Apollo would, this being indeed the issue
Of king Polixenes, it should here be laid,
Either for life, or death, upon the earth
Of its right father.—Blossom, speed thee well!

[*Laying down the Child.*
There lie; and there thy character¹: there these;

[*Laying down a bundle.*
Which may, if fortune please, both breed thee,
pretty,

[*wretch.*
And still rest thine.—The storm begins:—Poor
That, for thy mother's fault, art thus expos'd
To loss, and what may follow!—Weep, I cannot,
But my heart bleeds: and most accurs'd am I,
To be by oath enjoin'd to this.—Farewell!

The day frowns more and more; thou art like to
A lullaby too rough: I never saw [*have*
The heavens so dim by day. A savage clamour?—
We'll may I get aboard!—This is the chase;
I am gone for ever. [*Exit, pursued by a Bear.*

Enter an old Shepherd.

Shep. I would there were no age between ten
and three and twenty; or that youth would
sleep out the rest: for there is nothing in the
between but wronging the ancients, stealing,
fighting.—Hark you now!—Would any but
these boiled brains of nineteen, and two and
twenty, hunt this weather? They have scared
away two of my best sheep; which, I fear, the
wolf will sooner find, than the master: if any
where I have them, 'tis by the sea-side, browsing
on ivy. Good luck, an't be thy will! what have
we here? [*Taking up the Child.*] Mercy on's,
a barne²; a very pretty barne! A pretty one;
a very pretty one: I'll take it up for pity: Yet
I'll tarry till my son come; he hollaed but even
now. Whoa, ho ho!

¹ History.

² Child.

Enter Clown.

Clo. Hilloa, loa!

Shep. What, art so near? if thou'lt see a thing
to talk on when thou art dead and rotten, come
hither. What ailest thou, man?

Clo. I have seen two such sights, by sea and
by land;—but I am not to say, it is a sea, for it
is now the sky; betwixt the firmament and it,
you cannot thrust a bodkin's point.

Shep. Why, boy, how is it?

Clo. I would you did but see how it chafes,
how it rages, how it takes up the shore! but
that's not to the point: O, the most piteous
cry of the poor souls! sometimes to see 'em, and
not to see 'em: now the ship boring the moon
with her main-mast; and anon swallowed with
yeast and froth, as you'd thrust a cork into a
hog'shead. And then for the land service.—To
see how the bear tore out his shoulder-bone;
how he cried to me for help, and said his name
was Antigonus, a nobleman:—But to make an
end of the ship:—to see how the sea flap-dragoned¹
it;—but, first, how the poor souls roared, and
the sea mocked them;—and how the poor gentle-
man roared, and the bear mocked him, both
roaring louder than the sea or weather.

Shep. 'Name of mercy, when was this, boy?

Clo. Now, now; I have not winked since I
saw these sights: the men are not yet cold
under water, nor the bear half dined on the
gentleman: he's at it now.

Shep. Would I had been by, to have helped
the old man!

Clo. I would you had been by the ship side,
to have helped her; there your charity would
have lacked footing. [*Aside.*

Shep. Heavy matters! heavy matters! but
look thee here, boy. Now bless thyself; thou
met'st with things dying, I with things new born.
Here's a sight for thee; look thee, a bearing-
cloth² for a squire's child! Look thee here:
take up, take up, boy; open't. So, let's see:
It was told me, I should be rich by the fairies:
this is some changeling:—open't: What's
within, boy?

Clo. You're a made old man; if the sins of
your youth are forgiven you, you're well to live.
Gold! all gold!

Shep. This is fairy gold, boy, and 'twill prove
so: up it with it, keep it close; home, home, the
next way. We are lucky, boy; and to be so
still, requires nothing but secrecy.—Let my
sheep go:—Come, good boy, the next way home.

Clo. Go you the next way with your findings;
I'll go see if the bear be gone from the gentle-
man, and how much he hath eaten: they are
never curst,³ but when they are hungry: if
there be any of him left, I'll bury it.

Shep. That's a good deed: If thou mayst dis-
cern by that which is left of him, what he is,
fetch me to the sight of him.

Clo. Marry, will I; and you shall help to put
him i' the ground.

Shep. 'Tis a lucky day, boy; and we'll do
good deeds on't. [*Exeunt.*

¹ Swallowed.

² The mantle in which a child was carried to be

³ Mischievous.

[baptized.

Act Fourth.

Enter Time, as Chorus.

Time. I,—that please some, try all; both joy and terror,
Of good and bad; that make, and unfold error,—
Now take upon me, in the name of Time,
To use my wings. Impute it not a crime,
To me, or my swift passage, that I slide
O'er sixteen years, and leave the growth untried
Of that wide gap: since it is in my power
To o'erthrow law, and in one self-born hour
To plant and o'erwhelm custom: Let me pass
The same I am, ere ancient'st order was,
Or what is now received: I witness to
The times that brought them in; so shall I do
To the freshest things now reigning; and make
The glistering of this present, as my tale [stale
Now seems to it. Your patience this allowing,
I turn my glass; and give my scene such growing,
As you had slept between. Leontes leaving
The effects of his fond jealousies; so grieving,
That he shuts up himself; imagine me,
Gentle spectators, that I now may be
In fair Bohemia; and remember well,
I mentioned a son o' the king's, which Florizel
I now name to you; and with speed so pace
To speak of Perdita, now grown in grace
Equal with wond'ring: What of her ensues,
I list not prophecy; but let Time's news
Be known, when 'tis brought forth;—a shepherd's daughter,
And what to her adheres which follows after,
Is the argument¹ of Time: Of this allow,
If ever you have spent time worse ere now;
If never yet, that time himself doth say,
He wishes earnestly, you never may. [*Exit.*

SCENE I.—BOHEMIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE OF POLIXENES.

Enter Polixenes and Camillo.

Pol. I pray thee, good Camillo, be no more importunate: 'tis a sickness, denying thee any thing; a death, to grant this.

Cam. It is fifteen years since I saw my country; though I have, for the most part, been aired abroad, I desire to lay my bones there. Besides, the penitent king, my master, hath sent for me: to whose feeling sorrows I might be some allay, or I o'erween to think so; which is another spur to my departure.

Pol. As thou lovest me, Camillo, wipe not out the rest of thy services, by leaving me now: the need I have of thee, thine own goodness hath made; better not to have had thee, than thus to want thee; thou, having made the businesses, which none, without thee, can sufficiently manage, must either stay to execute them thyself, or take away with thee the very services thou hast done; which if I have not enough considered, (as too much I cannot,) to be more thankful to thee, shall be my study; and my profit therein, the heaping friendships. Of that fatal country, Sicilia, prythee speak no more: whose very naming punishes me with the re-

¹ Subject

membrance of that penitent, as thou call'st him, and reconciled king, my brother; whose loss of his most precious queen, and children, are even now to be afresh lamented. Say to me, when saw'st thou the prince Florizel, my son? Kings are no less unhappy, their issue not being gracious, than they are in losing them, when they have approved their virtues.

Cam. Sir, it is three days since I saw the prince: What his happier affairs may be, are to me unknown: but I have, missingly, noted, he is of late much retired from court; and is less frequent to his princely exercises, than formerly he hath appeared.

Pol. I have considered so much, Camillo; and with some care; so far, that I have eyes under my service, which look upon his removedness: from whom I have this intelligence; That he is seldom from the house of a most homely shepherd; a man, they say, that from very nothing, and beyond the imagination of his neighbours, is grown into an unspeakable estate.

Cam. I have heard, sir, of such a man, who hath a daughter of most rare note; the report of her is extended more, than can be thought to begin from such a cottage.

Pol. That's likewise part of my intelligence. But, I fear the angle that plucks our son thither. Thou shalt accompany us to the place: where we will, not appearing what we are, have some question with the shepherd; from whose simplicity, I think it not uneasy to get the cause of my son's resort thither. Prythee, be my present partner in this business, and lay aside the thoughts of Sicilia.

Cam. I willingly obey your command.

Pol. My best Camillo!—We must disguise ourselves. [*Exit.*

SCENE II.

A ROAD NEAR THE SHEPHERD'S COTTAGE.

Enter Autolycus, singing.

The white sheet bleaching on the hedge,—

With, hey! the sweet birds, O how they sing!

Doth set my pugging tooth on edge;

For a quart of ale is a dish for a king.

I have served prince Florizel, and, in my time, wore three-pile¹; but now I am out of service:

[*Sings.*] *But shall I go mourn for that, my dear?*

The pale moon shines by night:

And when I wander here and there,

I then do most go right.

If tinkers may have leave to live,

And bear the sow-skin budget;

Then my account I well may give,

And in the stocks avouch it.

My father named me, Autolycus; who, being, as I am, littered under Mercury, was likewise a snapper-up of unconsidered trifles: With die, I purchased this caparison; and my revenue is the silly cheat²; Gallows, and knock, are too powerful on the highway: beating, and hanging, are terrors to me; for the life to come, I sleep out the thought of it.—A prize! a prize!

¹ Velvet.² Picking pockets.

Enter Clown.

Clo. Let me see:—Every 'leven wether¹—tods; every tod² yields—pound and odd shilling; fifteen hundred shorn.—What comes the wool to?

Aut. [*Aside.*] If the springe hold, the cock's mine.

Clo. I cannot do't without counters.—Let me see; what am I to buy for our sheep-shearing feast? *Three pound of sugar; five pound of currants; rice*—What will this sister of mine do with rice? But my father hath made her mistress of the feast, and she lays it on. She hath made me four-and-twenty nose-gays for the shearers: three-man song-men³ all, and very good ones; but they are most of them means⁴ and bases. I must have *saffron*, to colour the warden pies⁵; *mace*,—*dates*,—none; that's out of my note: *nutmegs*, seven; a *race*, or two, of ginger; but that I may beg;—*four pound of prunes*, and as many of raisins⁶ of the sun.

Aut. O, that ever I was born!

[*Groveling on the ground.*]

Clo. I' the name of me,——

Aut. O help me, help me! pluck but off these rags; and then, death, death!

Clo. Alack, poor soul! thou hast need of more rags to lay on thee, rather than have these off.

Aut. O, sir, the loathsomeness of them offends me more than the stripes I have received; which are mighty ones and millions.

Clo. Alas, poor man! a million of beating may come to a great matter.

Aut. I am robbed, sir, and beaten; my money and apparel ta'en from me, and these detestable things put upon me.

Clo. What, by a horse-man, or a foot-man?

Aut. A foot-man, sweet sir, a foot-man.

Clo. Indeed, he should be a foot-man, by the garments he hath left with thee; if this be a horse-man's coat, it hath seen very hot service. Lend me thy hand, I'll help thee: come, lend me thy hand. [*Helping him up.*]

Aut. O! good sir, tenderly, oh!

Clo. Alas, poor soul.

Aut. O, good sir, softly, good sir: I fear, sir, my shoulder-blade is out.

Clo. How now? canst stand?

Aut. Softly, dear sir; [*Picks his pocket.*] good sir, softly: you ha' done me a charitable office.

Clo. Dost lack any money? I have a little money for thee.

Aut. No, good sweet sir; no, I beseech you, sir: I have a kinsman not past three quarters of a mile hence, unto whom I was going; I shall there have money, or any thing I want; Offer me no money, I pray you; that kills my heart.

Clo. What manner of fellow was he that robbed you?

Aut. A fellow, sir, that I have known to go about with trol-my-dames⁷: I knew him once a servant of the prince; I cannot tell, good sir, for which of his virtues it was, but he was certainly whipped out of the court.

C. His vices, you would say; there's no virtue

whipped out of the court: they cherish it, to make it stay there; and yet it will no more but abide.

Aut. Vices I would say, sir. I know this man well: he hath been since an ape-bearer; then a process-server, a bailiff; then he married a tinker's wife within a mile where my land and living lies; and, having flown over many knavish professions, he settled only in rogue: some call him Autolycus.

Clo. Out upon him! Prig,¹ for my life, prig: he haunts wakes, fairs, and bear-baitings.

Aut. Very true, sir; he, sir, he; that's the rogue, that put me into this apparel.

Clo. Not a more cowardly rogue in all Bohemia; if you had but looked big, and spit at him, he'd have run.

Aut. I must confess to you, sir, I am no fighter: I am false of heart that way; and that he knew, I warrant him.

Clo. How do you now?

Aut. Sweet sir, much better than I was; I can stand, and walk: I will even take my leave of you, and pace softly towards my kinsman's.

Clo. Shall I bring thee on the way?

Aut. No, good-faced sir; no, sweet sir.

Clo. Then fare thee well; I must go buy spices for our sheep-shearing.

Aut. Prosper you, sweet sir!—[*Exit Clown.*] Your purse is not hot enough to purchase your spice, I'll be with you at your sheep-shearing too: If I make not this cheat bring out another, and the shearers prove sheep, let me be unrolled, and my name put in the book of virtue!

Jog on, jog on, the foot-path way,

And merrily hent² the stile-a;

A merry heart goes all the day,

Your sad tires in a mile-a [Exit.]

SCENE III.—A SHEPHERD'S COTTAGE.

Enter Florizel and Perdita.

F. These your unusual weeds to each part of you Do give a life: no shepherdess; but Flora, Peering in April's front. This your sheep-shearer Is as a meeting of the petty gods, [ing And you the queen on't.

Per.

Sir, my gracious lord,

To chide at your extremes,³ it not becomes me; O, pardon, that I name them: your high self, The gracious mark o' the land, you have obscur'd With a swain's wearing; and me, poor lowly maid, Most goddess-like prank'd⁴ up: But that our In every mess have folly, and the feeders [feasts Digest it with a custom, I should blush To see you so attir'd; sworn, I think, To show myself a glass.

Flo. I bless the time, When my good falcon made her flight across Thy father's ground.

Per. Now Jove afford you cause! To me, the difference⁵ forges dread; your greatness [tremble Hath not been us'd to fear. Even now I To think, your father, by some accident, Should pass this way, as you did: O, the fates! How would he look, to see his work, so noble, Vilely bound up? What would he say? Or how

1 Sheep.

2 28 lbs. wool.

3 Singers in three parts.

4 Tenors.

5 Pear pies.

6 The machine used in the game of pigeon-holes.

1 Thief.

2 Hold.

3 Excesses.

4 Dressed.

5 i. e. Of station.

Should I, in these my borrow'd flaunts, behold
The sternness of his presence?

Pol. Apprehend
Nothing but jollity. The gods themselves,
Humbling their deities to love, have taken
The shapes of beasts upon them: Jupiter
Became a bull, and bellow'd; the green Neptune
A ram, and bleated; and the fire-rob'd god,
Golden Apollo, a poor humble swain,
As I seem now: Their transformations
Were never for a piece of beauty rarer;
Nor in a way so chaste: since my desires
Run not before mine honour.

Per. O but, dear sir,
Your resolution cannot hold, when 'tis
Oppos'd, as it must be, by the power o' the king:
One of these two must be necessities,
Which then will speak; that you must change this
Or I my life. [purpose,

Fl. Thou dearest Perdita,
With these forc'd thoughts, I pry thee, darken not
The mirth o' the feast: Or I'll be thine, my fair,
Or not my father's: for I cannot be
Mine own, nor any thing to any, if
I be not thine: to this I am most constant,
Though destiny say, no. Be merry, gentle;
Strangle such thoughts as these, with any thing
That you behold the while. Your guests are
coming:

Lift up your countenance: as it were the day
Of celebration of that nuptial, which
We two have sworn shall come.

Per. O lady fortune,
Stand you auspicious!

*Enter Shepherd, with Polixenes and Camillo,
disguis'd; Clown, Mopsa, Dorcas, and others.*

Fl. See, your guests approach:
Address yourself to entertain them sprightly,
And let's be red with mirth.

Shep. Fie, daughter! when my old wife liv'd,
upon

This day, she was both pantler, butler, cook;
Both dame and servant: welcom'd all; serv'd all:
Would sing her song, and dance her turn: now
At upper end o' the table, now, i' the middle; here,
On his shoulder, and his: her face o' fire
With labour; and the thing, she took to quench it,
She would to each one sip: You are retir'd,
As if you were a feasted one, and not
The hostess of the meeting: Pray you, bid
These unknown friends to us welcome: for it is
A way to make us better friends, more known.
Come, quench your blushes; and present yourself
That which you are, mistress o' the feast: Come
And bid us welcome to your sheep-shearing, [on,
As your good flock shall prosper.

Per. [To *Pol.*] Welcome, sir!
It is my father's will, I should take on me
The hostess-ship o' the day:—[To *Camillo.*] You're
welcome, sir!

Give me those flowers there, Dorcas.—Reverend
sirs,
For you there's rosemary, and rue; these keep
Seeming, and savour, all the winter long:
Grace, and remembrance, be to you both,
And welcome to our shearing!

Pol. Shepherdess,

(A fair one are you,) well you fit our ages
With flowers of winter.

Per. Sir, the year growing ancient.—
Not yet on summer's death, nor on the birth
Of trembling winter,—the fairest flowers o' the
season

Are our carnations, and streak'd gillyflowers,
Which some call nature's bastards: of that kind
Our rustick garden's barren; and I care not
To get slips of them.

Pol. Wherefore, gentle maiden,
Do you neglect them?

Per. For I have heard it said,
There is an art, which, in their priedness, shares
With great creating nature.

Pol. Say, there be;
Yet nature is made better by no mean,
But nature makes that mean: so, o'er that art,
Which, you say, adds to nature, is an art
That nature makes. You see, sweet maid, we
A gentle scion to the wildest stock;
And make conceive a bark of baser kind
By bud of nobler race: This is an art
Which does mend nature,—change it rather; but
The art itself is nature.

Per. So it is.
Pol. Then make your garden rich in gilly-
And do not call them bastards. [flowers,

Per. I'll not put
The dibble² in earth to set one slip of them:
No more than, were I painted, I would wish
This youth should say, 'twere well.—Here's
flowers for you;

Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram;
The marigold, that goes to bed with the sun,
And with him rises weeping; these are flowers
Of middle summer, and, I think, they are given
To men of middle age: You are very welcome.

Cam. I should leave grazing, were I of your
And only live by gazing. [flock,

Per. Out, alas!
You'd be so lean, that blasts of January
Would blow you through and through.—Now,
my fairest friend, [might

I would I had some flowers o' the spring, that
Become your time of day,—O Proserpine,
For the flowers now, that frighted, thou let'st fall
From Dis's³ waggon? daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty; violets dim
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes,
Or Cytherea's breath; pale primroses,
That die unmarried, ere they can behold
Bright Phoebus in his strength; bold oxlips and
The crown imperial; lilies of all kinds,
The flower-de-luce being one! O, these, I lack,
To make you garlands of; and my sweet friend,
To strew him o'er and o'er.—Come, take your
Methinks, I play as I have seen them do [flowers;
In Whitsun' pastorals: sure, this robe of mine
Does change my disposition.

Fl. What you do,
Still betters what is done. When you speak, sweet,
I'd have you do it ever: when you sing,
I'd have you buy and sell so; so give alms;
Pray so; and, for the ordering your affairs,
To sing them too: When you do dance, I wish you

1 Various colours. 2 Pointed instrument. 3 Pluto.

A wave o' the sea, that you might ever do
Nothing but that; move still, still so, and own
No other function: Each your doing,
So singular in each particular,
Crowns what you are doing in the present deeds,
That all your acts are queens.

Per. O Doricles,
Your praises are too large: but that your youth,
And the true blood, which fairly peeps through it,
Do plainly give you out an unstain'd shepherd;
With wisdom I might fear, my Doricles,
You woo'd me the false way.

Flo. I think, you have
As little skill to fear, as I have purpose
To put you to't.—But, come; our dance, I pray:
Your hand, my Perdita: so turtles pair,
That never mean to part.

Per. I'll swear for 'em.

Pol. This is the prettiest low-born lass, that
ever [seems,
Ran on the green-sward: nothing she does, or
But smacks of something greater than herself;
Too noble for this place.

Cam. He tells her something,
That makes her blood look out: Good sooth, she
The queen of curds and cream. [is

Clo. Come on, strike up.

Dor. Mopsa must be your mistress.

Mop. In good time!

Clo. Not a word, a word; we stand upon our
manners.—

Come, strike up. [Musick.

Here a dance of Shepherds and Shepherdesses.

Pol. Pray, good shepherd, what [daughter?
Fair swain is this, which dances with your

Shep. They call him Doricles; and he boasts
To have a worthy feeding¹; but I have it [himself
Upon his own report, and I believe it;
He looks like sooth²: He says, he loves my
daughter;

I think so too; for never gaz'd the moon
Upon the water, as he'll stand, and read,
As 'twere, my daughter 'seyes: and, to be plain,
I think, there is not half a kiss to choose,
Who loves another best.

Pol. She dances feately.³

Shep. So she does any thing; though I report
That should be silent: if young Doricles [it
Do light upon her, she shall bring him that
Which he not dreams of.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. O master, if you did but hear the pedler
at the door, you would never dance again after a
tabor and pipe; no, the bagpipe could not move
you: he sings several tunes, faster than you'll
tell money; he utters them as he had eaten bal-
lads, and all men's ears grew to his tunes.

Clo. He could never come better: he shall
come in: I love a ballad but even too well: if it
be doleful matter, merrily set down; or a very
pleasant thing indeed, and sung lamentably.

Serv. He hath songs, for man, or woman, of
all sizes; no milliner can so fit his customers
with gloves.

Pol. This is a brave fellow.

1 Tract of pasturage. 2 Truth. 3 Neatly.

Clo. Believe me, thou talk'st of an admirable
conceited fellow. Has he any unbraided wares?¹

Serv. He hath ribands of all the colours i' the
rainbow; points more than all the lawyers in
Bohemia can learnedly handle, though they
come to him by the gross; inkles, caddisses,²
cambricks, lawns: why, he sings them over, as
they were gods or goddesses.

Clo. Pr'ythee, bring him in; and let him ap-
proach singing.

Per. Forewarn him, that he use no scurrilous
words in his tunes.

Clo. You have of these pedlers, that have
more in 'em than you'd think, sister.

Per. Ay, good brother, or go about to think.

Enter Autolycus, singing.

Lawn, as white as driven snow;

Cyprus, black as e'er was crow;

Gloves, as sweet as damask roses;

Masks for faces, and for noses;

Bugle bracelet, necklace amber,

Perfume for a lady's chamber:

Golden quoifs, and stomachers,

For my lads to give their dears;

Pins and poking-sticks of steel³;

What maids lack from head to heel;

Come, buy of me, come; come buy, come buy;

Buy, lads, or else your lasses cry;

Come, buy, &c.

Clo. If I were not in love with Mopsa, thou
should'st take no money of me; but being en-
thrall'd as I am, it will also be the bondage of
certain ribands and gloves.

Mop. I was promis'd them against the feast;
but they come not too late now.

Clo. Have I not told thee, how I was cozened
by the way, and lost all my money?

Aut. And, indeed, sir, there are cozeners
abroad; therefore it behoves men to be wary.

Clo. Fear not thou, man, thou shalt lose no-
thing here.

Aut. I hope so, sir: for I have about me many
parcels of charge.

Clo. What hast here? ballads?

Mop. Pray now, buy some: I love a ballad in
print, a'-life; for then we are sure they are true.

Aut. Here's a ballad of a fish that appeared
upon the coast, on Wednesday the fourscore of
April, forty thousand fathom above water, and
sung this ballad against the hard hearts of
maids: it was thought, she was a woman, and
was turn'd into a cold fish. The ballad is very
pitiful, and true.

Dor. Is it true, think you?

Aut. Five justices' hands at it; and witnesses,
more than my pack will hold.

Clo. Lay it by: Another.

Aut. This is a merry ballad; but a very pretty

Mop. Let's have some merry one. [one.

Aut. Why this is a passing merry one; and
goes to the tune of *Two maids wooing a man*:
there's scarce a maid westward, but she sings
it; 'tis in request, I can tell you.

Mop. We can both sing it; if thou 'lt bear a
part thou shalt hear; 'tis in three parts.

1 Plain goods. 3 For adjusting the plaits of ruffs.
2 Kinds of tape.

Dor. We had the tune on't a month ago.

Aut. I can hear my part; you must know, 'tis my occupation: have at it with you.

SONG.

A. Get you hence, for I must go;
Where, it fits not you to know.

D. Whither? *M.* O, whither? *D.* Whither?

M. It becomes thy oath full well,
Thou to me thy secrets tell:

D. Me too, let me go thither.

M. Or thou go'st to the grange, or will:

D. If to either, thou dost ill.

A. Neither. *D.* What, neither? *A.* Neither.

D. Thou hast sworn my love to be;

M. Thou hast sworn it more to me:

Then, whither go'st? say, whither?

Clo. We'll have this song out anon by ourselves; My father and the gentleman are in sad¹ talk, and we'll not trouble them: Come, bring away thy pack after me. Girls, I'll buy for you both:—Pedler, let's have the first choice.—Follow me, girls.

Aut. [*Aside.*] And you shall pay well for 'em.

Will you buy any tape,

Or lace for your cape,

My dainty duck, my dear-a?

Any silk, any thread,

Any toys for your head,

Of the new'st and fin'st, fin'st wear-a?

Come to the pedler;

Money's a meddler,

That doth utter² all men's wear-a.

[*Exeunt Clown, Autolycus, Dorcas, and Mopsa.*]

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Master, there is three carters, three shepherds, three neat-herds, three swine-herds that have made themselves all men of hair; they call themselves saltiers³; and they have a dance which the wenches say is a gallimaufry⁴ of gambols, because they are not in't; but they themselves are o' the mind, it will please plentifully.

Shep. Away! we'll none on't; here has been too much humble foolery already:—I know, sir, we weary you.

Pol. You weary those that refresh us: Pray, let's see these four threes of herdsmen.

Serv. One three of them, by their own report, sir, hath danced before the king; and not the worst of the three, but jumps twelve foot and a half by the squire.⁵

Sh. Leave your prating; since these good men are pleased, let them come in; but quickly now.

Serv. Why, they stay at door, sir. [*Exit.*]

Re-enter Servant, with twelve Rusticks habited like Satyrs. They dance, and then *exeunt*.

Pol. O, father, you'll know more of that hereafter.—

Is it not too far gone?—'Tis time to part them.—He's simple, and tells much. [*Aside.*]—How now, fair shepherd?

Your heart is full of something, that does take

Your mind from feasting. Sooth, when I was And handed love, as you do, I was wont [young, To load my she with knacks: I would have ransack'd

The pedler's silken treasury, and have pour'd it To her acceptance; you have let him go, And nothing marted¹ with him: if your lass Interpretation should abuse; and call this Your lack of love, or bounty: you were straited For a reply, at least, if you make a care Of happy holding her.

Flo.

Old sir, I know

She prizes not such trifles as these are:

The gifts, she looks from me, are pack'd and lock'd Up in my heart; which I have given already, But not delivered.—O, hear me breathe my life Before this ancient sir, who, it should seem, Hath sometime lov'd: I take thy hand, this hand, As soft as dove's down, and as white as it; Or Ethiopan's tooth, or the fann'd snow, That's bolted² by the northern blasts twice o'er.

Pol. What follows this?—

How prettily the young swain seems to wash The hand, was fair before!—I have put you out;— But to your protestation; let me hear What you profess.

Flo.

Do, and be witness to't.

Pol. And this my neighbour too?

Flo.

And he, and more

Than he, and men; the earth, the heavens, and all: [narch,

That,—were I crown'd the most imperial monarch—Thereof most worthy; were I the fairest youth That ever made eye swerve; had force, and knowledge, [them,

More than was ever man's,—I would not prize Without her love; for her, employ them all; Commend them, and condemn them, to her Or to their own perdition. [service,

Pol.

Fairly offer'd.

Cam. This shows a sound affection.

Shep.

But, my daughter,

Say you the like to him?

Per.

I cannot speak

So well, nothing so well; no, nor mean better: By the pattern of mine own thoughts I cut out The purity of his.

Shep.

Take hands, a bargain:—

And, friends unknown, you shall bear witness I give my daughter to him, and will make [to't: Her portion equal his.

Flo.

O, that must be

'T' the virtue of your daughter: one being dead, I shall have more than you can dream of yet; Enough then for your wonder: But, come on, Contract us 'fore these witnesses.

Shep.

Come, your hand;—

And, daughter, yours.

Pol.

Soft, swain, awhile, 'beseech you;

Have you a father?

Flo.

I have: But what of him?

Pol. Knows he of this?

Flo.

He neither does, nor shall.

Pol. Methinks, a father

Is, at the nuptial of his son, a guest

¹ Trafficked.

² The sieve used to separate flour from bran is called a bolting-cloth.

³ Serious.

⁴ Satyrs.

⁵ Foot-rule.

² Sell.

⁴ Medley.

That best becomes the table. Pray you, once
Is not your father grown incapable [more ;
Of reasonable affairs? is he not stupid [hear?
With age and altering rheums? Can he speak?
Know man from man? dispute his own estate?
Lies he not bed-rid? and again does nothing,
But what he did being childish?

Flo. No, good sir ;
He has his health, and ampler strength, indeed,
Than most have of his age.

Pol. By my white beard,
You offer him, if this be so, a wrong
Something unfilial : Reason, my son
Should choose himself a wife ; but as good reason,
The father (all whose joy is nothing else
But fair posterity,) should hold some counsel
In such a business.

Flo. I yield all this ;
But, for some other reasons, my grave sir,
Which 'tis not fit you know, I not acquaint
My father of this business.

Pol. Let him know't.

Flo. He shall not.

Pol. Pr'ythee, let him.

Flo. No, he must not.

S. Let him, my son ; he shall not need to grieve
At knowing of thy choice.

Flo. Come, come, he must not :—
Mark our contract.

Pol. Mark your divorce, young sir,
[Discovering himself.

Whom son I dare not call ; thou art too base
To be acknowledg'd : Thou a sceptre's heir,
That thus affect'st a sheep-hook !—Thou old
traitor,

I am sorry, that, by hanging thee, I can but
Shorten thy life one week.—And thou, fresh piece
Of excellent witchcraft ; who, of force must know
The royal fool thou cop'st with :—

Shap. O, my heart !

Pol. I'll have thy beauty scratch'd with briars,
and made [boy,—

More homely than thy state.—For thee, fond
If I may ever know, thou dost but sigh,
That thou no more shalt see this knack (as never
I mean thou shalt,) we'll bar thee from suc-
cession ;

Not hold thee of our blood, no not our kin.
Far than Deucalion off ;—Mark thou my words ;
Follow us to the court.—Thou churl, for this time,
Though full of our displeasure, yet we free thee
From the dead blow of it.—And you, enchant-
ment,—

Worthy enough a herdsman ; yea, him too,
That makes himself, but for our honour therein,
Unworthy thee,—if ever, henceforth, thou
These rural latches to his entrance open,
I will devise a death as cruel for thee,
As thou art tender to't. [Exit.

Per. Even here undone !

I was not much afeard : for once or twice,
I was about to speak ; and tell him plainly,
The self-same sun, that shines upon his court,
Hides not his visage from our cottage, but
Looks on alike.—[To *Florizel.*] Wilt please you,
sir, begone ?

I told you, what would come of this : Beseech you,

1 Talk over his affairs.

Of your own state take care ; this dream of mine,—
Being now awake, I'll queen it no inch further,
But milk my ewes, and weep.

Cam. Why, how now, father ?
Speak ere thou diest.

Shap. I cannot speak, nor think,
Nor dare to know that which I know.—[To

Florizel.] O, sir,
You have undone a man of fourscore three,
That thought to fill his grave in quiet ; yea,
To die upon the bed my father died,
To lie close by his honest bones : but now
Some hangmen must put on my shroud, and
lay me

Where no priest shovels-in dust.—[To *Perdita.*]

O wretched girl ! [adventure
That knew'st this was the prince, and wouldst
To mingle faith with him.—Undone ! undone !
If I might die within this hour, I have liv'd
To die when I desire. [Exit.

Flo. Why look you so upon me ?
I am but sorry, not afeard ; delay'd,
But nothing alter'd :—What I was, I am ;
More straining on, for plucking back ; not fol-
My leash unwillingly. [lowing

Cam. Gracious my lord,
You know your father's temper : at this time
He will allow no speech,—which, I do guess,
You do not purpose to him ;—and as hardly
Will he endure your sight as yet, I fear :
Then, till the fury of his highness settle,
Come not before him.

Flo. I not purpose it.

I think, Camillo.

Cam. Even he, my lord.

P. How often have I told you, 'twould bethus ?
How often said, my dignity would last
But till 'twere known ?

Flo. It cannot fail, but by
The violation of my faith ; And then
Let nature crush the sides o' the earth together,
And mar the seeds within !—Lift up thy looks :—
From my succession wipe me, father ! I
Am heir to my affection.

Cam. Be advis'd.

Flo. I am ; and by my fancy¹ : if my reason
Will thereto be obedient, I have reason ;
If not, my senses, better pleas'd with madness,
Do bid it welcome.

Cam. This is desperate, sir.

Flo. So call it : but it does fulfil my vow ;
I needs must think it honesty. Camillo,
Not for Bohemia, nor the pomp that may
Be thereat glean'd ; for all the sun sees, or
The close earth wombs, or the profound seas hide
In unknown fathoms, will I break my oath
To this my fair belov'd : Therefore, I pray you,
As you have ever been my father's friend,
When he shall miss me, (as, in faith, I mean not
To see him any more,) cast your good counsels
Upon his passion ; Let myself and fortune,
Tug for the time to come. This you may know
And so deliver,—I am put to sea
With her, whom here I cannot hold on shore ;
And, most opportune to our need, I have
A vessel rides fast by, but not prepar'd
For this design. What course I mean to hold,

1 Love.

Shall nothing benefit your knowledge, nor Concern me the reporting.

Cam. O, my lord,
I would your spirit were easier for advice,
Or stronger for your need.

Flo. Hark, Perdita.—[*Takes her aside.*
[*To Camillo.*] I'll hear you by and by.

Cam. He's irremovable,
Resolv'd for flight: Now were I happy, if
His going I could frame to serve my turn;
Save him from danger, do him love and honour;
Purchase the sight again of dear Sicilia,
And that unhappy king, my master, whom
I so much thirst to see.

Flo. Now, good Camillo,
I am so fraught with curious business, that
I leave out ceremony. [*Going.*

Cam. Sir, I think,
You have heard of my poor services, i' the love
That I have borne your father?

Flo. Very nobly
Have you deserv'd: it is my father's musick,
To speak your deeds; not little of his care
To have them recompens'd as thought on.

Cam. Well, my lord,
If you may please to think I love the king; [is
And, through him, what is nearest to him, which
Your gracious self; embrace but my direction,
(If your more ponderous and settled project
May suffer alteration,) on mine honour [ing
I'll point you where you shall have such receive-
As shall become your highness; where you may
Enjoy your mistress; (from the whom, I see,
There's no disjunction to be made, but by,
As heavens forbid! your ruin:) marry her;
And (with my best endeavours, in your absence,)
Your discontenting¹ father strive to qualify,
And bring him up to liking.

Flo. How, Camillo,
May this, almost a miracle, be done?
That I may call thee something more than man,
And, after that, trust to thee.

Cam. Have you thought on
A place, whereto you'll go?

Flo. Not any yet:
But as the unthought-on accident² is guilty
To what we wildly do; so we profess
Ourselves to be the slaves of chance, and flies
Of every wind that blows.

Cam. Then list to me:
This follows,—if you will not change your pur-
But undergo this flight:—Make for Sicilia; [pose,
And there present yourself, and your fair priu-
(Forso, I see, she must be,) fore Leontes; [cess,
She shall be habit'd, as it becomes
The partner of your bed. Methinks, I see
Leontes, opening his free arms, and weeping
His welcomes forth: asks thee, the son, for-
giveness,

As 'twere i' the father's person: kisses the hands
Of your fresh princess: o'er and o'er divides him
'Twixt his unkindness and his kindness; the one
He chides to hell, and bids the other grow,
Faster than thought, or time.

Flo. Worthy Camillo,
What colour for my visitation shall I
Hold up before him?

¹ For discontented.

² Polixenes' discovery.

Cam. Sent by the king your father
To greet him, and to give him comforts. Sir,
The manner of your bearing towards him, with
What you, as from your father, shall deliver,
Things known betwixt us three, I'll write you
down;

The which shall point you forth at every sitting,
What you must say; that he shall not perceive,
But that you have your father's bosom there,
And speak his very heart.

Flo. I am bound to you:
There is some sap in this.

Cam. A course more promising
Than a wild dedication of yourselves [tain,
To unpath'd waters, undream'd shores; most cer-
To miseries enough: no hope to help you;
But, as you shake off one, to take another:

Nothing so certain as your anchors: who
Do their best office, if they can but stay you
Where you'll be loath to be: Besides, you know,
Prosperity's the very bond of love;
Whose fresh complexion and whose heart to-
Affliction alters. [gether

Per. One of these is true:
I think, affliction may subdue the cheek,
But not take in¹ the mind.

Cam. Yea, say you so?
There shall not, at your father's house, these
Be born another such. [seven years,

Flo. My good Camillo,
She is as forward of her breeding, as
I' the rear of birth.

Cam. I cannot say, 'tis pity
She lacks instructions; for she seems a mistress
To most that teach.

Per. Your pardon, sir, for this:
I'll blush you thanks.

Flo. My prettiest Perdita.—
But, O, the thorns we stand upon!—Camillo,—
Preserver of my father, now of me:
The medicin² of our house! how shall we do?
We are not furnish'd like Bohemia's son;
Nor shall appear in Sicily—

Cam. My lord,
Fear none of this: I think, you know, my for-
Do all lie there: it shall be so my care [tunes
To have you royally appointed, as if
Thescene you play, weremine. For instance, sir,
That you may know you shall not want,—one
word [They talk aside.

Enter Autolycus.

Aut. Ha, ha! what a fool honesty is! and
trust, his sworn brother, a very simple gentleman!
I have sold all my trumpery; not a counterfeit
stone, not a riband, glass, pomander,³ brooch,
table-book, ballad, knife, tape, glove, shoe-tye,
bracelet, horn-ring, to keep my pack from fast-
ing: they throng who should buy first; as if my
trinkets had been hallowed, and brought a bene-
diction to the buyer; by which means I saw whose
purse was best in picture; and, what I saw, to
my good use, I remembered. My clown (who
wants but something to be a reasonable man,)
grew so in love with the song, that he would not

¹ Conquer.

² Physician.

³ A little ball made of perfumes, and worn to pre-
vent infection in times of plague.

stir his pettitoes, till he had both tune and words; which so drew the rest of the herd to me, that all their other senses stuck in ears. I would have filed keys off, that hung in chains: no hearing, no feeling, but my sir's song, and admiring the nothing of it. So that, in this time of lethargy, I picked and cut most of their festival purses; and had not the old man come in with a whoobub against his daughter and the king's son, and scared my choughs¹ from the chaff, I had not left a purse alive in the whole army. [*Camillo, Florizel, and Perdita, come forward.*]

Cam. Nay, but my letters by this means being there

So soon as you arrive, shall clear that doubt.

Flo. And those that you'll procure from king

Cam. Shall satisfy your father. [*Leontes,—*

Per. Happy be you!

All, that you speak, shows fair.

Cam. [*Seeing Autolykus.*] Who have we here?

We'll make an instrument of this; omit

Nothing, may give us aid.

Aut. [*Aside.*] If they have overheard me now, — why hanging.

Cam. How now, good fellow? Why shakest thou so? Fear not, man; here's no harm intended to thee.

Aut. I am a poor fellow, sir.

Cam. Why, be so still; here's nobody will steal that from thee: Yet, for the outside of thy poverty, we must make an exchange; therefore, discease thee instantly (thou must think, there's necessity in't,) and change garments with this gentleman: Though the pennyworth, on his side, be the worst, yet hold thee, there's some boot.²

Aut. I am a poor fellow, sir:—[*Aside.*] I know ye well enough.

Cam. Nay, pr'ythee, despatch; the gentleman is half-flayed already.

Aut. Are you in earnest, sir?—[*Aside.*] I smell the trick of it—

Flo. Despatch, I pr'ythee.

Aut. Indeed I have had earnest; but I cannot with conscience take it.

Cam. Unbuckle, unbuckle.—

[*Flo. and Aut. exchange garments.*]

Fortunate mistress;—let my prophecy Come home to you—you must retire yourself Into some covert: take your sweetheart's hat, And pluck it o'er your brows; muffle your face; Dismantle you: and as you can, disliking The truth of your own seeming; that you may, (For I do fear eyes over you,) to shipboard Get undescried.

Per. I see, the play so lies, That I must bear a part.

Cam. No remedy.— Have you done there?

Flo. Should I now meet my father, He would not call me son.

Cam. Nay, you shall have No hat:—Come, lady, come.—Farewell, my

Aut. Adieu, sir. [*Friend.*]

Flo. O Perdita, what have we twain forgot?

Pray you, a word. [*They converse apart.*]

Cam. [*Aside.*] What I do next, shall be, to tell the king

Of this escape, and whither they are bound; Wherein, my hope is, I shall so prevail, To force him after: in whose company I shall review Sicilia; for whose sight I have a woman's longing.

Flo. Fortune speed us!— Thus we set on, Camillo, to the sea-side.

Cam. The swifter speed, the better.

[*Exeunt Florizel, Perdita, and Camillo.*]

Aut. I understand the business, I hear it: To have an open ear, a quick eye, and a nimble hand, is necessary for a cut-purse: a good nose is requisite also, to smell out work for the other senses. I see, this is the time that the unjust man doth thrive. What an exchange had this been, without boot? what a boot is here, with this exchange? Sure, the gods do this year connive at us, and we may do any thing *extempore*. The prince himself is about a piece of iniquity; stealing away from his father, with his clog at his heels: If I thought it were not a piece of honesty to acquaint the king withal, I would do't: I hold it the more knavery to conceal it: and therein am I constant to my profession.

Enter Clown and Shepherd.

Aside, aside;—here is more matter for a hot brain: Every lane's end, every shop, church, session, hanging, yields a careful man work.

Clow. See, see; what a man you are now! there is no other way, but to tell the king she's a changeling and none of your flesh and blood.

Shep. Nay, but hear me.

Clow. Nay, but hear me.

Shep. Go to then.

Clow. She being none of your flesh and blood, your flesh and blood has not offended the king; and, so, your flesh and blood is not to be punished by him. Show those things you found about her. This being done, let the law go whistle; I warrant you.

Shep. I will tell the king all, every word, yea, and his son's pranks too; who, I may say, is no honest man neither to his father, nor to me, to go about to make me the king's brother-in-law.

Clow. Indeed, brother-in-law was the furthest off you could have been to him; and then your blood had been the dearer, by I know how much an ounce.

Aut. [*Aside.*] Very wisely; puppies!

Shep. Well; let us to the king: there is that in this fardel,¹ will make him scratch his beard.

Aut. [*Aside.*] I know not what impediment this complaint may be to the flight of my master.

Clow. Pray heartily he be at palace.

Aut. [*Aside.*] Though I am not naturally honest, I am so sometimes by chance:—Let me pocket up my pedler's beard.—[*Takes off his false beard.*] How now, rusticks? whither are you bound?

Shep. To the palace, an it like your worship.

Aut. Your affairs there? what? with whom? the condition of that fardel, the place of your dwelling, your names, your ages, of what having,² breeding, and any thing that is fitting to be known, discover.

Clow. We are but plain fellows, sir.

1 Bundle. 2 Estate.

1 Jackdaws.

2 Something over and above.

Aut. A lie; you are rough: Let me have no lying; it becomes none but tradesmen, and they often give us soldiers the lie; but we pay them for it with stamped coin, not stabbing steel; therefore they do not give us the lie.

Clo. Your worship had like to have given us one, if you had not taken yourself with the manner.¹

Shep. Are you a courtier, an't like you, sir?

Aut. Whether it like me, or no, I am a courtier. Seest thou not the air of the court, in these enfoldings? hath not my gait in it, the measure of the court? receives not thy nose court-odour from me? reflect I not on thy baseness, court-contempt? Think'st thou, for that I insinuate, or toze² from thee thy business, I am therefore no courtier? I am courtier cap-a-pè; and one that will either push on, or pluck back thy business there: whereupon I command thee to open thy affair.

Shep. My business, sir, is to the king.

Aut. What advocate hast thou to him?

Shep. I know not, an't like you.

Clo. Advocate's the court-word for a pheasant; say, you have none.

Shep. None, sir; I have no pheasant, cock nor hen.

Aut. How bless'd are we, that are not simple men!

Yet nature might have made me as these are, Therefore I'll not disdain.

Clo. This cannot be but a great courtier.

Shep. His garments are rich, but he wears them not handsomely.

Clo. He seems to be the more noble in being fantastical; a great man, I'll warrant; I know, by the picking on's teeth.

Aut. The fardel there? what's i' the fardel? Wherefore that box?

Shep. Sir, there lies such secrets in this fardel, and box, which none must know but the king; and which he shall know within this hour, if I may come to the speech of him.

Aut. Age, thou hast lost thy labour.

Shep. Why, sir?

Aut. The king is not at the palace; he is gone aboard a new ship to purge melancholy, and air himself: For if thou be'st capable of things serious, thou must know, the king is full of grief.

Shep. So 'tis said, sir; about his son, that should have married a shepherd's daughter.

Aut. If that shepherd be not in hand-fast, let him fly; the curses he shall have, the tortures he shall feel, will break the back of man, the heart of monster.

Clo. Think you so, sir?

Aut. Not he alone shall suffer what wit can make heavy, and vengeance bitter; but those that are germane³ to him, though removed fifty times, shall all come under the hangman: which though it be great pity, yet it is necessary. An old sheep-whistling rogue, a ram-tender, to offer to have his daughter come into grace! Some say, he shall be stoned; but that death is too soft for him, say I: Draw our throne into a sheep-cote! all deaths are too few, the sharpest too easy.

Clo. Has the old man e'er a son, sir, do you hear, an't like you, sir?

Aut. He has a son, who shall be flayed alive; then, 'nointed over with honey, set on the head of a wasp's nest; then stand, till he be three quarters and a dram dead: then recovered again with aquavitæ, or some other hot infusion: then, raw as he is, and in the hottest day prognostication proclaims,¹ shall he be set against a brick-wall, the sun looking with a southward eye upon him; where he is to behold him, with flies blown to death. But what talk we of these traitorly rascals, whose miseries are to be smiled at, their offences being so capital? Tell me (for you seem to be honest plain men,) what you have to the king: being something gently considered,² I'll bring you where he is aboard, tender your persons to his presence, whisper him in your behalfs; and, if it be in man, besides the king, to effect your suits, here is the man shall do it.

Clo. He seems to be of great authority: close with him, give him gold; and though authority be a stubborn bear, yet he is oft led by the nose with gold: show the inside of your purse to the outside of his hand, and no more ado: Remember stoned and flayed alive.

Shep. An't please you, sir, to undertake the business for us, here is that gold I have: I'll make it as much more; and leave this young man in pawn, till I bring it you.

Aut. After I have done what I promised?

Shep. Ay, sir.

Aut. Well, give me the moiety;—Are you a party in this business?

Clo. In some sort, sir; but though my case be a pitiful one, I hope I shall not be flayed out of it.

Aut. O, that's the case of the shepherd's son: Hang him, he'll be made an example.

Clo. Comfort, good comfort: we must to the king, and show our strange sights; he must know, 'tis none of your daughter nor my sister; we are gone else. Sir, I will give you as much as this old man does, when the business is performed; and remain, as he says, your pawn, till it be brought you.

Aut. I will trust you. Walk before toward the sea side; go on the right hand; I will but look upon the hedge, and follow you.

Clo. We are blessed in this man, as I may say; even blessed.

Shep. Let's before, as he bids us; he was provided to do us good. [*Exeunt Shep. and Clown.*]

Aut. If I had a mind to be honest, I see, fortune would not suffer me; she drops booties in my mouth. I am courted now with a double occasion; gold, and a means to do the prince my master good; which, who knows how that may turn back to my advancement? I will bring these two moles, these blind ones, aboard him: if he think it fit to shore them again, and that the complaint they have to the king concerns him nothing, let him call me, rogue, for being so far officious; for I am proof against that title, and what shame else belongs to't: To him will I present them, there may be matter in it. [*Exit.*]

1 In the fact.

2 Cajole.

3 Related.

1 Foretold in the almanack.

2 Handsomely bribed.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

SICILIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE OF LEONTES.

*Enter Leontes, Cleomenes, Dion, Paulina, and others.**Cleo.* Sir, you have done enough, and have perform'd

A saint-like sorrow: no fault could you make, Which you have not redeem'd; indeed paid down More penitence than done trespass: At the last, Do, as the heavens have done; forget your evil; With them, forgive yourself.

Leon. Whilst I remember Her, and her virtues I cannot forget My blemishes in them; and so still think of The wrong I did myself: which was so much, That heirless it hath made my kingdom; and Destroy'd the sweet'st companion, that e'er man Bred his hopes out of.*Paul.* True, too true, my lord: If, one by one, you wedded all the world, Or, from the all that are, took something good, To make a perfect woman; she you kill'd, Would be unparallel'd.*Leon.* I think so. Kill'd! She I kill'd? I did so: but thou strik'st me Soresly, to say I did; it is as bitter Upon thy tongue, as in my thought: Now, Say so but seldom. [*good now,*]*Cleo.* Not at all, good lady: You might have spoken a thousand things that would

Have done the time more benefit, and grac'd Your kindness better.

Paul. You are one of those, Would have him wed again.*Dion.* If you would not so, You pity not the state, nor the remembrance Of his most sovereign dame; consider little, What dangers, by his highness' fail of issue, May drop upon his kingdom, and devour Uncertain lookers-on. What were more holy, Than to rejoice, the former queen is well? What holier, than,—for royalty's repair, For present comfort and for future good,— To bless the bed of majesty again With a sweet fellow to't?*Paul.* There is none worthy, Respecting her that's gone. Besides, the gods Will have fulfill'd their secret purposes: For has not the divine Apollo said, Is't not the tenour of his oracle, That king Leontes shall not have an heir, Till his lost child be found? which, that it shall Is all as monstrous to our human reason, As my Antigonus to break his grave, And come again to me; who, on my life, Did perish with the infant. 'Tis your counsel, My lord should to the heavens be contrary. Oppose against their wills.—Care not for issue;[*To Leontes.* The crown will find an heir: Great Alexander Left his to the worthiest; so his successor Was like to be the best.*Leon.* Good Paulina,—

Who hast the memory of Hermione, I know in honour.—O, that ever I Had squar'd me to thy counsel!—then, even now, I might have look'd upon my queen's full eyes; Have taken treasure from her lips,—

Paul. And left them More rich, for what they yielded.*Leon.* Thou speak'st truth. [*worse,* No more such wives; therefore, no wife: one And better us'd, would make her sainted spirit Again possess her corpse; and, on this stage, (Where we offenders now appear,) soul-vex'd Begin, And why to me?*Paul.* Had she such power, She had just cause.*Leon.* She had: and would incense¹ me To murder her I married.*Paul.* I should so; Were I the ghost that walk'd, I'd bid you mark Her eye; and tell me, for what dull part in't You chose her: then I'd shriek, that even your ears [*follow'd*]Should rift² to hear me; and the words that Should be, *Remember mine.**Leon.* Stars, very stars, And all eyes else dead coals!—fear thou no wife, I'll have no wife, Paulina.*Paul.* Will you swear Never to marry, but by my free leave?*Leon.* Never, Paulina; so be bless'd my spirit!*P.* Then, good my lords, bear witness to his *Cleo.* You tempt him over-much. [*oath.*]*Paul.* Unless another, As like Hermione as is her picture, Affront³ his eye.*Cleo.* Good madam,—*Paul.* I have done. Yet, if my lord will marry,—if you will, sir,No remedy, but you will; give me the office To choose you a queen: she shall not be so young As was your former; but she shall be such, As, walk'd your first queen's ghost, it should take To see her in your arms. [*joy*]*Leon.* My true Paulina, We shall not marry, till thou bidd'st us.*Paul.* That Shall be, when your first queen's again in breath; Never till then.*Enter a Gentleman.**G.* One that gives out himself prince Florizel, Son of Polixenes, with his princess (she The fairest I have yet beheld,) desires access To your high presence.*Leon.* What with him? he comes not Like to his father's greatness: his approach, So out of circumstance, and sudden, tells us, 'Tis not a visitation fram'd, but forc'd By need, and accident. What train?*Gent.* But few, And those but mean.*Leon.* His princess, say you, with him?*G. Ay;* the most peerless piece of earth, I think, That e'er the sun shone bright on.*Paul.* O Hermione, As every present time doth boast itself Above a better, gone; so must thy grave Give way to what's seen now. Sir, you yourself

1 Instigate.

2 Split.

3 Meet.

Have said, and writ so, (but your writing now
Is colder than that theme,) *She had not been
Nor was not to be equal'd*;—thus your verse
Flow'd with her beauty once; 'tis shrewdly ebb'd,
To say, you have seen a better.

Gent. Pardon, madam:
The one I have almost forgot; (your pardon,)
The other, when she has obtain'd your eye, [ture,
Will have your tongue too. This is such a crea-
Would she begin a sect, might quench the zeal
Of all professors else; make proselytes
Of who she but bid follow.

Paul. How? not women?
Gen. Women will love her, that she is a woman
More worth than any man; men, that she is
The rarest of all women.

Leon. Go, Cleomenes:
Yourself, assisted with your honour'd friends,
Bring them to our embracement.—Still 'tis
strange,

[*Exeunt Cleomenes, Lords, and Gentleman.*
He thus should steal upon us.

Paul. Had our prince,
(Jewel of children,) seen this hour, he had pair'd
Well with this lord; there was not full a month
Between their births.

Leon. Pr'ythee, no more; thou know'st,
He dies to me again, when talk'd of: sure,
When I shall see this gentleman, thy speeches
Will bring me to consider that, which may
Unfurnish me of reason.—They are come.—

*Re-enter Cleomenes, with Florizel, Perdita,
and Attendants.*

Your mother was most true to wedlock, prince;
For she did print your royal father off,
Conceiving you: Were I but twenty-one,
Your father's image is so hit in you,
His very air, that I should call you brother,
As I did him; and speak of something, wildly
By us perform'd before. Most dearly welcome!
And your fair princess, goddess!—O, alas!
I lost a couple, that 'twixt heaven and earth
Might thus have stood, begetting wonder, as
You, gracious couple, do! and then I lost
(All mine own folly,) the society,
Amity too, of your brave father; whom,
Though bearing misery, I desire my life
Once more to look upon.

Flo. By his command
Have I here touch'd Sicilia; and from him
Give you all greetings, that a king, at friend,
Can send his brother: and, but infirmity
(Which waits upon worn times,) hath something
His wish'd ability, he had himself [seiz'd,
The lands and waters 'twixt your throne and his
Measur'd, to look upon you; whom he loves
(He bade me say so,) more than all the scepters,
And those that bear them, living.

Leon. O, my brother,
(Good gentleman) the wrongs I have done thee,
Afresh within me; and these thy offices, [stir
So rarely kind, are as interpreters
Of my behind-hand slackness!—Welcome hither,
As is the spring to the earth. And hath he too
Expos'd this paragon to the fearful usage
(At least, ungentle,) of the dreadful Neptune,
To greet a man, not worth her pains; much less
The adventure of her person?

Flo. Good my lord,
She came from Libya.

Leon. Where the warlike Smalus,
That noble honour'd lord, is far'd, and lov'd?

Flo. Most royal sir, from thence: from him,
whose daughter

His tears proclaim'd his, parting with her:
thence [cross'd,

(A prosperous south-wind friendly,) we have
To execute the charge my father gave me,
For visiting your highness: My best train
I have from your Sicilian shores dismiss'd;

Who for Bohemia bend, to signify
Not only my success in Libya, sir,
But my arrival, and my wife's, in safety
Here, where we are.

Leon. The blessed gods
Purge all infection from our air, whilst you
Do climate here! You have a holy father,
A graceful gentleman; against whose person,
So sacred as it is, I have done sin:

For which the heavens, taking angry note,
Have left me issueless; and your father's bless'd,
(As he from heaven merits it,) with you,
Worthy his goodness. What might I have been,
Might I a son and daughter now have look'd on,
Such goodly things as you?

Enter a Lord.

Lord. Most noble sir,
That which I shall report, will bear no credit,
Were not the proof so nigh. Please you, great
Bohemia greets you from himself, by me: [sir,
Desires you to attach¹ his son; who has
(His dignity and duty both cast off,)
Fled from his father, from his hopes, and with
A shepherd's daughter.

Leon. Where's Bohemia? speak.
Lord. Here in the city; I now came from him:
I speak amazedly; and it becomes
My marvel, and my message. To your court
Whiles he was hast'ning, (in the chase, it seems,
Of this fair couple,) meets he on the way
The father of this seeming lady, and
Her brother, having both their country quitted
With this young prince.

Flo. Camillo has betray'd me;
Whose honour, and whose honesty, till now,
Endur'd all weathers.

Lord. Lay't so, to his charge;
He's with the king your father.

Leon. Who? Camillo?
Lo. Camillo, sir; I spake with him; who now
Has these poor men in question.² Never saw I
Wretches so quake: they kneel, they kiss the
earth;

Forswear themselves as often as they speak:
Bohemia stops his ears, and threatens them
With divers deaths in death.

Per. O, my poor father!—
The heaven set spies upon us, will not have
Our contract celebrated.

Leon. You are married?
Flo. We are not, sir, nor are we like to be;
The stars, I see, will kiss the valleys first:—
The odds for high and low's alike.³

¹ Arrest.

² Examination.

³ A quibble on the false dice.

Leon. Is this the daughter of a king?
Flo. She is,
 When once she is my wife.
Leon. That once, I see, by your good father's
 Will come on very slowly. I am sorry, [speed,
 Most sorry, you have broken from his liking,
 Where you were tied in duty: and as sorry,
 Your choice is not so rich in worth as beauty,
 That you might well enjoy her.
Flo. Dear, look up:
 Though fortune, visible an enemy,
 Should chase us, with my father; power no jot
 Hath she, to change our loves.—'Beseech you, sir,
 Remember since you ow'd no more to time
 Than I do now: with thought of such affections,
 Step forth mine advocate; at your request,
 My father will grant precious things, as trifles.
Leon. Would he do so, I'd beg your precious
 Which he counts but a trifle. [mistress,
Paul. Sir, my liege,
 Your eye hath too much youth in 't: not a month
 'Fore your queen died, she was more worth such
 Than what you look on now. [gazes,
Leon. I thought of her,
 Even in these looks I made.—[*To Florizel.*] But
 your petition
 Is yet unanswer'd: I will to your father;
 Your honour not o'erthrown by your desires,
 I am a friend to them, and you: upon which errand
 I now go toward him; therefore, follow me,
 And mark what way I make: Come, good my
 lord. [Exit.

SCENE II.—BEFORE THE PALACE.

Enter Autolycus and a Gentleman.

Aut. 'Beseech you, sir, were you present at this relation?

1 Gent. I was by at the opening of the fardel, heard the old shepherd deliver the manner how he found it: whereupon, after a little amazement, we were all commanded out of the chamber; only this methought I heard the shepherd say, he found the child.

Aut. I would most gladly know the issue of it.

1 Gent. I make a broken delivery of the business.—But the changes I perceived in the king, and Camillo, were very notes of admiration: they seemed almost, with staring on one another, to tear the cases of their eyes; there was speech in their dumbness, language in their very gesture; they looked, as they had heard of a world ransomed, or one destroyed: A notable passion of wonder appeared in them; but the wisest beholder, that knew no more but seeing, could not say, if the importance were joy, or sorrow; but in the extremity of the one, it must needs be.

Enter another Gentleman.

Here comes a gentleman, that, happily, knows more: The news, Rogero?

2 Gent. Nothing but bonfires: The oracle is fulfilled; the king's daughter is found: such a deal of wonder is broken out within this hour, that ballad-makers cannot be able to express it.

1 The thing imported.

Enter a third Gentleman.

Here comes the lady Paulina's steward; he can deliver you more.—How goes it now, sir? this news, which is called true, is so like an old tale, that the verity of it is in strong suspicion: Has the king found his heir?

3 Gent. Most true; if ever truth were pregnant by circumstance: that which you hear, you'll swear you see, there is such unity in the proofs. The mantle of queen Hermione:—her jewel about the neck of it:—the letters of Antigonus, found with it, which they know to be his character:—the majesty of the creature, in resemblance of the mother;—the affection¹ of nobleness, which nature shows above her breeding,—and many other evidences, proclaim her, with all certainty, to be the king's daughter. Did you see the meeting of the two kings?

2 Gent. No.

3 Gent. Then have you lost a sight, which was to be seen, cannot be spoken of. There might you have beheld one joy crown another; so, and in such manner, that it seemed, sorrow wept to take leave of them; for their joy waded in tears. There was casting up of eyes, holding up of hands; with countenance of such distraction, that they were to be known by garment, not by favour.² Our king, being ready to leap out of himself for joy of his found daughter; as if that joy were now become a loss, cries, *O, thy mother, thy mother!* then asks Bohemia forgiveness; then embraces his son-in-law; then again worries he his daughter, with clipping³ her; how he thanks the old shepherd, who stands by, like a weather-beaten conduit of many kings' reigns. I never heard of such another encounter, which lames report to follow it, and undoes description to do it.

2 Gent. What, pray you, became of Antigonus, that carried hence the child?

3 Gent. Like an old tale still: which will have matter to rehearse, though credit be asleep, and not an ear open: He was torn to pieces with a bear: this avouches the shepherd's son; who has not only his innocence (which seems much) to justify him, but a handkerchief, and rings, of his, that Paulina knows.

1 Gent. What became of his bark, and his followers?

3 Gent. Wreck'd, the same instant of their master's death; and in the view of the shepherd: so that all the instruments, which aided to expose the child, were even then lost, when it was found. But, O, the noble combat, that, 'twixt joy and sorrow, was fought in Paulina! She had one eye declined for the loss of her husband; another elevated that the oracle was fulfilled: She lifted the princess from the earth; and so locks her in embracing, as if she would pin her to her heart, that she might no more be in danger of losing.

1 Gent. The dignity of this act was worth the audience of kings and princes; for by such was it acted.

3 Gent. One of the prettiest touches of all, and that, which angled for mine eyes (caught the water, though not the fish,) was, when at the relation

1 Quality.

2 Features.

3 Embracing.

of the queen's death, with the manner how she came to it (bravely confessed, and lamented by the king,) how attentiveness wounded his daughter: till, from one sign of dolour to another, she did, with an *alas!* I would fain say, bleed tears; for I am sure, my heart wept blood. Who was most marble there, changed colour; some swooned, all sorrowed: if all the world could have seen it, the woe had been universal.

1 *Gent.* Are they returned to the court?

3 *Ge.* No: the princess hearing of her mother's statue, which is in the keeping of Paulina,—a piece many years in doing, and now newly performed by that rare Italian master, Julio Romano; who, had he himself eternity, and could put breath into his work, would beguile nature of her custom, so perfectly he is her ape: he so near to Hermione hath done Hermione, that, they say, one would speak to her, and stand in hope of answer: thither with all greediness of affection, are they gone; and there they intend to sup.

2 *Gent.* I thought she had some great matter there in hand; for she hath privately, twice or thrice a day, ever since the death of Hermione, visited that removed house. Shall we thither, and with our company piece the rejoicing?

1 *Gent.* Who would be thence, that has the benefit of access? every wink of an eye, some new grace will be born: our absence makes us unthrifty to our knowledge. Let's along.

[*Exeunt Gentlemen.*]

Aut. Now, had I not the dash of my former life in me, would preferment drop on my head. I brought the old man and his son aboard the prince; told him, I heard him talk of a fardel, and I know not what: but he at that time, over-fond of the shepherd's daughter, (so he then took her to be,) who began to be much sea-sick, and himself little better, extremity of weather continuing, this mystery remained undiscovered. But 'tis all one to me: for had I been the finder-out of this secret, it would not have relished among my other discredits.

Enter Shepherd and Clown.

Here come those I have done good to against my will, and already appearing in the blossoms of their fortune.

Shep. Come, boy; I am past more children; but thy sons and daughters will be all gentlemen born.

Clo. You are well met, sir: You denied to fight with me this other day, because I was no gentleman born: See you these clothes? say, you see them not, and think me still no gentleman born, you were best say, these robes are not gentlemen born. Give me the lie; do; and try whether I am not now a gentleman born.

Aut. I know, you are now, sir, a gentleman born.

Clo. And, have been so any time these four *Shep.* And so have I, boy. [hours.]

Clo. So you have:—but I was a gentleman born before my father: for the king's son took me by the hand, and called me, brother: and then the two kings called my father, brother; and then the prince, my brother, and the princess, my sister, called my father, father; and so

we wept: and there was the first gentleman-like tears that ever we shed.

Shep. We may live, son, to shed many more.

Clo. Ay, or else 'twere hard luck, being in so preposterous estate as we are.

Aut. I humbly beseech you, sir, to pardon me all the faults I have committed to your worship, and to give me your good report to the prince my master.

Shep. Pr'ythee, son, do; for we must be gentle, now we are gentlemen.

Clo. Thou wilt amend thy life?

Aut. Ay, an it like your good worship.

Clo. Give me thy hand: I will swear to the prince, thou art as honest a true fellow as any is in Bohemia.

Shep. You may say it, but not swear it.

Clo. Not swear it, now I am a gentleman? Let boors and franklins¹ say it, I'll swear it.

Shep. How if it be false, son?

Clo. If it be ne'er so false, a true gentleman may swear it, in the behalf of his friend:—And I'll swear to the prince, thou art a tall fellow of thy hands, and that thou wilt not be drunk; but I know, thou art no tall fellow of thy hands, and that thou wilt be drunk, but I'll swear it: and I would, thou would'st be a tall fellow of thy hands.

Aut. I will prove so, sir, to my power.

Clo. Ay, by any means prove a tall fellow: If I do not wonder, how thou dar'est venture to be drunk, not being a tall fellow, trust me not. —Hark! the kings and the princes, our kindred, are going to see the queen's picture. Come, follow us, we'll be thy good masters. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN PAULINA'S HOUSE.

Enter Leontes, Polixenes, Florizel, Perdita, Camillo, Paulina, Lords, and Attendants.

L. O grave and good Paulina, the great com-
That I have had of thee! [fort

Paul. What, sovereign sir,
I did not well, I meant well: All my services,
You have paid home: but that you have
vouchsaf'd [tracted

With your crown'd brother, and these your con-
Heirs of your kingdoms, my poor house to visit,
It is a surplus of your grace, which never
My life may last to answer.

Leon. O Paulina,
We honor you with trouble: But we came
To see the statue of our queen: your gallery
Have we pass'd through, not without much con-
In many singularities; but we saw not [tent
That which my daughter came to look upon,
The statue of her mother.

Paul. As she liv'd peerless,
So her dead likeness, I do well believe,
Excels whatever yet you look'd upon,
Or hand of man hath done; therefore I keep it
Lonely, apart: But here it is: prepare
To see the life as lively mock'd, as ever [well.
Still sleep mock'd death: behold; and say, 'tis
[Paulina undraws a Curtain and discovers
a Statue.]

1 Yeomen.

I like your silence, it the more shows off
Your wonder: But yet speak;—first, you, my
Comes it not something near? [liege,
Leon. Her natural posture!—
Chide me, dear stone; that I may say, indeed,
Thou art Hermione: or, rather, thou art she,
In thy not chiding; for she was as tender,
As infancy, and grace.—But yet, Paulina,
Hermione was not so much wrinkled; nothing
So aged, as this seems.

Pol. O, not by much.

Pa. So much the more our carver's excellence;
Which lets go by some sixteen years, and makes
As she liv'd now. [her

Leon. As now she might have done,
So much to my good comfort, as it is
Now piercing to my soul. O, thus she stood,
Even with such life of majesty, (warm life,
As now it coldly stands,) when first I woo'd her! I
am ashamed: Does not the stone rebuke me,
For being more stone than it?—O, royal piece,
There's magic in thy majesty; which has
My evils conjur'd to remembrance; and
From thy admiring daughter took the spirits,
Standing like stone with thee!

Per. And give me leave;
And do not say, 'tis superstition, that
I kneel, and then implore her blessing.—Lady,
Dear queen, that ended when I but began,
Give me that hand of yours, to kiss.

Paul. O, patience;
The statue is but newly fix'd, the colour's
Not dry.

Cam. My lord, your sorrow was too sore laid
Which sixteen winters cannot blow away, [on
So many summers, dry: scarce any joy
Did ever so long live; no sorrow,
But kill'd itself much sooner.

Pol. Dear my brother,
Let him, that was the cause of this, have power
To take off so much grief from you, as he
Will piece up in himself.

Paul. Indeed, my lord,
If I had thought the sight of my poor image
Would thus have wrought you, (for the stone is
I'd not have show'd it. [mine,)

Leon. Do not draw the curtain.
Paul. No longer shall you gaze on't; lest you
May think anon, it moves. [fancy

Leon. Let be, let be.
Would I were dead, but that, methinks already—
What was he that did make it?—See, my lord,
Would you not deem it breath'd? and that those
Did verily bear blood? [veins

Pol. Masterly done:
The very life seems warm upon her lip.

Leon. The fixture of her eye has motion in't,
As we are mock'd with art.

Paul. I'll draw the curtain;
My lord's almost so far transported, that
He'll think anon, it lives.

Leon. O sweet Paulina,
Make me to think so twenty years together;
No settled senses of the world can match
The pleasure of that madness. Let't alone.

Pa. I am sorry, sir, I have thus far stirr'd you:
I could afflict you further. [but

Leon. Do, Paulina;

For this affliction has a taste as sweet
As any cordial comfort.—Still, methinks,
There is an air comes from her: What fine chizzel
Could ever yet cut breath! Let no man mock
For I will kiss her. [me,

Paul. Good my lord, forbear:
The ruddiness upon her lip is wet;
You'll mar it, if you kiss it; stain your own
With oily painting: Shall I draw the curtain?
Leon. No, not these twenty years.

Per. So long could I
Stand by, a looker on.

Paul. Either forbear,
Quit presently the chapel; or resolve you
For more amazement: If you can behold it,
I'll make the statue move indeed; descend,
And take you by the hand: but then you'll think,
(Which I protest against,) I am assisted
By wicked powers.

Leon. What you can make her do,
I am content to look on: what to speak
I am content to hear? for 'tis as easy
To make her speak, as move.

Paul. It is requir'd
You do awake your faith: Then, all stand still;
Or those, that think it is unlawful business
I am about, let them depart.

Leon. Proceed;
No foot shall stir.

Paul. Musick; awake her: strike.—[Musick.
'Tis time; descend; be stone no more: approach:
Strike all that look upon with marvel. Come:
I'll fill your grave up: stir; nay, come away;
Bequeath to death your numbness, for from him
Dear life redeems you.—You perceive she stirs:

[Hermione comes down from the pedestal.
Start not: her actions shall be holy, as,
You hear, my spell is lawful: do not shun her,
Until you see her die again; for then
You kill her double: Nay, present your hand:
When she was young, you woo'd her; now, in
Is she become the suitor. [age,

Leon. O, she's warm! [Embracing her.
If this be magic, let it be an art
Lawful as eating.

Pol. She embraces him.

Cam. She hangs about his neck;
If she pertain to life, let her speak too.

Pol. Ay, and make't manifest where she has
Or, how stolen from the dead? [liv'd,

Paul. That she is living,
Were it but told you, should be hooted at
Like an old tale; but it appears, she lives
Though yet she speak not. Mark a little while.—
Please you to interpose, fair madam; kneel,
And pray your mother's blessing.—Turn, good
Our Perdita is found. [lady;

[Presenting Perdita, who kneels to Hermione.
Her. You gods, look down,

And from your sacred vials pour your graces
Upon my daughter's head!—Tell me, mine own,
Where hast thou been preserv'd? where liv'd?
how found

Thy father's court? for thou shalt hear, that I,—
Knowing by Paulina, that the oracle
Gave hope thou wast in being,—have preserv'd
Myself, to see the issue.

Paul. There's time enough for that;

Let them desire, upon this push, to trouble
Your joys with like relation.—Go together,
You precious winners all; your exultation
Partake to every one. I, an old turtle,
Will wing me to some wither'd bough; and there
My mate, that's never to be found again,
Lament till I am lost.

Leon. O peace, Paulina;
Thou shouldst a husband take by my consent,
As I by thine, a wife: this is a match,
And made between's by vows. Thou hast found
mine;

But how, is to be question'd: for I saw her,
As I thought, dead; and have, in vain, said many
A prayer upon her grave: I'll not seek far
(For him, I partly know his mind,) to find thee,

An honourable husband:—Come, Camillo,
And take her by the hand: whose worth, and
honesty,
Is richly noted; and here justified
By us a pair of kings.—Let's from this place.—
What?—Look upon my brother:—both your
pardons,
That e'er I put between your holy looks
My ill suspicion.—This your son-in-law, (ing,)
And son unto the king, (whom heavens direct—
Is troth-plight to your daughter,—Good Paulina,
Lead us from hence; where we may leisurely
Each one demand, and answer to his part
Perform'd in this wide gap of time, since first
We were dissevered: Hastily lead away.

[*Exeunt.*]

Comedy of Errors.

Persons Represented.

SOLINUS, *Duke of Ephesus.*

ÆGEON, *a Merchant of Syracuse.*

ANTIPHOLUS of Ephesus, { *Twin Brothers, and*
ANTIPHOLUS of Syracuse, { *Sons to Ægeon and*
 Æmilia, but un-
 known to each other.

DROMIO of Ephesus, { *Twin Brothers, and At-*
DROMIO of Syracuse, { *tendants on the two*
 Antipholus's.

BALTHAZAR, *a Merchant.*

ANGELO, *a Goldsmith.*

A Merchant, Friend to Antipholus of Syracuse.

PINCH, *a Schoolmaster, and a Conjuror.*

ÆMILIA, *Wife to Ægeon, an Abbess at Ephesus.*

ADRIANA, *Wife to Antipholus of Ephesus.*

LUCIANA, *her Sister.*

LUCE, *her Servant.*

A Courtesan.

Gaolers, Officers, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Ephesus.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—A HALL IN THE DUKE'S PALACE.

Enter Duke, Ægeon, Gaoler, Officers, and other Attendants.

Æge. Proceed, Solinus, to procure my fall,
And, by the doom of death, end woes and all.

Duke. Merchant of Syracuse, plead no more;
I am not partial to infringe our laws:
The enmity and discord, which of late
Sprung from the rancorous outrage of your duke
To merchants, our well-dealing countrymen,—
Who, wanting guilders to redeem their lives,
Have seal'd his rigorous statutes with their bloods,
Excludes all pity from our threat'ning looks,
For, since the mortal and intestine jars
'Twixt thy seditious countrymen and us,
It hath in solemn synods been decreed,
Both by the Syracusans and ourselves,
To admit no traffick to our adverse towns:
Nay, more,
If any born at Ephesus, be seen
At any Syracusan marts and fairs;
Again, if any Syracusan born,
Come to the bay of Ephesus, he dies,

His goods confiscate to the duke's dispose;
Unless a thousand marks be levied,
To quit the penalty, and to ransom him.
Thy substance valued at the highest rate,
Cannot amount unto a hundred marks;
Therefore by law thou art condemn'd to die.

Æge. Yet this my comfort; when your words
are done,

My woes end likewise with the evening sun.

Duke. Well, Syracusan, say, in brief, the cause
Why thou departest from thy native home;
And for what cause thou cam'st to Ephesus.

Æg. A heavier task could not have been impos'd
Than I to speak my griefs unspeakable:
Yet, that the world may witness, that my end
Was wrought by nature,¹ not by vile offence,
I'll utter what my sorrow gives me leave.
In Syracuse was I born; and wed
Unto a woman, happy but for me,
And by me too, had not our hap been bad.
With her I liv'd in joy; our wealth increas'd,
By prosperous voyages I often made
To Epidamnus, till my factor's death;
And he (great care of goods at random left)
Drew me from kind embracements of my spouse:

¹ Natural affection.

From whom my absence was not six months old,
Before herself (almost at fainting under
The pleasing punishment that women bear,)
Had made provision for her following me,
And soon, and safe, arrived where I was.
There she had not been long, but she became
A joyful mother of two goodly sons;
And which was strange, the ones so like the other,
As could not be distinguished but by names.
That very hour, and in the self-same inn,
A poor mean woman was delivered
Of such a burden, male twins, both alike:
Those, for their parents were exceeding poor,
I bought, and brought up to attend my sons.
My wife, not meanly proud of two such boys,
Made daily motions for our home return:
Unwilling I agreed; alas, too soon.

We came abroad:

A league from Epidamnus had we sail'd,
Before the always wind-obeying deep
Gave any tragic instance of our harm:
But longer did we not retain much hope;
For what obscured light the heavens did grant
Did but convey unto our fearful minds
A doubtful warrant of immediate death;
Which, though myself would gladly have em-
Yet the incessant weepings of my wife, [brac'd,
Weeping before for what she saw must come,
And piteous plainings of the pretty babes,
That mourn'd for fashion, ignorant what to fear,
Forc'd me to seek delays for them and me.
And this it was,—for other means was none.—
The sailors sought for safety by our boat,
And left the ship, then sinking-ripe, to us:
My wife, more careful for the elder born,
Had fasten'd him unto a small spare mast,
Such as sea-faring men provide for storms;
To him one of the other twins was bound,
Whilst I had been like heedful of the other.
The children thus dispos'd, my wife and I,
Fixing our eyes on whom our care was fix'd,
Fasten'd ourselves at either end the mast;
And floating straight, obedient to the stream,
Were carried towards Corinth, as we thought.
At length the sun, gazing upon the earth,
Dispers'd those vapours that offended us;
And, by the benefit of his wish'd light,
The seas wax'd calm, and we discover'd
Two ships from far making amain to us,
Of Corinth that, of Epidaurus this.
But ere they came,—O, let me say no more!
Gather the sequel by that went before.

D. Nay, forward, old man, do not break off so;
For we may pity, though not pardon thee.

Æge. O, had the gods done so, I had not now
Worthily term'd them merciless to us, [leagues,
For, ere the ships could meet by twice five
We were encounter'd by a mighty rock;
Which being violently borne upon,
Our helpful ship was splitt in the midst,
So that, in this unjust divorce of us,
Fortune had left to both of us alike
What to delight in, what to sorrow for.
Her part, poor soul! seeming as burdened
With lesser weight, but not with lesser woe,
Was carried with more speed before the wind;
And in our sight they three were taken up
By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought.

At length, another ship had seiz'd on us;
And, knowing whom it was their hap to save,
Gave helpful welcome to their shipwreck'd
guests;

And would have reft the fishers of their prey,
Had not their bark been very slow of sail,
And therefore homeward did they bend their
course.—

Thus have you heard me sever'd from my bliss;
That by misfortunes was my life prolong'd,
To tell sad stories of my own mishaps.

D. And, for the sake of them thou sorrowest
Do me the favour to dilate at full [for,
What hath befall'n of them, and thee, till now.

Æge. My youngest boy, and yet my eldest
At eighteen years became inquisitive [care,
After his brother; and importun'd me,
That his attendant, (for his case was like,
Reft of his brother, but retain'd his name,)
Might bear him company in the quest of him:
Whom whilst I labour'd of a love to see
I hazarded the loss of whom I lov'd.

Five summers have I spent in furthest Greece,
Roaming clean¹ through the bounds of Asia,
And, coasting homeward, came to Ephesus;
Hopeless to find, yet loth to leave unsought,
Or that, or any place that harbours men.
But here must end the story of my life;
And happy were I in my timely death,
Could all my travels warrant me they live.

D. Hapless Ægeon, whom the fates have mark'd
To bear the extremity of dire mishap!
Now, trust me, were it not against our laws,
Against my crown, my oath, my dignity,
Which princes, would they, may not disannul,
My soul should sue as advocate for thee.
But, though thou art adjudged to the death,
And passed sentence may not be recall'd,
But, to our honour's great disparagement,
Yet will I favour thee in what I can:
Therefore, merchant, I'll limit thee this day
To seek thy help by beneficial help:
Try all the friends thou hast in Ephesus;
Beg thou, or borrow, to make up the sum,
And live; if not, then thou art doom'd to die:—
Gaoler, take him to thy custody.

Gaol. I will, my lord. [wend,²

Æge. Hopeless, and helpless, doth Ægeon
But to procrastinate his lifeless end. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse,
and a Merchant.

M. Therefore, give out, you are of Epidamnus
Lest that your goods too soon be confiscate.
This very day, a Syracusan merchant
Is apprehended for arrival here;
And, not being able to buy out his life,
According to the statute of the town,
Dies ere the weary sun set in the west.
There is your money that I had to keep. [host,

Ant. S. Go bear it to the Centaur, where we
And stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee.
Within this hour it will be dinner-time:
Till that I'll view the manners of the town,
Peruse the traders, gaze upon the buildings,
And then return, and sleep within mine inn;

For with long travel I am stiff and weary,
Get thee away. [word,

Dro. S. Many a man would take you at your
And go indeed, having so good a mean.

[Exit *Dro. S.*
Ant. S. A trusty villain,¹ sir; that very oft,
When I am dull with care and melancholy,
Lightens my humour with his merry jests.

What, will you walk with me about the town,
And then go to my inn, and dine with me?

Mer. I am invited, sir, to certain merchants,
Of whom I hope to make much benefit;
I crave your pardon. Soon, at five o'clock,
Please you, I'll meet with you upon the mart,
And afterwards consort you till bed-time;
My present business calls me from you now.

Ant. S. Farewell till then: I will go lose myself,
And wander up and down, to view the city.

Mer. Sir, I commend you to your own content.
[Exit Merchant.

Ant. S. He that commends me to mine own
content,

Commends me to the thing I cannot get.
I to the world am like a drop of water,
That in the ocean seeks another drop;
Who, falling there to find his fellow forth,
Unseen, inquisitive, confounds himself:
So I, to find a mother, and a brother,
In quest of them, unhappy, lose myself.

Enter Dromio of Ephesus.

Here comes the almanack of my true date,—
What now? How chance, thou art return'd so
soon? [too late:

Dro. E. Return'd so soon! rather approach'd
The capon burns, the pig falls from the spit;
The clock has stricken twelve upon the bell,
My mistress made it one upon my cheek:
She is so hot, because the meat is cold;
The meat is cold, because you come not home;
You come not home, because you have no stomach;
You have no stomach, having broke your fast;
But we, that know what 'tis to fast and pray,
Are penitent for your default to-day.

Ant. S. Stop in your wind, sir; tell me this,
I pray;

Where have you left the money that I gave you?

Dro. E. O,—sixpence, that I had o' Wednes-
day last,

To pay the saddler for my mistress' crupper;—
The saddler had it, sir, I kept it not.

Ant. S. I am not in a sportive humour now:
Tell me, and dally not, where is the money?
We being strangers here, how dar'st thou trust
So great a charge from thine own custody?

Dro. E. I pray you, jest, sir, as you sit at
dinner:

I from my mistress come to you in post;
If I return, I shall be post indeed;
For she will score your fault upon my pate.
Methinks, your maw, like mine, should be your
clock,

And strike you home without a messenger.

Ant. S. Come, Dromio, come, these jests are
out of season;

Reserve them till a merrier hour than this:
Where is the gold I gave in charge to thee?

¹ Servant.

Dro. E. To me, sir? why you gave no gold to me.
Ant. S. Come on, sir knave, have done your
foolishness,

And tell me, how thou hast dispos'd thy charge.

Dro. E. My charge was but to fetch you from
the mart

Home to your house, the Phoenix, sir, to dinner;
My mistress, and her sister, stay for you.

Ant. S. Now, as I am a Christian, answer me,
In what safe place you have bestow'd my money;
Or I shall break that merry sconce¹ of yours,
That stands on tricks when I am undispos'd:
Where is the thousand marks thou had'st of me?

D. E. I have some marks of yours upon my pate,
Some of my mistress' marks upon my shoulders,
But not a thousand marks between you both.
If I should pay your worship those again,
Perchance, you will not bear them patiently.

Ant. S. Thy mistress' marks! what mistress,
slave, hast thou?

Dro. E. You worship's wife, my mistress at
the Phoenix:

She that doth fast, till you come home to dinner,
And prays, that you will hie you home to dinner.

Ant. S. What, wilt thou flout² me thus unto
my face,

Being forbid? There, take you that, sir knave.

Dro. E. What mean you, sir! for heaven's
sake, hold your hands;

Nay, an you will not, sir, I'll take my heels.

[Exit Dromio E.

Ant. S. Upon my life, by some device or other,
The villain is o'er-raught³ of all my money.
They say, this town is full of cozenage⁴;
As, nimble jugglers, that deceive the eye,
Disguised cheaters, prating mountebanks,
And many such like liberties of sin;
If it prove so, I will be gone the sooner.
I'll to the Centaur, to go seek this slave;
I greatly fear my money is not safe. [Exit.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Adriana and Luciana.

A. Neither my husband, nor the slave return'd,
That in such haste I sent to seek his master!
Sure, Luciana, it is two o'clock.

Luc. Perhaps, some merchant hath invited him,
And from the mart he's somewhere gone to din-
Good sister, let us dine, and never fret: [ner.
A man is master of his liberty:

Time is their master; and, when they see time,
They'll go, or come: if so, be patient, sister.

A. Why should their liberty than ours be more?
L. Because their business still lies out o' door.

Adr. Look, when I serve him so, he takes it ill.
Luc. O, know, he is the bride of your will.

Adr. There's none but asses will be bridled so.
L. Why headstrong liberty is lash'd with woe.

There's nothing situate under heaven's eye,
But hath his bound, in earth, in sea, in sky:
The beasts, the fishes, and the winged fowls,
Are their males' subject, and at their controls:

¹ Head. ² Mock. ³ Over-reached. ⁴ Cheats.

Men, more divine, the masters of all these,
Lords of the wide world, and wild wat'ry seas,
Indued with intellectual sense and souls,
Of more pre-eminence than fish and fowls,
Are masters to their females, and their lords:
Then let your will attend on their accords.

Adr. This servitude makes you to keep unweid.

Luc. Not this, but troubles of the marriage bed.

Adr. But were you wedded, you would bear some sway.

Luc. Ere I learn love, I'll practise to obey.
Adr. How if your husband start some other where?

Luc. Till he come home again, I would forbear.

Adr. Patience, unmov'd, no marvel though she pause;

They can be meek, that have no other cause.

A wretched soul, bruised with adversity,

We bid be quiet, when we hear it cry;

But were we burden'd with like weight of pain,

As much, or more, we should ourselves complain:

So thou, that hast no unkind mate to grieve thee,

With urging helpless patience would'st relieve

But if thou live to see like right bereft, [me:
This fool-begg'd patience in thee will be left.

Luc. Well, I will marry one day, but to try:—
Here comes your man, now is your husband nigh.

Enter Dromio of Ephesus.

Adr. Say, is your tardy master now at hand?

Dro. E. Nay, he is at two hands with me, and that my two ears can witness.

Adr. Say, didst thou speak with him? know'st thou his mind?

Dro. E. Ay, ay, he told his mind upon mine ear:
Beshrew his hand, I scarce could understand it.

Luc. Spake he so doubtfully, thou couldst not feel his meaning?

Dro. E. Nay, he struck so plainly, I could too well feel his blows; and withal so doubtfully, that I could scarce understand¹ them.

Adr. But say, I pr'ythee, is he coming home?

It seems, he hath great care to please his wife.

Dro. E. Why, mistress, sure my master is stark
When I desir'd him to come home to dinner, [mad:
He ask'd me for a thousand marks in gold.

'Tis dinner-time, quoth I; *My gold*, quoth he:
Your meat doth burn, quoth I; *My gold*, quoth he:

Will you come home? quoth I; *My gold*, quoth he:
Where is the thousand marks I gave thee, villain?

The pig, quoth I, is burned; *My gold*, quoth he:
My mistress, sir, quoth I; Hang up thy mistress;

I know not thy mistress; out on thy mistress!
Luc. Quoth who?

Dro. E. Quoth my master:

I know, quoth he, no house, no wife, no mistress;—
So that my errand, due unto my tongue,

I thank him, I bear home upon my shoulders;
For, in conclusion, he did beat me there. [home.

Adr. Go back again, thou slave, and fetch him

Dro. E. Go back again, and be newbeaten home?
For heaven's sake, send some other messenger.

A. Back, slave, or I will break thy pate across.

Dro. E. And he will bless that cross with other
Between you I shall have a holy head. [beating:

Adr. Hence, prating peasant; fetch thy master home.

¹ Stand under.

Dro. E. Am I so round with you, as you with
That like a football you do spurn me thus? [me,
You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither:
If I last in this service, you must case me in
leather. [Exit.

Luc. Fie, how impatience lowereth in your face.

Adr. His company must do his minions grace,
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look,

Hath homely age the alluring beauty took

From my poor cheek? then he hath wasted it:

Are my discourses dull? barren my wit?

If voluble and sharp discourse be marr'd,

Unkindness blunts it more than marble hard.

Do their gay vestments his affections bait?

That's not my fault, he's master of my state:

What ruins are in me, that can be found

By him not ruin'd? then is he the ground

Of my defeatures¹: My decayed fair²

A sunny look of his would soon repair;

But, too unruly deer, he breaks the pale,

And feeds from home; poor I am but his stale.³

Luc. Self-arming jealousy!—fie, beat it hence.

Adr. Unfeeling fools can with such wrongs dis-

I know his eye doth homage elsewhere: [pense,

Or else, what lets⁴ it but he would be here?

Sister, you know, he promis'd me a chain;—

Would that alone, alone he would detain,

So he would keep fair quarter with his bed!

I see, the jewel best enamelled,

Will lose his beauty; and though gold bides still,

That others touch, yet often touching will

Wear gold: And so no man, that hath a name,

But falsehood and corruption doth it shame.

Since that my beauty cannot please his eye,

I'll weep what's left away, and weeping die.

Luc. How many fond fools serve mad jealousy!

[Exit.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Antipholus of Syracuse.

Ant. S. The gold, I gave to Dromio, is laid up

Safe at the Centaur; and the heedful slave

Is wander'd forth, in care to seek me out

By computation, and mine host's report,

I could not speak with Dromio, since at first

I sent him from the mart: See, here he comes.

Enter Dromio of Syracuse.

How now, sir? is your merry humour alter'd?

As you love strokes, so jest with me again.

You know no Centaur, you receiv'd no gold?

Your mistress sent to have me home to dinner?

My house was at the Phoenix? Wast thou mad,

That thus so madly thou didst answer me?

Dro. S. What answer, sir? when spake I such
a word? [since.

Ant. S. Even now, even here, not half an hour

D. S. I did not see you since you sent me hence,

Home to the Centaur, with the gold you gave me.

Ant. S. Villain, thou didst deny the gold's
receipt;

And told'st me of a mistress and a dinner;

For which, I hope, thou felt'st I was displeas'd.

Dro. S. I am glad to see you in this merry vein:

What means this jest? I pray you master, tell me.

Ant. S. Yea, dost thou jeer, and flout me in
the teeth?

¹ Alteration of features.

² Pretended wife.

³ Beauty.

⁴ Hinders.

Think'st thou I jest! Hold, take thou that, and that. [*Beating him.*]

Dro. S. Hold, sir, for heaven's sake: now your jest is earnest:

Upon what bargain did you give it me?

Ant. S. Because that I familiarly sometimes Do use you for my fool, and chat with you, Your sauciness will jest upon my love, And make a common of my serious hours. [*sport:* When the sun shines, let foolish gnats make But creep in crannies, when he hides his beams. If you will jest with me, know my aspect, And fashion your demeanour to my looks, Or I will beat this method in your scone.

Dro. S. Sconce, call you it? so you would leave battering, I had rather have it a head: an you use these blows long, I must get a scone for my head, and insoonce¹ it too; or else I shall seek my wit in my shoulders. But, I pray, sir, why am I beaten?

Ant. S. Dost thou not know?

Dro. S. Nothing, sir; but that I am beaten.

Ant. S. Shall I tell you why?

Dro. S. Ay, sir, and wherefore; for, they say, every why hath a wherefore.

Ant. S. Why, first,—for flouting me: and then, wherefore,—

For urging it a second time to me.

Dro. S. Was there ever any man thus beaten out of season?

When, in the why, and the wherefore, is neither rhyme nor reason?

Well, sir, I thank you.

Ant. S. Thank me, sir? for what?

Dro. S. Marry, sir, for this something that you gave me for nothing.

Ant. S. I'll make you amends next, to give you nothing for something. But say, sir, is it dinner time?

Dro. S. No, sir; I think, the meat wants that I

Ant. S. In good time, sir, what's that? [*have.*]

Dro. S. Basting.

Ant. S. Well, sir, then 'twill be dry.

Dro. S. If it be, sir, I pray you eat none of it.

Ant. S. Your reason?

Dro. S. Lest it make you cholerick, and purchase me another dry basting.

Ant. S. Well, sir, learn to jest in good time; There's a time for all things.

Dro. S. I durst have denied that, before you were so cholerick.

Ant. S. By what rule, sir?

Dro. S. Marry, sir, by a rule as plain as the plain bald pate of father Time himself.

Ant. S. Let's hear it.

Dro. S. There's no time for a man to recover his hair, that grows bald by nature.

Ant. S. May he not do it by fine and recovery?

Dro. S. Yes, to pay a fine for a peruke, and recover the lost hair of another man.

Ant. S. Why is time such a niggard of hair, being, as it is, so plentiful?

Dro. S. Because it is a blessing that he bestows on beasts: and what he hath scantied men in hair he hath given them in wit.

Ant. S. Why, but there's many a man hath more hair than wit.

Dro. S. Not a man of those, but he hath the wit to lose his hair.

Ant. S. Why, thou didst conclude hairy men plain dealers without wit.

Dro. S. The plainer dealer, the sooner lost: Yet he loseth it in a kind of jollity.

Ant. S. For what reason?

Dro. S. For two; and sound ones too.

Ant. S. Nay, not sound, I pray you.

Dro. S. Sure ones then.

Ant. S. Nay, not sure, in a thing falsing.

Dro. S. Certain ones then.

Ant. S. Name then.

Dro. S. The one, to save the money that he spends in tiring; the other, that at dinner they should not drop in his porridge.

Ant. S. You would all this time have proved, there is no time for all things.

Dro. S. Marry, and did, sir; namely, no time to recover hair lost by nature.

Ant. S. But your reason was not substantial, why there is no time to recover.

Dro. S. Thus I mend it; Time himself is bald, and therefore, to the world's end, will have bald followers.

Ant. S. I knew it would be a bald conclusion; But soft! who wafts¹ us yonder?

Enter Adriana and Luciana.

Ad. Ay, ay, Antipholus, look strange and frown: Some other mistress hath thy sweet aspects, I am not Adriana, nor thy wife.

The time was once, when thou unurg'd wouldst That never words were music to thine ear, [*vow* That never object pleasing in thine eye, That never touch well-welcome to thy hand, That never meat sweet-savour'd in thy taste, Unless I spake, look'd, touch'd, or carv'd to thee. How comes it now, my husband, oh, how comes it That thou art then estranged from thyself? Thyself I call it, being strange to me, That, undividable, incorporate, Am better than thy dear self's better part. Ah, do not tear away thyself from me; For know, my love, as easy mayst thou fall A drop of water in the breaking gulph, And take unmingled thence that drop again, Without addition, or diminishing, As take from me thyself, and not me too. How dearly would it touch thee to the quick, Shouldst thou but hear I were licentious? And that this body, consecrate to thee, By ruffian lust should be contaminate? Wouldst thou not spit at me, and spurn at me, And hurl the name of husband in my face, And tear the stain'd skin off my harlot brow, And from my false hand cut the wedding-ring, And break it with a deep-divorcing vow? Keep then fair league and truce with thy true I live dis-stain'd, thou undishonour'd. [*bed:*]

Ant. S. Plead you to me, fair dame? I know In Ephesus I am but two hours old, [*you not:* As strange unto your town, as to your talk; Who, every word by all my wit being scann'd, Want wit in all one word to understand.

Luc. Fie, brother! how the world is chang'd with you:

¹ The word means both a head and a fortification.

¹ Waives.

When were you wont to use my sister thus?
She sent for you by Dromio home to dinner.

Ant. S. By Dromio?

Dro. S. By me? [him,—

Adr. By thee: and this thou didst return from
That he did buffet thee, and in his blows
Denied my house for his, me for his wife. [woman?

A. S. Did you converse, sir, with this gentle-
What is the force and drift of your compact?

Dro. S. I, sir? I never saw her till this time.

Ant. S. Villain, thou liest; for even her very
Didst thou deliver to me on the mart. [words

Dro. S. I never spake with her in all my life.

Ant. S. How can she thus then call us by our
Unless it be by inspiration? [names,

Adr. How ill agrees it with your gravity,
To counterfeit thus grossly with your slave?

Abetting him to thwart me in my mood?
Be it my wrong, you are from me exempt,

But wrong not that wrong with a more contempt.
Come, I will fasten on this sleeve of thine;

Thou art an elm, my husband, I a vine;
Whose weakness, married to thy stronger state,

Makes me with thy strength to communicate:
If aught possess thee from me, it is dross,

Usurping ivy, briar, or idle¹ moss;
Who, all for want of pruning, with intrusion

Infect thy sap, and live on thy confusion.

A. S. To me she speaks; she moves me for her
What, was I married to her in my dream? [theme:

Or sleep I now, and think I hear all this?
What error drives our eyes and ears amiss?

Until I know this sure uncertainty,
I'll entertain the offer'd fallacy. [dinner.

Luc. Dromio, go bid the servants spread for
Dro. S. O, for my beads! I cross me for a sinner.

This is the fairy land;—O, spite of spites!—
We talk with goblins, owls, and elvish sprites;

If we obey them not, this will ensue, [blue.
They'll suck our breath, or pinch us black and

Luc. Why prat'st thou to thyself, and answer'st
not? [sot!

Dromio, thou drone, thou snail, thou slug, thou
Dro. S. I am transform'd, master, am not I?

Ant. S. I think, thou art, in mind, and so am I.
Dro. S. Nay, master, both in mind, and in my

Ant. S. Thou hast thine own form. [shape.
Dro. S. No, I am an ape.

Luc. If thou art chang'd to aught, 'tis to an ass.
D. S. 'Tis true; she rides me, and I long for

grass.
'Tis so, I am an ass; else it could never be,
But I should know her as well as she knows me.

Adr. Come, come, no longer will I be a fool,
To put the finger in the eye and weep, [scorn.—

Whilst man, and master, laugh my woes to
Come, sir, to dinner; Dromio, keep the gate:—

Husband, I'll dine above with you to-day,
And shrive² you of a thousand idle pranks:

Sirrah, if any ask you for your master,
Say, he dines forth, and let no creature enter.—

Come, sister:—Dromio, play the porter well.
Ant. S. Am I in earth, in heaven, or in hell?

Sleeping or waking? mad, or well-advis'd?
Known unto these, and to myself disguis'd!

I'll say as they say, and persevere so,
And in this mist at all adventures go.

¹ Barren.

² Hear your confession.

Dro. S. Master, shall I be porter at the gate?
Adr. Ay; and let none enter, lest I break

your pate.

L. Come, come, Antipholus, we dine too late.
[Exeunt.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

*Enter Antipholus of Ephesus, Dromio of
Ephesus, Angelo, and Balthazar.*

A. E. Good signior Angelo, you must excuse
us all;

My wife is shrewish, when I keep not hours:
Say, that I linger'd with you at your shop,

To see the making of her carcanet,¹
And that to-morrow you will bring it home.

But here's a villain, that would face me down,
He met me on the mart; and that I beat him,

And charg'd him with a thousand marks in gold,
And that I did deny my wife and house:—

Thou drunkard, thou, what didst thou mean
by this?

Dro. E. Say what you will, sir, but I know
what I know:

That you beat me at the mart, I have your
hand to show:

If the skin were parchment, and the blows you
gave were ink,

Your own handwriting would tell you what I
Ant. E. I think, thou art an ass. [think.

Dro. E. Marry, so it doth appear
By the wrongs I suffer, and the blows I bear.

I should kick, being kick'd; and, being at that
pass, [an ass.

You would keep from my heels, and beware of
Ant. E. You are sad, signior Balthazar:

'Pray heaven, our cheer
May answer my good will, and your good wel-

come here.
Bal. I hold your dainties cheap, sir, and your

welcome dear. [fish,
A. E. O, signior Balthazar, either at flesh or

A table full of welcome makes scarce one dainty
dish.

Bal. Good meat, sir, is common; that every
churl affords.

Ant. E. And welcome more common; for
that's nothing but words.

Bal. Small cheer and great welcome, makes
a merry feast.

Ant. E. Ay, to a niggardly host, and more
sparing guest; [part;

But though my cates² be mean, take them in good
Better cheer may you have, but not with better

heart. [us in.
But, soft; my door is lock'd: Go bid them let

Dro. E. Maud, Bridget, Marian, Cicely, Gil-
lian, Jen'!

Dro. S. [Within.] Mome,³ malt-horse, capon,
coxcomb, idiot, patch!⁴

Either get thee from the door, or sit down at
the hatch.

Dro. E. What patch is made our porter? My
master stays in the street.

¹ A necklace strung with pearls. ³ Blockhead.

² Vizards.

⁴ Fool.

Dro. S. Let him walk from whence he came, lest he catch cold on's feet. [door.]

Ant. E. Who talks within there? ho, open the

Dro. S. Right, sir, I'll tell you when, an you'll tell me wherefore?

Ant. E. Wherefore, for my dinner; I have not din'd to-day.

Dro. S. Nor to-day here you must not; come again when you may.

Ant. E. What art thou, that keep'st me out from the house I owe¹?

Dro. S. The porter for this time, sir, and my name is Dromio.

Dro. E. O villain, thou hast stolen both mine office and my name; [blame.]

The one ne'er got me credit, the other mickle². If thou hadst been Dromio to-day in my place, Thou would'st have chang'd thy face for a name, or thy name for an ass.

Luce. [Within.] What a coil³ is there? Dromio, who are those at the gate?

Dro. E. Let thy master in, Luce.

Luce. Faith, no; he comes too late: And so tell your master.

Dro. E. O, I must laugh:—

Have at you with a proverb.—Shall I set in my staff?

Luce. Have at you with another: that's,—When? can you tell?

Dro. S. If thy name be call'd Luce, Luce, thou hast answer'd him well.

Ant. E. Do you hear, you minion? you'll let us in, I hope?

Luce. I thought to have ask'd you.

Dro. S. And you said, no.

Dro. E. So, come, help; well struck; there was blow for blow.

Ant. E. Thou baggage, let me in.

Luce. Can you tell for whose sake?

Dro. E. Master, knock the door hard.

Luce. Let him knock till it ake.

Ant. E. You'll cry for this, minion, if I beat the door down.

Luce. What needs all that, and a pair of stocks in the town?

Adr. [Within.] Who is that at the door, that keeps all this noise?

Dro. S. By my troth, your town is troubled with unruly boys.

Ant. E. Are you there, wife? you might have come before. [the door.]

Adr. Your wife, sir knave! go, get you from

Dro. E. If you went in pain, master, this knave would go sore.

Ang. Here is neither cheer, sir, nor welcome; we would fain have either.

Bal. In debating which was best, we shall part⁴ with neither.

Dro. E. They stand at the door, master; bid them welcome hither.

Ant. E. There is something in the wind that we cannot get in.

Dro. E. You would say so, master, if your garments were thin.

Your cake here is warm within; you stand here in the cold:

It would make a man mad as a buck, to be so bought and sold.

Ant. E. Go, fetch me something, I'll break ope the gate.

Dro. S. Break any breaking here, and I'll break your knave's pate.

Dro. E. Here's too much, out upon thee! I pray thee, let me in.

Dro. S. Ay, when fowls have no feathers, and fish have no fin. [crow.¹]

Ant. E. Well, I'll break in; Go, borrow me a

Dro. E. A crow without a feather; master, mean you so? [feather:]

For a fish without a fin, there's a fowl without a If a crow help us in, sirrah, we'll pluck a crow together. [crow.]

Ant. E. Go, get thee gone, fetch me an iron

Bal. Have patience, sir; O, let it not be so; Herein you war against your reputation,

And draw within the compass of suspect The unviolated honour of your wife.

Once this,—Your long experience of her wisdom, Her sober virtue, years, and modesty,

Plead on her part some cause to you unknown; And doubt not, sir, but she will well excuse

Why at this time the doors are made² against Be rul'd by me; depart in patience, [you.]

And let us to the Tiger all to dinner: And, about evening, come yourself alone,

To know the reason of this strange restraint. If by strong hand you offer to break in,

Now in the stirring passage of the day, A vulgar comment will be made on it;

And that supposed by the common rout Against your yet ungalled estimation,

That may with foul intrusion enter in, And dwell upon your grave when you are dead:

For slander lives upon succession; For ever hous'd, where it once gets possession.

A. E. You have prevail'd; I will depart in quiet.

And, in despite of mirth, mean to be merry. I know a wench of excellent discourse,—

Pretty and witty; wild, and, yet too, gentle;— There will we dine: this woman that I mean,

My wife (but, I protest, without desert,) Hath oftentimes upbraided me withal;

To her will we to dinner.—Get you home, And fetch the chain; by this,³ I know, 'tis made:

Bring it, I pray you, to the Porcupine; For there's the house: that chain will I bestow

(Be it for nothing but to spite my wife,) Upon mine hostess there: good sir, make haste:

Since mine own doors refuse to entertain me, I'll knock elsewhere, to see if they'll disdain me.

Ang. I'll meet you at that place some hour hence.

Ant. E. Do so; This jest shall cost me some expence. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter *Luciana*, and *Antipholus of Syracuse*.

Luc. And may it be that you have quite forgot A husband's office? shall, Antipholus, hate,

Even in the spring of love, thy love springs rot? Shall love, in building, grow so ruinate?

1 Crowbar. 2 Barr'd. 3 By this time.

it stood in her chin, by the salt rheum that ran between France and it.

Ant. S. Where Spain?

Dro. S. 'Faith, I saw it not; but I felt it hot in her breath.

Ant. S. Where America? the Indies?

Dro. S. O, sir, upon her nose, all o'er embellish'd with rubies, carbuncles, sapphires, declining their rich aspect to the hot breath of Spain; who sent whole armadas of carracks to be ballast at her nose. To conclude, this drudge, or diviner, laid claim to me; call'd me Dromio; swore, I was assur'd to her; told me what privy marks I had about me, as the mark of my shoulder, the mole in my neck, the great wart on my left arm, that I, amazed, ran from her as a witch: and, I think, if my breast had not been made of faith, and my heart of steel, she had transform'd me to a curtail-dog,¹ and made me turn i' the wheel.

Ant. S. Go, hie thee presently, post to the road; And if the wind blow any way from shore, I will not harbour in this town to-night. If any bark put forth, come to the mart, Where I will walk, till thou return to me.

If every one know us, and we know none, 'Tis time, I think, to trudge, pack, and be gone.

D. S. As from a bear a man would run for life, So fly I from her that would be my wife. [*Exit.*]

A. S. There's none but witches do inhabit here; And therefore 'tis high time that I were hence. She, that doth call me husband, even my soul doth for a wife abhor: but her fair sister, Possess'd with such a gentle sovereign grace, Of such enchanting presence and discourse, Hath almost made me traitor to myself: But, lest myself be guilty to self-wrong, I'll stop mine ears against the mermaid's song.

Enter Angelo.

Ang. Master Antipholus.

Ant. S. Ay, that's my name.

Ang. I know it well, sir: Lo, here is the chain; I thought to have ta'en you at the Porcupine: The chain unfinish'd made me stay thus long.

A. S. What is your will that I shall do with this?

Ang. What, please yourself, sir; I have made it for you.

Ant. S. Made it for me, sir! I bespoke it not.

Ang. Not once, nor twice, but twenty times you have:

Go home with it and please your wife withal; And soon at supper-time, I'll visit you, And then receive my money for the chain.

Ant. S. I pray you, sir, receive the money now, For fear you ne'er see chain, nor money, more.

Ang. You are a merry man, sir; fare you well. [*Exit.*]

A. S. What I should think of this, I cannot tell; But this I think, there's no man is so vain, That would refuse so fair an offer'd chain. I see, a man here needs not live by shifts, When in the streets he meets such golden gifts. I'll to the mart, and there for Dromio stay; If any ship put out, then straight away.

[*Exit.*]

¹ With tail cut off.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter a Merchant, Angelo, and an Officer.

Mer. You know, since pentecost the sum is due, And since I have not much importuned you; Nor now I had not, but that I am bound To Persia, and want gilders for my voyage: Therefore make present satisfaction, Or I'll attach you by this officer.

Ang. Even just the sum, that I do owe to you, Is growing¹ to me by Antipholus: And, in the instant that I met with you, He had of me a chain; at five o'clock, I shall receive the money for the same: Pleaseth you walk with me down to his house, I will discharge my bond, and thank you too.

Enter Antipholus of Ephesus, and Dromio of Ephesus.

Of. That labour may you save; see where he comes, and I will go. [*Go thou*]

Ant. E. While I go to the goldsmith's house, And buy a rope's end; that will I bestow.

Among my wife and her confederates, For locking me out of my doors by day.— But soft, I see the goldsmith;—get thee gone; Buy thou a rope, and bring it home to me.

Dro. E. I buy a thousand pound a year! I buy a rope! [*Exit Dro. E.*]

A. E. A man is well help up, that trusts to you: I promised your presence, and the chain; But neither chain, nor goldsmith, came to me: Belike, you thought our love would last too long, If it were chain'd together; and therefore came not.

A. Saving your merry humour, here's the note. How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat; The fineness of the gold, and chargeful fashion, Which doth amount to three odd ducats more Than I stand debted to this gentleman; I pray you, see him presently discharg'd, For he is bound to sea, and stays but for it.

Ant. E. I am not furnish'd with the present money;

Besides, I have some business in the town: Good signior, take the stranger to my house, And with you take the chain, and bid my wife Disburse the sum on the receipt thereof; Perchance I will be there as soon as you.

Ang. Then you will bring the chain to her yourself?

Ant. E. No; bear it with you, lest I come not time enough.

Ang. Well, sir, I will: Have you the chain about you?

Ant. E. An if I have not, sir, I hope you have; Or else you may return without your money.

Ang. Nay, come, I pray you, sir, give me the chain;

Both wind and tide stays for this gentleman, And I, to blame, have held him here too long.

Ant. E. Good sir, you use this dalliance to excuse

Your breach of promise to the Porcupine:

¹ Accruing.

I should have chid you for not bringing it,
But, like a shrew, you first begin to brawl.

M. The hour steals on; I pray you, sir, despatch.

Ang. You hear, how he importunes me; the
Ant. E. Why give it to my wife, and fetch your money.

Ang. Come, come, you know, I gave it you even now;

Either send the chain, or send me by some token.

Ant. E. Fie! how you run this humour out of breath:

Come, where's the chain? I pray you let me see it.

M. My business cannot brook this dalliance;
Good sir, say, where you'll answer me or no;

If not, I'll leave him to the officer.

Ant. E. I answer you! What should I answer

Ang. The money that you owe me for the chain.

A. E. I owe you none, till I receive the chain.

A. You know, I give it you half an hour since.

Ant. E. You gave me none; you wrong me much to say so.

Ang. You wrong me more, sir, in denying it:
Consider, how it stands upon my credit.

Mer. Well, officer, arrest him at my suit.

Off. I do; and charge you in the duke's name, to obey me.

Ang. This touches me in reputation:—

Either consent to pay this sum for me,

Or I attach you by this officer.

Ant. E. Consent to pay thee that I never had!

Arrest me, foolish fellow, if thou dar'st.

Ang. Here is thy fee; arrest him, officer;

I would not spare my brother in this case,

If he should scorn me so apparently.

Off. I do arrest you, sir; you hear the suit.

Ant. E. I do obey thee, till I give thee bail:—
But, sirrah, you shall buy this sport as dear

As all the metal in your shop will answer.

Ang. Sir, sir, I shall have law in Ephesus,
To your notorious shame, I doubt it not.

Enter Dromio of Syracuse.

Dro. S. Master, there is a bark of Epidamnum,

That stays but till her owner comes aboard,

And then, sir, bears away: our fraughtage,¹ sir,

I have convey'd aboard; and I have bought

The oil, the balsamum, and aqua-vitæ.

The ship is in her trim; the merry wind [all,

Blows fair from land: they stay for nought at

But for their owner, master, and yourself.

Ant. E. How now! a madman! Why, thou peevish² sheep.

What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

D. S. A ship you sent me to, to hire waftage.³

Ant. E. Thou drunken slave, I sent thee for a rope;

And told thee to what purpose and what end.

Dro. S. You sent me, sir, for a rope's end as

You sent me to the bay, sir, for a bark. [soon

A. E. I will debate this matter at more leisure,

And teach your ears to listen with more heed.

To Adriana, villain, hie thee straight:

Give her this key, and tell her, in the desk

That's cover'd o'er with Turkish tapestry,

There is a purse of ducats: let her send it;

Tell her, I am arrested in the street,

¹ Cargo.

² Silly.

³ Conveyance.

And that shall bail me: hie thee, slave; be gone.
On, officer, to prison till it come.

[*Exeunt Merchant, Angelo, Officer, and Ant. E.*

Dro. S. To Adriana! that is where he din'd,

Where Dowsabel did claim me for her husband:

Thither I must, although against my will,

For servants must their masters' minds fulfil.

[*Exit.*

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Adriana and Luciana.

Adr. Ah, Luciana, did he tempt thee so!

Mightst thou perceive austerely in his eye
That he did plead in earnest, yea or no?

Look'd he or red, or pale; or sad or merrily?

What observations mad'st thou in this case,

Of his heart's meteors tilting in his face?

Luc. First, he denied you had in him no right.

Adr. He meant, he did me none; the more

my spite.

L. Then swore he, that he was a stranger here.

A. And true he swore, though yet forsworn he

Luc. Then pleaded I for you.

Adr. And what said he?

L. That love I begg'd for you, he begg'd of me.

A. With what persuasion did he tempt thy

love?

Luc. With words that in an honest suit might

First he did praise my beauty; then, my speech.

Adr. Didst speak him fair?

Luc. Have patience, I beseech.

Adr. I cannot, nor I will not, hold me still;

My tongue, though not my heart, shall have his

He is deformed, crooked, old, and sere,¹ [will.

Ill-fac'd, worse-bodied, shapeless every where:

Vicious, ungentle, foolish, blunt, unkind;

Stigmatical² in making, worse in mind.

L. Who would be jealous then of such a one?

No evil lost is wail'd when it is gone.

Adr. Ah! but I think him better than I say,

And yet would herein others' eyes were worse;

Far from her nest the lapwing cries away;

My heart prays for him, though my tongue

do curse.

Enter Dromio of Syracuse.

Dro. S. Here, go; the desk, the purse; sweet

now, make haste.

Luc. How hast thou lost thy breath?

Dro. S. By running fast.

Adr. Where is thy master, Dromio? is he well?

Dro. S. No, he's in Tartar limbo,

A devil in an everlasting garment³ hath him,

One, whose hard heart is button'd up with steel;

A fiend, a fairy, pitiless and rough;

A wolf, nay worse, a fellow all in buff;

A back-friend, a shoulder-clapper, one that

countermands

The passages of alleys, creeks, and narrow lands.

Adr. Why, man, what is the matter?

Dro. S. I do not know the matter: he is' rested

on the case.

A. What, is he arrested? tell me, at whose suit?

Dro. S. I know not at whose suit he is ar-

rested, well;

¹ Withered. ² Marked.

³ The officers were clad in buff, which is also a cant expression for a man's skin.

But he's in a suit of buff which 'rested him,
that can I tell:

Will you send him, mistress, redemption, the
money in the desk?

Adr. Go fetch it, sister.—This I wonder at,
[*Exit Luciana.*]

That he, unknown to me, should be in debt:

Tell me, was he arrested on a band?¹

Dro. S. Not on a band, but on a stronger thing;

A chain, a chain; do you not hear it ring?

Adr. What, the chain? *[and more is gone.]*

Dro. S. No, no, the bell; 'tis time that I were
It was two ere I left him, and now the clock
strikes one.

A. The hours come back! that did I never hear.

Dro. S. O yes, if any hour meet a sergeant,
'a turns back for very fear.

Adr. As if time were in debt! how fondly
dost thou reason!

Dro. S. Time is a very bankrupt, and owes
more than he's worth to season. [say,

Nay, he's a thief too: Have you not heard men
That time come stealing on by night and day?

If he be in debt, and theft, and a sergeant in
the way,

Hath he not reason to turn back an hour in a day?

Enter Luciana.

Adr. Go, Dromio; there's the money, bear
it straight;

And bring thy master home immediately.—
Come, sister: I am press'd down with conceit;²

Conceit my comfort, and my injury. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter Antipholus of Syracuse.

Ant. S. There's not a man I meet, but doth
salute me

As if I were their well-acquainted friend;

And every one doth call me by my name.

Some tender money to me, some invite me;

Some other give me thanks for kindnesses;

Some offer me commodities to buy:

Even now a tailor call'd me in his shop,

And show'd me silks that he had bought for me,

And, therewithal, took measure of my body.

Sure, these are but imaginary wives,

And Lapland sorcerers inhabit here.

Enter Dromio of Syracuse.

Dro. S. Master, here's the gold you sent me
for: What, have you got the picture of old
Adam new apparel'd?

Ant. S. What gold is this? what Adam dost
thou mean?

Dro. S. Not that Adam, that kept the para-
dise, but that Adam, that keeps the prison: he
that goes in the calf's skin that was kill'd for
the prodigal: he that came behind you, sir, like
an evil angel, and bid you forsake your liberty.

Ant. S. I understand thee not.

Dro. S. No? why, 'tis a plain case: he that went
like a base-viol, in a case of leather; the man,
sir, that, when gentlemen are tired, gives them
a fob, and rests them; he, sir, that takes pity on
decayed men, and gives them suits of durance;

1 Bond.

2 Fancies.

he that sets up his rest to do more exploits with
his mace, than a morris-pike.

Ant. S. What! thou mean'st an officer?

Dro. S. Ay, sir, the sergeant of the band; he,
that brings any man to answer it, that breaks
his band: one that thinks a man always going
to bed, and says, *Heaven give you good rest!*

Ant. S. Well, sir, there rest in your foolery.
Is there any ship puts forth to-night? may we
be gone?

Dro. S. Why, sir, I brought you word an hour
since, that the bark Expedition put forth to-
night, and then were you hindered by the ser-
geant, to tarry for the hoy,¹ Delay: Here are
the angels that you sent for, to deliver you.

Ant. S. The fellow is distract, and so am I;
And here we wander in illusions;

Some blessed power deliver us from hence!

Enter a Courtesan.

Cour. Well met, well met, master Antipholus,
I see, sir, you have found the goldsmith now;
Is that the chain, you promis'd me to-day?

Ant. S. Satan, avoid! I charge thee tempt me

Dro. S. Master, is this mistress Satan? [not!]

Ant. S. It is the devil.

Dro. S. Nay, she is worse; and here she
comes in the habit of a light wench; they ap-
pear to men like angels of light: light is an
effect of fire, and fire will burn; ergo, light
wenches will burn: Come not near her.

Cour. Your man and you are marvellous
merry, sir. Will you go with me? We'll
mend our dinner here.

Dro. S. Master, if you do, expect spoon-meat,
or bespeak a long spoon.

Ant. S. Why, Dromio?

Dro. S. Marry, he must have a long spoon,
that must eat with the devil.

Ant. S. Avoid then, fiend! what tell'st thou
me of supping?

Thou art, as you are all, a sorceress:

I conjure thee to leave me, and be gone.

C. Give me the ring of mine you had at dinner,
Or, for my diamond, the chain you promis'd;

And I'll be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

Dro. S. Some devils ask but the paring of one's
A rush, a hair, a drop of blood, a pin, [nail,
A nut, a cherry-stone: but she, more covetous,
Would have a chain.

Master, be wise; and if you give it her, [It.
The devil will shake her chain, and fright us with

C. I pray you, sir, my ring, or else the chain:
I hope, you do not mean to cheat me so. [Go.

A. S. Avaunt thou witch! Come, Dromio, let us
Dro. S. Fly pride, says the peacock: Mistress,

that you know. [*Exeunt Ant. S. and Dro. S.*]

Cour. Now, out of doubt, Antipholus is mad,
Else would he never so demean himself:

A ring he hath of mine worth forty ducats,

And for the same he promis'd me a chain!

Both one, and other, he denies me now.

The reason that I gather he is mad,

(Besides this present instance of his rage,)

Is a mad tale, he told to-day at dinner,

Of his own doors being shut against his entrance
Belike, his wife, acquainted with his fits,

1 Small sloop.

On purpose shut the doors against his way.
My way is now, to hie home to his house,
And tell his wife, that, being lunatick,
He rush'd into my house, and took perforce
My ring away: This course I fittest choose;
For forty ducats is too much to lose. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—THE SAME.

Enter Antipholus of Ephesus, and an Officer.

A. E. Fear me not, man, I will not break away;
I'll give thee, ere I leave thee, so much money
To warrant thee, as I am 'rested for.
My wife is in a wayward mood to-day:
And will not lightly trust the messenger,
That I should be attach'd in Ephesus:
I tell you, 'twill sound harshly in her ears.—

Enter Dromio of Ephesus, with a rope's end.

Here comes my man; I think, he brings the money.

How now, sir? have you that I sent you for?

Dro. E. Here's that, I warrant you, will pay

Ant. E. But where's the money? [them all.¹

Dro. E. Why, sir, I gave the money for the rope.

A. E. Five hundred ducats, villain, for a rope?

Dro. E. I'll serve you, sir, five hundred at the

rate. [Home?]

Ant. E. To what end did I bid thee hie thee

Dro. E. To a rope's end, sir; and to that end am I return'd.

Ant. E. And to that end, sir, I will welcome you. [Beating him.

Off. Good sir, be patient.

Dro. E. Nay, 'tis for me to be patient; I am in adversity.

Off. Good now, hold thy tongue.

Dro. E. Nay, rather persuade him to hold his

Ant. E. Thou senseless villain! [hands.

Dro. E. I would I were senseless, sir, that I might not feel your blows.

Ant. E. Thou art sensible in nothing but blows, and so is an ass.

Dro. E. I am an ass indeed; you may prove it by my long ears. I have serv'd him from the hour of my nativity to this instant, and have nothing at his hands for my service, but blows: when I am cold, he heats me with beating; when I am warm, he cools me with beating: I am waked with it when I sleep; raised with it, when I sit; driven out of doors with it, when I go from home; welcomed home with it, when I return: nay, I bear it on my shoulders, as a beggar wont her brat; and, I think, when he hath lamed me, I shall beg with it from door to door.

Enter Adriana, Luciana, and the Court., with Pinch, and others.

Ant. E. Come, go along; my wife is coming yonder.

Dro. E. Mistress, *respice finem*, respect your end; or rather the prophecy, like the parrot, *Beware the rope's end*.

Ant. E. Wilt thou still talk? [Beats him.

Cour. How say you now, is not your husband

Adr. His incivility confirms no less.— [mad? Good doctor Pinch, you are a conjurer;

1 Correct them all.

Establish him in his true sense again,
And I will please you what you will demand.

Luc. Alas, how fiery and how sharp he looks?

Court. Mark, how he trembles in his ecstasy!

Pinch. Give me your hand, and let me feel your pulse. [ear.

Ant. E. There is my hand, and let it feel your P. I charge thee, Satan, hous'd within this man,

To yield possession to my holy prayers,
And to thy state of darkness hie thee straight;
I conjure thee by all the saints in heaven. [mad.

Ant. E. Peace, doting wizard, peace; I am not

Ad. O, that thou wert not, poor distressed soul!

Ant. E. You minion, you, are these your customers this companion with a saffron face [tomers?

Revel and feast it at my house to-day,
Whilst upon me the guilty doors were shut,

And I denied to enter in my house?

Adr. O, husband, Heaven doth know, you din'd at home,

Where 'would you had remain'd until this time,
Free from these slanders, and this open shame!

Ant. E. I din'd at home! Thou villain, what say'st thou? [home.

Dro. E. Sir, sooth to say, you did not dine at

Ant. E. Were not my doors lock'd up, and I shut out! [shut out.

Dro. E. Perdy, your doors were lock'd, and you

A. E. And did not she herself revile me there?

D. E. Sans¹ fable, she herself revil'd you there.

Ant. E. Did not her kitchen-maid rail, taunt, and scorn me? [scorn'd you.

Dro. E. Certes,² she did; the kitchen-vestal

A. E. And did not I in rage depart from thence?

Dro. E. In verity you did;—my bones bear witness,

That since have felt the vigour of his rage.

Ad. Is't good to soothe him in these contraries?

Pinch. It is no shame; the fellow finds his vein,
And, yielding to him, humours well his frenzy.

Ant. E. Thou hast suborn'd the goldsmith to arrest me.

Ad. Alas, I sent you money to redeem you,
By Dromio here, who came in haste for it.

Dro. E. Money by me? heart and good-will you might,

But, surely, master, not a rag of money.

Ant. E. Went'st not thou to her for a purse of ducats?

Adr. He came to me, and I deliver'd it.

Luc. And I am witness with her, that she did.

Dro. E. Heaven and the rope-maker, bear me witness,

That I was sent for nothing but a rope!

P. Mistress, both man and master is possess'd;
I know it by their pale and deadly looks:

They must be bound, and laid in some dark room.

Ant. E. Say, wherefore didst thou lock me forth

And why dost thou deny the bag of gold? [to-day.

Adr. I did not, gentle husband, lock thee forth.

Dro. E. And, gentle master, I receiv'd no gold;
But I confess, sir, that we were lock'd out.

Adr. Dissembling villain, thou speak'st false in both.

A. E. Dissembling woman, thou art false in all.
And art confederate with a wicked pack,
To make a loathsome abject scorn of me:

1 Without.

2 Certainly.

But with these nails I'll pluck out these false eyes,

That would behold in me this shameful sport.

[*Pinch and his Assistants bind Ant. E. and Dro. E.*]

Adr. O, bind him, bind him, let him not come near me. [within him.]

Pinch. More company!—the fiend is strong
Luc. Ah me, poor man, how pale and wan he looks! [thou,

A. E. What, will you murder me? Thou'gaoler, I am thy prisoner; wilt thou suffer them To make a rescue?

Off. Masters, let him go;

He is my prisoner, and you shall not have him.

Pinch. Go, bind this man, for he is frantic too.

Adr. What wilt thou do, thou peevish officer.

Hast thou delight to see a wretched man

Do outrage and displeasure to himself?

Off. He is my prisoner; if I let him go,

The debt he owes will be required of me.

Adr. I will discharge thee, ere I go from thee:

Bear me forthwith unto his creditor,

And knowing how the debt grows, I will pay it.

Good master doctor, see him safe convey'd

Home to my house.—O most unhappy day!

Ant. E. O most unhappy wanton! [you.]

Dro. E. Master, I am here entered in bond for

Ant. E. Out on thee, villain? wherefore dost

thou mad me?

Dro. E. Will you be bound for nothing? be mad, good master; cry, the devil.— [talk!]

L. Heaven help, poor souls, how idly do they

Adr. Go bear him hence.—Sister, go you with me.

[*Exeunt Pinch and Assistants, with Ant. E. and Dro. E.*]

Say now, whose suit is he arrested at? [him?]

Off. One Angelo, a goldsmith; Do you know

Adr. I know the man: What is the sum he

Off. Two hundred ducats. [owes?]

Adr. Say, how grows it due?

Off. Due for a chain, your husband had of him.

A. He did bespeak a chain for me, but had it not.

Cour. When as your husband, all in rage, to-

Came to my house, and took away my ring,

(The ring I saw upon his finger now,)

Straight after, did I meet him with a chain.

Adr. It may be so, but I did never see it:—

Come, gaoler, bring me where the goldsmith is, I long to know the truth hereof at large.

Enter Antipholus of Syracuse, with his rapier drawn, and Dromio of Syracuse.

L. Heaven, for thy mercy! they are loose again.

Adr. And come with naked swords; let's call more help.

To have them bound again.

Off. Away, they'll kill us.

[*Exeunt Off., Adr., and Luc.*]

A. S. I see these witches are afraid of swords.

Dro. S. She, that would be your wife, now

ran from you. [from thence:]

Ant. S. Come to the Centaur; fetch our stuff²

I long, that we were safe and sound aboard.

Dro. S. Faith, stay here this night, they will

1 Foolish. 2 Baggage.

surely do us no harm; you saw, they speak us fair, give us gold: methinks, they are such a gentle nation, that but for the mountain of mad flesh that claims marriage of me, I could find in my heart to stay here still, and turn witch.

Ant. S. I will not stay to-night for all the town; Therefore away, to get our stuff aboard.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Merchant and Angelo.

Ang. I am sorry, sir, that I have hinder'd you: But, I protest, he had the chain of me,

Though most dishonestly he doth deny it.

Mer. How is the man esteem'd here in the city?

Ang. Of very reverend reputation, sir,

Of credit infinite, highly belov'd,

Second to none that lives here in the city:

His word might bear my wealth at any time.

Mer. Speak softly: yonder, as I think, he walks.

Enter Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse.

Ang. Tisso; and that self chain about his neck,

Which he forswore, most monstrously, to have.

Good sir, draw near to me, I'll speak to him.

Signior Antipholus, I wonder much

That you would put me to this shame and trouble;

And not without some scandal to yourself,

With circumstance, and oaths, so to deny

This chain, which now you wear so openly:

Besides the charge, the shame, imprisonment.

You have done wrong to this my honest friend;

Who, but for staying on our controversy,

Had hoisted sail, and put to sea to-day:

This chain you had of me, can you deny it?

Ant. S. I think, I had; I never did deny it?

M. Yes, that you did, sir; and forswore it too.

Ant. S. Who heard me to deny it, or forswear it?

Mer. These ears of mine, thou knowest, did hear thee:

Fie on thee, wretch! 'tis pity that thou liv'st

To walk where any honest men resort.

Ant. S. Thou art a villain to impeach methus:

I'll prove mine honour, and mine honesty

Against thee presently, if thou dar'st stand.

Mer. I dare, and do defy thee for a villain.

[*They draw.*]

Enter Adriana, Luciana, Courtesan, & others.

Adr. Hold, hurt him not, for heaven's sake;

he is mad;—

Some get within him,¹ take his sword away:

Bind Dromio too, and bear them to my house.

Dro. S. Run, master, run; for heaven's sake, take a house.

This is some priory:—In, or we are spoil'd.

[*Exeunt Ant. S. and Dro. S. to the Priory.*]

Enter the Abbess.

Abb. Be quiet, people; Wherefore throng you hither?

Adr. To fetch my poor distracted husband

Let us come in, that we may bind him fast,

And bear him home for his recovery.

1 His guard.

Ang. I knew, he was not in his perfect wits.

Mer. I am sorry now, that I did draw on him.

Abb. How long hath this possession held the man?

Adr. This week he hath been heavy, sour, sad, And much, much different from the man he was; But, till this afternoon, his passion

Ne'er brake into extremity of rage. [At sea?

Abb. Hath he not lost much wealth by wreck Buried some dear friend? Hath not else his eye Stray'd his affection in unlawful love?

A sin, prevailing much in youthful men, Who give their eyes the liberty of gazing.

Which of these sorrows is he subject to?

Adr. To none of these, except it be the last; Namely some love, that drew him off from home.

Abb. You should for that have reprehended

Adr. Why, so I did. [him.

Abb. Ay, but not rough enough.

Adr. As roughly, as my modesty would let me.

Abb. Haply, in private.

Adr. And in assemblies too.

Abb. Ay, but not enough.

Adr. It was the copy¹ of our conference:

In bed, he slept not for my urging it;

At board, he fed not for my urging it;

Alone, it was the subject of my theme;

In company, I often glanced it;

Still did I tell him it was vile and bad.

Abb. And thereof came it, that the man was

The venom clamours of a jealous woman [mad:

Poison more deadly than a mad dog's tooth.

It seems his sleeps were hinder'd by thy railing:

And thereof comes it that his head is light.

Thou say'st his meat was sauc'd with thy upbraid-

Unquiet meals make ill digestions, [sings:

Thereof the raging fire of fever bred;

And what's a fever but a fit of madness?

Thou say'st his sports were hinder'd by thy brawls:

Sweet recreation barr'd, what doth ensue,

But moody and dull melancholy,

(Kinsman to grim and comfortless despair;)

And, at her heels, a huge infectious troop

Of pale distemperatures, and foes to life?

In food, in sport, and life-preserving rest

To be disturb'd would mad or man, or beast;

The consequence is then, thy jealous fits

Have scared thy husband from the use of wits.

Luc. She never reprehended him but mildly.

When he demean'd himself rough, rude, and wildly,—

Why bear you these rebukes, and answer not?

Adr. She did betray me to my own reproof.— Good people, enter, and lay hold on him.

Abb. No, not a creature enters in my house.

Adr. Then, let your servants bring my husband forth.

Abb. Neither; he took this place for sanctuary, And it shall privilege him from your hands, Till I have brought him to his wits again, Or lose my labour in essaying it.

Adr. I will attend my husband, be his nurse, Diet his sickness, for it is my office, And will have no attorney but myself; And therefore let me have him home with me.

Abb. Be patient; for I will not let him stir, Till I have us'd the approved means I have,

1 The theme.

With wholesome syrups, drugs, and holy prayers,

To make of him a formal¹ man again:

It is a branch and parcel of mine oath,

A charitable duty of my order;

Therefore depart, and leave him here with me.

Adr. I will not hence, and leave my husband

And ill it doth beseeem your holiness, [here;

To separate the husband and the wife.

Abb. Be quiet, and depart, thou shalt not have him. [Exit Abbess.

Luc. Complain unto the duke of this indignity.

Adr. Come, go; I will fall prostrate at his feet,

And never rise until my tears and prayers

Have won his grace to come in person hither,

And take perforce my husband from the abbess.

Mer. By this, I think, the dial points at five:

Anon, I am sure, the duke himself in person

Comes this sure to the melancholy vale;

The place of death and sorry² execution,

Behind the ditches of the abbey here.

Ang. Upon what cause?

Mer. To see a reverend Syracusan merchant, Who put unluckily into this bay

Against the laws and statutes of this town,

Beheaded publicly for his offence. [death.

Ang. See, where they come; we will behold his

L. Kneel to the duke, before he pass the abbey.

Enter Duke attended; Ægeon bare-headed; with the Headsman and other Officers.

Duke. Yet once again proclaim it publicly, If any friend will pay the sum for him,

He shall not die, so much we tender him, [bess!

Adr. Justice, most sacred duke, against the ab-

Duke. She is a virtuous and a reverend lady;

It cannot be, that she hath done these wrong.

Adr. May it please your grace, Antipholus, my

Whom I made lord of me and all I had, [husband,—

At your important³ letters,—this ill day

A most outrageous fit of madness took him;

That desperately he hurried through the street,

(With him his bondman, all as mad as he,) Doing displeasure to the citizens

By rushing in their houses, bearing thence

Rings, jewels, any thing his rage did like.

Once did I get him bound, and sent him home,

Whilst to take order⁴ for the wrongs I went,

That here and there his fury had committed.

Anon, I wot⁵ not by what strong escape,

He broke from those that had the guard of him;

And, with his mad attendant and himself,

Each one with ireful passion, with drawn swords,

Met us again, and, madly bent on us,

Chas'd us away; till raising of more aid,

We came again to bind them: then they fled

Into this abbey, whither we pursued them;

And here the abbess shuts the gates on us,

And will not suffer us to fetch him out,

Nor send him forth, that we may bear him hence.

Therefore, most gracious duke, with thy command, [help.

Let him be brought forth, and borne hence for

Duke. Long since, thy husband serv'd me in And I to thee engag'd a prince's word, [my wars;

When thou didst make him master of thy bed, To do him all the grace and good I could.—

1 Proper.

2 Sad.

3 Importunate.

4 Measures.

5 Know.

Go some of you, knock at the abbey-gate,
And bid the lady abbess come to me;
I will determine this before I stir.

Enter a Servant.

S. O mistress, mistress, shift and save yourself!
My master and his man are both broke loose,
Beaten the maids a-row,¹ and bound the doctor,
Whose beard they have singed off with brands of
And ever as it blazed, they threw on him [fire;
Great pails of puddled mire to quench the hair:
My master preaches patience to him, while
His man with scissors nicks him like a fool:
And sure, unless you send some present help,
Between them they will kill the conjurer.

A. Peace, fool, thy master and his man are
And that is false thou dost report to us. [here;

Serv. Mistress, upon my life, I tell you true;
I have not breath'd almost since I did see it.
He cries for you, and vows, if he can take you,
To scorch your face, and to disfigure you:

[Cry within.

Hark, hark, I hear him, mistress; fly, be gone.

Duke. Come, stand by me, fear nothing:
Guard with halberts.

Adr. Ah me, it is my husband! Witness you,
That he is borne about invisible:

Even now we hous'd him in the abbey here; [son.
And now he's there, past thought of human rea-

Enter Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus.

Ant. E. Justice, most gracious duke, oh,
grant me justice!

Even for the service that long since I did thee,
When I bestrid thee, in the wars, and took
Deep scars to save thy life; even for the blood
That then I lost for thee, now grant me justice.

Ege. Unless the fear of death doth make me
I see my son Antipholus, and Dromio. [dote,

Ant. E. Justice, sweet prince, against that
woman there,

She whom thou gav'st to me to be my wife;
That hath abus'd and dishonour'd me,
Even in the strength and height of injury!

Beyond imagination is the wrong,
That she this day hath shameless thrown on me.

D. Discover how, and thou shalt find me just.
Ant. E. This day, great duke, she shut the
doors upon me,

While she with rascals feasted in my house.
Duke. A grievous fault: Say, woman, didst
thou so! [sister,

Adr. No, my good lord:—myself, he, and my
To-day did dine together: so befall my soul,
As this is false, he burdens me withal!

L. Ne'er may I look on day, nor sleep on night,
But she tells to your highness simple truth!

Ang. O perjur'd woman! They are both for-
In this the madman justly chargeth them. [sworn.

Ant. E. My liege, I am advised what I say;
Neither disturb'd with the effect of wine,
Nor heady-rash, provok'd with raging ire,
Albeit, my wrongs might make one wiser mad.
This woman lock'd me out this day from dinner:
That goldsmith there, were he not pack'd with
Could witness it, for he was with me then; [her,
Who parted with me to go fetch a chain,
Promising to bring it to the Porcupine,

¹ One after another.

Where Balthazar and I did dine together.
Our dinner done, and he not coming thither,
I went to seek him: in the street I met him;
And in his company, that gentleman; [down,
There did this perjur'd goldsmith swear me
That I this day of him receiv'd the chain,
Which, heaven knows, I saw not: for the which,
He did arrest me with an officer.
I did obey; and sent my peasant home
For certain ducats: he with none return'd.
Then fairly I bespoke the officer.
To go in person with me to my house.
By the way we met

My wife, her sister, and a rabble more
Of vile confederates: along with them
They brought one Pinch: a hungry, lean-fac'd
A mere anatomy, a mountebank, [villain,
A thread-bare juggler, and a fortune-teller;
A needy, hollow-ey'd, sharp-looking wretch,
A living dead man: this pernicious slave,
Forsooth, took on him as a conjurer;
And, gazing in mine eyes, feeling my pulse,
And with no face, as 'twere out-facing me,
Cries out I was possess'd: then altogether
They fell upon me, bound me, bore me thence;
And in a dark and dankish¹ vault at home
There left me and my man, both bound together;
Till gnawing with my teeth my bonds in sunder,
I gain'd my freedom, and immediately
Ran hither to your grace; whom I beseech,
To give me ample satisfaction
For these deep shames and great indignities.

Ang. My lord, in truth, thus far I witness
with him;

That he dined not at home, but was lock'd out.
Du. But had he such a chain of thee, or no?

A. He had, my lord; and when he ran in here,
These people saw the chain about his neck.

Mer. Besides, I will be sworn, these ears of mine
Heard you confess you had the chain of him,
After you first forswore it on the mart,
And, thereupon, I drew my sword on you;
And then you fled into this abbey here,
From whence, I think, you are come by miracle.

A. I never came within these abbey walls,
Nor ever didst thou draw thy sword on me:
I never saw the chain, so help me heaven!
And this is false you burden me withal.

Duke. Why, what an intricate impeach is this?
I think, you all have drank of Circe's cup.

If here you hous'd him, here he would have been:
If he were mad, he would not plead so coldly:—
You say he dined at home: the goldsmith here
Denies that saying:—Sirrah, what say you?

Dro. E. Sir, he dined with her there, at the
Porcupine: [that ring.

Cour. He did; and from my finger snatch'd
A. E. 'Tis true, my liege, this ring I had of her.

Du. Saw'st thou him enter at the abbey here?
Cour. As sure, my liege, as I do see your grace.

Du. Why, this is strange:—Go call the abbess
I think you are all mated,² or stark mad. [hither;

[Exit an Attendant.

Ege. Most mighty duke, vouchsafe me speak a
Haply I see a friend will save my life, [word:
And pay the sum that may deliver me.

Du. Speak freely, Syracusan, what thou wilt.

¹ Moist.

² Confounded.

Æg. Is not your name, sir, called Antipholus?
And is not that your bondman Dromio?

Dro. E. Within this hour I was his bondman, sir;

But he, I thank him, gnaw'd in two my cords;
Now am I Dromio, and his man unbound.

Æge. I am sure, you both of you remember me.

Dro. E. Ourselves we do remember, sir, by you;
For lately we were bound, as you are now.
You are not Pinch's patient, are you, sir?

Æge. Why look you strange on me? you know me well.

Ant. E. I never saw you in my life till now.

Æge. Oh! grief hath chang'd me since you saw me last;

And careful hours, with Time's deformed hand
Have written strange defeatures¹ in my face:
But tell me yet, dost thou not know my voice?

Ant. E. Neither.

Æge. Dromio, nor thou?

Dro. E. No, trust me, sir, nor I.

Æge. I am sure thou dost.

Dro. E. Ay, sir? but I am sure I do not;
and whatsoever a man denies, you are now bound to believe him.

Æge. Not know my voice! O, time's extremity!
Hast thou so crack and splitted my poor tongue,
In seven short years, that here my only son
Knows not my feeble key of untun'd cares?

Though now this grained² face of mine be hid
In sap-consuming winter's drizzled snow,
And all the conduits of my blood froze up:
Yet hath my night of life some memory,
My wasting lamp some fading glimmer left,
My dull deaf ears a little use to hear:
All these old witnesses (I cannot err),
Tell me, thou art my son Antipholus.

Ant. E. I never saw my father in my life.

Æge. But seven years since, in Syracuse, boy,
Thou know'st we parted; but perhaps, my son,
Thou sham'st to acknowledge me in misery.

Ant. E. The duke, and all that know me in the
Can witness with me that it is not so; [city,
I ne'er saw Syracuse in my life.

Duke. I tell thee, Syracusan, twenty years
Have I been patron to Antipholus,
During which time he ne'er saw Syracuse:
I see, thy age and dangers make thee dote.

*Enter the Abbess, with Antipholus Syracusan,
and Dromio Syracusan.*

Abb. Most mighty duke, behold a man much
wrong'd; [All gather to see him.

Ad. I see two husbands, or mine eyes deceive me.

Du. One of these men is Genius to the other;
And so of these: Which is the natural man,
And which the spirit? Who deciphers them?

Dr. S. I, sir, am Dromio; command him away.

Dro. E. I, sir, am Dromio; pray let me stay.

Ant. S. Ægeon, art thou not? or else his ghost?

Dro. S. O, my old master? who hath bound
him here?

Ab. Whoever bound him, I will loose his bonds
And gain a husband by his liberty:—
Speak, old Ægeon, if thou be'st that man
That hadst a wife once called Æmilia,
That bore thee at a burden two fair sons:

¹ Alteration of features.

² Furrowed.

O, if thou be'st the same Ægeon, speak,
And speak unto the same Æmilia!

Æge. If I dream not, thou art Æmilia;
If thou art she, tell me where is that son
That floated with thee on the fatal raft?

Abb. By men of Epidamnus, he and I,
And the twin Dromio, all were taken up;
But, by and by, rude fishermen of Corinth
By force took Dromio and my son from them,
And me they left with those of Epidamnus:
What then became of them I cannot tell;
I, to this fortune that you see me in.

Du. Why, here begins his morning story right:
These two Antipholus's, these two so like,
And these two Dromios, one in semblance,—
Besides her urging of her wreck at sea,—
These are the parents to these children,
Which accidentally are met together.

Antipholus, thou cam'st from Corinth first.

Ant. S. No, sir, not I; I came from Syracuse.

Duke. Stay, stand apart; I know not which
is which.

Ant. E. I came from Corinth, my most gra-
cious lord.

Dro. E. And I with him.

Ant. E. Brought to this town with that most
famous warrior,

Duke Menaphon, your most renowned uncle.

Adr. Which of you two did dine with me to-

Ant. S. I, gentle mistress. [day?

Adr. And are not you my husband?

Ant. E. No, I say nay to that.

Ant. S. And so do I, yet did she call me so;
And this fair gentlewoman, her sister here,
Did call me brother:—What I told you then,
I hope, I shall have leisure to make good;
If this be not a dream, I see and hear.

Ang. That is the chain, sir, which you had of me.

Ant. S. I think it be, sir; I deny it not.

A. E. And you, sir, for this chain, arrested me.

Ang. I think I did, sir; I deny it not.

Adr. I sent you money, sir, to be your bail,
By Dromio; but I think he brought it not.

Dro. E. No, none by me.

Ant. S. This purse of ducats I received from
And Dromio my man did bring them me: [you,
I see, we still did meet each other's man,
And I was ta'en for him, and he for me,
And thereupon these errors are arose.

A. E. These ducats pawn I for my father here.

Du. It shall not need, thy father hath his life.

Cour. S. I must have that diamond from you.

Ant. E. There, take it; and much thanks for
my good cheer.

Abb. Renowned duke, vouchsafe to take the
To go with us into the abbey here, [pains
And hear at large discoursed all our fortunes:—
And all that are assembled in this place,
That by this sympathized one day's error
Have suffer'd wrong, go, keep us company,
And we shall make full satisfaction.—
Twenty-five years have I but gone in travail
Of you, my sons; nor, till this present hour,
My heavy burdens are delivered:—
The duke, my husband, and my children both,
And you the calendars of their nativity,
Go to a gossip's feast, and go with me;
After so long grief, such nativity.

Duke. With all my heart, I'll gossip at this feast.

[*Exeunt Duke, Abbess, Aegeon, Court, Merchant, Angelo, and Attendants.*]

Dro. S. Master, shall I fetch your stuff from ship-board? [embark'd?]

Ant. E. Dromio, what stuff of mine hast thou
Dro. S. Your goods that lay at host, sir, in the Centaur. [Dromio:]

Ant. S. He speaks to me; I am your master, me, go with us: we'll look to that anon: embrace thy brother there, rejoice with him.

[*Exeunt Antip. S. and E.; Adr. and Luc.*]

Dro. S. There is a fat friend at your master's house,

That kitchen'd me for you to-day at dinner; She now shall be my sister, not my wife.

Dro. E. Methinks you are my glass and not my brother:

I see by you, I am a sweet-faced youth.

Will you walk in to see their gossiping?

Dro. S. Not I, sir; you are my elder.

Dro. E. That's a question: how shall we try it?

Dro. S. We will draw cuts for the senior: till then, lead thou first.

Dro. E. Nay, then thus: [brother:]

We came into the world, like brother and And now let's go hand in hand, not one before another.

[*Exeunt.*]

Macbeth.

Persons Represented.

DUNCAN, King of Scotland.

LALCOLM, DONALBAIN, } his Sons.

MACBETH, ANQUO, LACDUFF, } Generals of the King's Army.

ENOX, LOSSE, LENTETH, } Noblemen of Scotland.

NGUS, ATHNESS, }

LEANCE, Son to Banquo.

SIWARD, Earl of Northumberland, General of the English Forces.

Young SIWARD, his Son.

SEXTON, an Officer attending on Macbeth.

Son to Macduff.

An English Doctor. A Scotch Doctor.

A Soldier. A Porter. An old Man.

LADY MACBETH.

LADY MACDUFF.

Gentlewoman Attending on Lady Macbeth.

HECATE, and three Witches.

Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers, Attendants, and Messengers.

The Ghost of Banquo, and several other Apparitions.

SCENE—In the end of the Fourth Act, lies in England; through the rest of the Play, in Scotland; and, chiefly, at Macbeth's Castle.

Act First.

SCENE I.—AN OPEN PLACE.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches.

1 *Witch.* When shall we three meet again.

thunder, lightning, or in rain?

2 *Witch.* When the hurlyburly's done,

When the battle's lost and won.

3 *Witch.* That will be ere set of sun.

1 *Witch.* Where the place?

2 *Witch.* Upon the heath:

3 *Witch.* There to meet with Macbeth.

1 *Witch.* I come, Graymalkin!

All. Paddock calls:—Anon.—

Air is foul, and foul is fair:

Over through the fog and filthy air.

[*Witches vanish.*]

1 *Uppear.*

SCENE II.—A CAMP NEAR FORES.

Alarum within. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Lenox, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding Soldier.

Dun. What bloody man is that? He can report, As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt

The newest state.

Mal. — This is the sergeant, Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought 'Gainst my captivity:—Hail, brave friend! Say to the king the knowledge of the broil, As thou didst leave it.

Sold. Doubtfully it stood; As two spent swimmers, that do cling together, And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald (Worthy to be a rebel; for, to that, The multiplying villainies of nature Do swarm upon him,) from the western isles

Of Kernes and Gallowglasses¹ was supplied ;
 And fortune on him smil'd, but all too weak :
 For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name),
 Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
 Which smok'd with bloody execution,
 Like valour's minion,
 Carv'd out his passage, till he fac'd the slave ;
 And ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
 Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
 And fixed his head upon our battlements.

Dun. O, valiant cousin ! worthy gentleman !

Sold. As whence the sun 'gins his reflexion,
 Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders
 break ; [come,

So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to
 Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland,
 No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd, [mark:
 Compell'd these skipping Kernes to trust their
 heels ;

But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,
 With furbish'd arms, and new supplies of men,
 Began a fresh assault.

Dun. Dismay'd not this
 Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo ?

Sold. Yes ;
 As sparrows, eagles ; or the hare, the lion.
 If I say sooth,² I must report they were
 As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks ;
 So they
 Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe :
 Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,
 Or memorize another Golgotha,
 I cannot tell :—

But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

Dun. So well thy words become thee, as thy
 wounds ;

They smack of honour both :—Go, get him sur-
 geons. [Exit Soldier, attended.

Enter Rosse.

Who comes here ?

Mal. The worthythane³ of Rosse.

Len. What a haste looks through his eyes !

So should he look,

That seems to speak things strange.

Rosse. God save the king !

Dun. Whence cam'st thou, worthythane ?

Rosse. From Fife, great king,

Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,
 And fan our people cold.

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,
 Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
 Thethane of Cawdor, 'gan a dismal conflict:
 Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,⁴
 Confronted him with self-comparisons,
 Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,
 Curbing his lavish spirit : And, to conclude,
 The victory fell on us :—

Dun. Great happiness !

Rosse. That now

Sveno, the Norways' king, craves composition ;
 Nor would we deign him burial of his men,
 Till he disbursed, at St Colme's inch,
 Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

D. No more thatthane of Cawdor shall deceive

Our bosom interest :—Go, pronounce his death,
 And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Rosse. I'll see it done.

D. What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath

[Exit.

SCENE III.—A HEATH.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 *Witch.* Where hast thou been, sister ?

2 *Witch.* Killing swine.

3 *Witch.* Sister, where thou ? [lap,

1 *Witch.* A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her
 And mounch'd, and mounch'd, and mounch'd :—

Give me, quoth I :

Aroint thee, 1 *witch!* the rump-fed ronyon² cries.
 Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' the
 But in a sieve I'll thither sail, [Tiger :

And, like a rat without a tail,
 I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

2 *Witch.* I'll give thee a wind.

1 *Witch.* Thou art kind.

3 *Witch.* And I another.

1 *Witch.* I myself have all the other ;
 And the very ports they blow,

All the quarters that they know

I' the shipman's card.³

I will drain him dry as hay :

Sleep shall, neither night nor day,

Hang upon his pent-house lid ;

He shall live a man forbid⁴ :

Weary seven nights, nine times nine,

Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine :

Though his bark cannot be lost,

Yet it shall be tempest-toss'd.

Look what I have.

2 *Witch.* Show me, show me.

1 *Witch.* Here I have a pilot's thumb,
 Wreck'd, as homeward he did come.

[Drum within.

3 *Witch.* A drum, a drum ;
 Macbeth doth come.

All. The weird sisters,⁵ hand in hand,

Posters of the sea and land,

Thus do go about, about ;

Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,

And thrice again, to make up nine :

Peace !—the charm's wound up.

Enter Macbeth and Banquo.

Macb. So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

Ban. How far is't called to Fores—What are
 So wither'd, and so wild in their attire ; [these,
 That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,
 And yet are on't ? Live you ? or are you aught
 That man may question ? You seem to under-
 stand me,

By each at once her choppy finger laying
 Upon her skinny lips :—You should be women,
 And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
 That you are so.

Macb. Speak, if you can :—What are you ?

1 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth ! hail to thee,thane
 of Glamis ! [of Cawdor !

2 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth ! hail to thee,thane

3 *Witch.* All hail, Macbeth ! that shalt be king
 hereafter.

B. Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear

1 Begone. 3 Compass. 5 Fates.

2 A scurvy woman. 4 Accursed.

1 Light and heavy armed troops.

2 Truth. 3 Governor.

4 Defended by armour of proof.

Things that do sound so fair?—I' the name of
 Are ye fantastical,¹ or that indeed [truth,
 Which outwardly ye show! My noble partner
 You greet with present grace, and great predic-
 Of noble having,² and of royal hope, [tion
 That he seems rapt withal; to me you speak not:
 If you can look into the seeds of time, [not;
 And say, which grain will grow, and which will
 Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear,
 Your favours, nor your hate.

1 *Witch.* Hail!

2 *Witch.* Hail!

3 *Witch.* Hail!

1 *Witch.* Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2 *Witch.* Not so happy, yet much happier.

3 *Witch.* Thou shalt get kings, though thou be
 So, all hail, Macbeth, and Banquo! [none:

1 *Witch.* Banquo, and Macbeth, all hail!

M. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
 By Sinel's death, I know, I am thane of Glamis:
 But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,
 A prosperous gentleman; and, to be king,
 Stands not within the prospect of belief.

No more than to be Cawdor. Say, from whence
 You owe this strange intelligence? or why
 Upon this blasted heath you stop our way
 With such prophetic greeting?—Speak, I charge
 you. [*Witches vanish.*

Ban. The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,
 And these are of them:—Whither are they van-
 ish'd? [melted

Macb. Into the air; and what seem'd corporal
 As breath into the wind.—'Would they had staid!

Ban. Were such things here, as we do speak
 Or have we eaten of the insane root, [about?
 That takes the reason prisoner?

Macb. Your children shall be kings.

Ban. You shall be king.

Macb. And thane of Cawdor too; went it not so?

B. To the self-same tune and words. Who's here?

Enter Rosse and Angus.

Ros. The king hath happily receiv'd, Macbeth,
 The news of thy success: and when he reads
 Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,
 His wonders and his praises do contend,
 Which should be thine, or his: Silence with that,
 In viewing o'er the rest o' the self-same day,
 He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,
 Nothing afraid of what thyself didst make,
 Strange images of death. As thick as tale,³
 Came post with post; and every one did bear
 Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,
 And pour'd them down before him.

Ang. We are sent,
 To give thee, from our royal master, thanks:
 To herald thee into his sight, not pay thee.

Rosse. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,
 He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:
 In which addition, hail, most worthy thane?
 For it is thine.

Ban. What, can the devil speak true?
Macb. The thane of Cawdor lives: Why do you
 In borrow'd robes? [dress me

Ang. Who was the thane, lives yet;
 But under heavy judgment bears that life
 Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was

1 Phantoms. 2 Estate. 3 Could be counted.

Combin'd with Norway: or did line the rebel
 With hidden help and vantage; or that with both
 He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not:
 But treasons capital, confess'd and prov'd,
 Have overthrown him.

Macb. Glamis, and thane of Cawdor:
 The greatest is behind.—Thanks for your pains.—
 Do you not hope your children shall be kings,
 When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me,
 Promis'd no less to them?

Ban. That, trusted home,
 Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,
 Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:
 And oftentimes to win us to our harm,
 The instruments of darkness tell us truths;
 Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
 In deepest consequence.—
 Cousins, a word, I pray you.

Macb. Two truths are told,
 As happy prologues to the swelling act
 Of the imperial theme.—I thank you, gentlemen.—
 This supernatural soliciting¹
 Cannot be ill; cannot be good;—If ill,
 Why hath it given me earnest of success,
 Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:
 If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
 Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,
 And make my seated heart knock at my ribs
 Against the use of nature? Present fears
 Are less than horrible imaginings:
 My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
 Shakes so my single state of man, that function
 Is smother'd in surmise: and nothing is,
 But what is not.

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt.
Macb. If chance will have me king, why,
 chance may crown me,
 Without my stir.

Ban. New honours come upon him
 Like our strange garments, cleave not to their
 But with the aid of use. [mould,

Macb. Come what come may;
 Time and the hour² run through the roughest day.

B. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

Macb. Give me your favour³:—my dull brain
 was wrought [pains

With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your
 Are register'd where every day I turn
 The leaf to read them.—Let us toward the king—
 Think upon what hath chanc'd: and, at more time,
 The interim having weigh'd it, let us speak
 Our free hearts each to other.

Ban. Very gladly.

Macb. Till then, enough.—Come, friends.
 [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—FORES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Flourish. *Enter Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain,
 Lenox, and Attendants.*

Dun. Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
 Those in commission yet return'd?

Mal. My liege,
 They are not yet come back. But I have spoke
 With one that saw him die; who did report,
 That very frankly he confess'd his treasons;
 Implor'd your highness' pardon; and set forth

1 Incitement. 2 Opportunity. 3 Pardon.

A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him, like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death,
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd,¹
As 'twere a careless trifle.

Dun. There's no art,
To find the mind's construction in the face:
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.—O worthiest cousin!

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Rosse, and Angus.
The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me; Thou art so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserv'd:
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
Might have been mine! only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

Macb. The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part
Is to receive our duties: and our duties [vants;
Are to your throne and state, children, and ser-
Which do but what they should, by doing every
Safe toward your love and honour. [thing

Dun. Welcome hither;
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing.—Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserv'd, nor must be known
No less to have done so, let me unfold thee,
And hold thee to my heart.

Ban. There if I grow,
The harvest is your own.

Dun. My plenteous joys,
Wanton in fullness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow.—Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know,
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm; whom we name hereafter,
The prince of Cumberland:² which honour must
Not, unaccompanied, invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deserv'ers.—From hence to Inverness,
And bind us further to you.

M. Therest is labour, which is not us'd for you:
I'll be myself the harbinger, and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So, humbly take my leave.

Dun. My worthy Cawdor!
Macb. [Aside.] The prince of Cumberland!—
That is a step,

On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars hide your fires!
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand! yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see. [Exit.

Dun. True, worthy Banquo; he is full so val-
And in his commendations I am fed;— [faint;
It is a banquet to me. Let us after him,
Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome:
It is a peerless kinsman. [Flourish. Exit.

SCENE V.

INVERNESS. A ROOM IN MACBETH'S CASTLE.

Enter Lady Macbeth, reading a letter.

Lady M. They met me in the day of success;

¹ Owned.

² Cumberland was then held as a fief of the crown of England, and was given as a title to the heir-apparent.

and I have learned by the perfectest report, they
have more in them than mortal knowledge. When
I burned in desire to question them further, they
made themselves—air, into which they vanished.
Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came
missives¹ from the king, who all hailed me,
Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these
weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the
coming on of time, with, Hail, king that shall
be! This have I thought good to deliver thee,
my dearest partner of greatness; that thou might-
est not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignor-
ant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it
to thy heart, and farewell.

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promised:—Yet do I fear thy
nature;

It is too full o' the milk of human kindness,
To catch the nearest way: Thou wouldst be great;
Art not without ambition; but without [highly,
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst
That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
And yet wouldst wrongly win; thou'dst have
great Glamis, [have it;

That which cries, Thus thou must do, if thou
And that which rather thou dost fear to do,
Than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither,
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;
And chastise with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round,²
Which fate and metaphysical³ aid doth seem
To have thee crown'd withal.—What is your
tidings?

Enter an Attendant.

Attend. The king comes here to-night.

Lady M. Thou'rt mad to say it;
Is not thy master with him? who, wert'so,
Would have inform'd for preparation.

Attend. So please you, it is true; our thane is
One of my fellows had the speed of him; [coming;
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.

Lady M. Give him tending,
He brings great news. The raven himself is
hoarse, [Exit Attendant.

That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, come, your spirits
That tend on mortal⁴ thoughts, unsex me here;
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood,
Stop up the access and passage to remorse⁵;
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect, and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring minis-
Wherever in your sightless substances [ters,
You wait on nature's mischief: Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunest smoke of hell!
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes;
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry, Hold, hold!—Great Glamis! worthy
Cawdor!

Enter Macbeth.

Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond

¹ Messengers.

² Diadem.

³ Supernatural.

⁴ Murderous.

⁵ Pity.

This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

Macb. *In the way.* My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

Lady M. And when goes hence?

Macb. To-morrow,—as he purposes.

Lady M. *Of business and of blood.* O, never
Shall sun that morrow see!
Your face, my thane, is as a book, where men
May read strange matters:—To beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent
flower,

But be the serpent under it. He that's coming
Must be provided for: and you shall put
This night's great business into my despatch;
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Macb. We will speak further.

Lady M. Only look up clear;

To alter favour¹ ever is to fear:

Leave all the rest to me. *[Exit Macb.]*

SCENE VI.—BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Hautboys. *Servants of Macbeth attending.*

Enter Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Banquo, Lenox, Macduff, Rosse, Angus, and Attendants.

Dun. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimble and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

Ban. This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet,² does approve,
By his lov'd mansionry, that the heaven's breath,
Smells woefully here: no fusty, frieze, buttress,
Nor coigne³ of vantage, but this bird hath made
His pendent bed, and procreant cradle; Where
they

Most breed and haunt, I have observ'd, the air
Is delicate.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Dun. See, see, our honour'd hostess!
The love that follows us, sometime is our trouble,
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you,
How you shall bid God yield⁴ us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady M. All our service
In every point twice done, and then done double,
Were poor and single business, to contend [with
Against those honours, deep and broad, where
Your majesty loads our house: For those of old,
And the late dignities heap'd up to them,
We rest your hermits.

Dun. Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We cours'd him at the heels, and had a purpose
To be his purveyor: but he rides well; [him
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp
To his home before us: Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to-night.

Lady M. Your servants ever
Have theirs themselves, and what is theirs in
compt.⁵

To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,
Still to return your own.

Dun. Give me your hand.

1 Countenance. 3 Corner. 5 Reckoning.
2 Swallow. 4 Reward.

Conduct me to mine host; we love him highly,
And shall continue our graces towards him.
By your leave, hostess. *[Exit Macb.]* *[Exit.]*

SCENE VII.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Hautboys and torches. *Enter, and pass over the stage, a Sewer,¹ and divers Servants with dishes and services. Then enter Macbeth.*

Macb. If it were done, when 'tis done, then
'twere well

It were done quickly: If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With his surcease,² success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,—
We'd jump the life to come.—But, in these cases,
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: This even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:
First as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking off:
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin, hors'd
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tear shall drown the wind.—I have no spur
To tickle the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself,³
And falls on the other.—How now, what news?

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady M. He has almost supp'd: Why have
you left the chamber?

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

Lady M. Know you not, he has?

M. We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

Lady M. Was the hope drunk,
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time,
Such I account thy love. Art thou afraid
To be the same in thine own act and valour,
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem;
Letting I dare not wait upon I would,
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

Macb. Pr'ythee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more, is none.

Lady M. What beast was it then
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;

1 So called from his placing the dishes on the table,
2 Cessation. 3 Query, overleaps its set, i.e. saddle.

And to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time, nor place,
Did then adhere,¹ and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fin-
ness now

Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis, to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from its boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn, as you
Have done to this.

Macb. If we should fail,——

Lady M. We fail!

But screw your courage to the sticking place,
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep,
(Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
Soundly invite him,) his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassal² so convince,³
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
A limbeck⁴ only; when in swinish sleep
Their drenched natures lie, as in a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
The unguarded Duncan? what not put upon
His spongy officers; who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell⁵?

Macb. Bring forth men children only!
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males. Will it not be received,
When we have mark'd with blood those sleepy
two

Of his own chamber, and us'd their very daggers,
That they have done't?

Lady M. Who dares receive it other,
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
Upon his death?

Macb. I am settled, and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth
know.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—COURT WITHIN MACBETH'S CASTLE.

*Enter Banquo and Fleance, and a Servant with
a torch before them.*

Ban. How goes the night, boy?

Fle. The moon is down; I have not heard the
clock.

Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

Fle. I take't, 'tis later, sir.

Ban. Hold, take my sword:—There's hus-
bandry⁶ in heaven,
Their candles are all out.—Take thee that too.
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep: Merciful powers!
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature
Gives way to in repose!—Give me my sword:—

Enter Macbeth, and a Servant with a torch.

Who's there!

Macb. A friend.

B. What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed:

1 Cohere. 3 Overpower. 5 Murder.
2 Intemperance. 4 Alembic. 6 Thrift.

He hath been in unusual pleasure, and
Sent forth great largess¹ to your offices²:
This diamond he greets your wife withal,
By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up³
In measureless content.

Macb. Being unprepar'd,
Our will became the servant to defect;
Which else should free have wrought.

Ban. All's well.
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:
To you they have show'd some truth.

Macb. I think not of them:
Yet when we can entreat an hour to serve,
Would spend it in some words upon that busi-
ness, if you would grant the time.

[*ness,*
Ban. At your kind'st leisure.

Macb. If you shall cleave to my consent,—
when 'tis,

It shall make honour for you.

Ban. So I lose none,
In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchis'd, and allegiance clear,
I shall be counsel'd.

Macb. Good repose, the while.

Ban. Thanks, sir; The like to you.

[*Exit Banquo and Fleance.*
Macb. Go, bid thy mistress, when my drink
is ready,

She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

[*Exit Servant.*
Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me
clutch thee:—

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible

To feeling, as to sight? or art thou but

A dagger of the mind; a false creation,

Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw.

Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;

And such an instrument I was to use.

Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,

Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;

And on thy blade, and dudgeon,⁴ gouts⁵ of blood,

Which was not so before.—There's no such thing:

It is the bloody business, which informs

Thust to mine eyes.—Now o'er the one half world

Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse

The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates

Pale Hecate's offering; and wither'd murder,

Alarm'd by his sentinel, the wolf, [pace,

Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy

With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his

design [earth,

Moves like a ghost.—Thou sure and firm-set

Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear

Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,

And take the present horror from the time,

Which now suits with it.—Whiles I threat, he

lives;

Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

[*A bell rings.*

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.

Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell

That summons thee to heaven, or to hell. [*Exit.*

1 Bounty. 3 Concluded. 5 Coagulated drops.
2 Servants' rooms. 4 Haft.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady M. That which hath made them drunk,
hath made me bold:

What hath quench'd them, hath given me fire:—
Hark!—Peace!

It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman,
Which gives the stern'st goodnight. He is about it:
The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd
their possets,

That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live or die.

Macb. [*Within.*] Who's there?—what, ho!

Lady M. Alack! I am afraid they have awak'd,
And 'tis not done:—the attempt, and not the deed,
Confounds us:—Hark!—I laid their daggers
ready,

He could not miss them.—Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't.—My husband?

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. I have done the deed:—Didst thou not
hear a noise?

Lady M. I heard the owl scream, and the
Did not you speak? [*crickets cry.*]

Macb. When?

Lady M. Now.

Macb. As I descended?

Lady M. Ay.

Macb. Hark!—

Who lies i' the second chamber?

Lady M. Donalbain.

Macb. This is a sorry sight.

[*Looking on his hands.*]

Lady M. A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

Macb. There's one did laugh in his sleep, and
one cried, *murder!* [*them:*]

That they did wake each other; I stood and heard
But they did say their prayers, and address'd
Again to sleep. [*them*]

Lady M. There are two lodg'd together.

Macb. One cried, *God bless us!* and, *Amen,*
the other;

As they had seen me, with these hangman's hands
Listening their fear. I could not say, *amen,*
When they did say, *God bless us.*

Lady M. Consider it not so deeply.

Macb. But wherefore could not I pronounce,
I had most need of blessing, and *amen* [*amen?*]
Stuck in my throat.

Lady M. These deeds must not be thought
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

Macb. Methought, I heard a voice cry, *Sleep no
more!*

*Macbeth does murder sleep, the innocent sleep;
Sleep, that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast;—*

Lady M. What do you mean?

M. Still it cried, *Sleep no more!* to all the house:
*Glamis hath murder'd sleep; and therefore Cawdor
Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!*

Lady M. Who was it that thus cried? Why,
worthy thane,

1 Unwrought silk.

You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brainsickly of things:—Go, get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.—
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there; Go, carry them; and smear
The sleepy groom with blood.

Macb. I'll go no more:

I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again, I dare not.

Lady M. Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers: The sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood,
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt.

[*Exit. Knocking within.*]

Macb. Whence is that knocking?

How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine
eyes!

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,¹
Making the green—one red.

Re-enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady M. My hands are of your colour; but I
shame [*knocking*]

To wear a heart so white. [*Knocking.*] I hear a
At the south entry:—retire we to our chamber:
A little water clears us of this deed:

How easy is it then? your constancy
Hath left you unattended.—[*Knocking.*] Hark!
more knocking:

Get on your night-gown, lest occasion call us,
And show us to be watchers:—Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

Macb. To know my deed, 'twere best not
know myself. [*Knocking.*]
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou
couldst! [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter a Porter. [Knocking within.]

Porter. Here's a knocking, indeed! [*Knock-
ing.*] Knock, knock, knock: Who's there? Come
in time. [*Knocking.*] Knock, knock: Who's
there? [*Knocking.*] Knock, knock: Never at
quiet! What are you? [*Knocking.*] Anon, anon;
I pray you remember the porter. [*Opens the gate.*]

Enter Macduff and Lenox.

Macd. Was it so late, friend, ere you went to
That you do lie so late? [*bed*]

Por. Faith, sir, we were carousing till the
second cock: and drink, sir, is a great provoker
of sleep. Drink equivocates him in a sleep, and,
giving him the lie, leaves him.

Macd. I believe, drink gave thee the lie last
night.

Por. That it did, sir, i' the very throat o' me:
But I requited him for his lie: and, I think,
being too strong for him, though he took up my
legs sometime, yet I made a shift to cast him.

Macd. Is thy master stirring?—
Our knocking has awak'd him; here he comes.

1 Stain.

Enter Macbeth.

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!

Macb. Good-morrow, both!

Macd. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Macb. Not yet.

Macd. He did command me to call timely on
I have almost slipp'd the hour. [*him;*]

Macb. I'll bring you to him.

Macd. I know this is a joyful trouble to you;
But yet 'tis one.

Macb. The labour we delight in physics¹ pain.
This is the door.

Macd. I'll make so bold to call,
For 'tis my limited² service. [*Exit Macduff.*]

Len. Goes the king
From hence to-day?

Macb. He does:—he did appoint it so.

Len. The night has been unruly: Where we
lay, [*say,*]

Our chimnies were blown down; and, as they
Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of
And prophesying, with accents terrible, [death;
Of dire combustion, and confus'd events,
New hatch'd to the woeful time. The obscure bird
Clamour'd the live-long night: some say, the
Was feverous, and did shake. [*earth*]

Macb. 'Twas a rough night.

Len. My young remembrance cannot parallel
A fellow to it.

Re-enter Macduff.

Macd. O horror! horror! horror! Tongue, nor
Cannot conceive nor name thee! [*heart,*]

Macb. *Len.* What's the matter?

Macd. Confusion now hath made his master-
Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope [piece!
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o' the building.

Macb. What is't you say? the life?

Len. Mean you his majesty? [*sight*]

Macd. Approach the chamber and destroy your
With a new Gorgon:—Do not bid me speak;
See, and then speak yourselves.—Awake! awake!

[*Exeunt Macbeth and Lenox.*]

Ring the alarm bell:—Murder, and treason!
Banquo, and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,
And look on death itself! Up, up, and see
The great doom's image!—Malcolm! Banquo!
As from your graves rise up, and walk like
sprites,

To countenance this horror. [*Bell rings.*]

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady M. What's the business,
That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley
The sleepers of the house? speak, speak,—

Macd. O, gentle lady,
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:

The repetition, in a woman's ear,
Would murder as it fell.—O Banquo! Banquo!

Enter Banquo.

Our royal master's murder'd!
Lady M. Woe, alas!

What, in our house!

Ban. Too cruel, any where:—

¹ Allays.

² Appointed.

Dear Duff, I pr'ythee contradict thyself,
And say, it is not so.

Re-enter Macbeth and Lenox.

Macb. Had I but died an hour before this chance,
I had liv'd a blessed time; for, from this instant,
There's nothing serious in mortality:

All is but toys; renown, and grace is dead:
The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees
Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter Malcolm and Donalbain.

Don. What is amiss?

Macb. You are, and do not know it:
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood
Is stopp'd; the very source of it is stopp'd.

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

Mal. O! by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had
done't: [*blood,*]

Their hands and faces were all badg'd with
So were their daggers, which, unwip'd, we found
Upon their pillows:

They star'd, and were distracted; no man's life
Was to be trusted with them.

Macb. O, yet I do repent me of my fury,
That I did kill them.

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

Macb. Who can be wise, amaz'd, temperate,
and furious,

Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man.

The expedition of my violent love
Out-ran the pauser reason.—Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in
nature, [*derers,*]

For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the mur-
Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers
Unmannerly breach'd with gore! Who could re-
That had a heart to love, and in that heart [frain,
Courage to make his love known?

Lady M. Help me hence, ho!

Macd. Look to the lady.

Mal. Why do we hold our tongues,
That most may claim this argument for ours?

Don. What should be spoken here,
Where our fate, hid within an augre-hole,
May rush and seize us? Let's away; our tears
Are not yet brew'd.

Mal. Nor our strong sorrow on
The foot of motion.

Ban. Look to the lady:—

[*Lady Macbeth is carried out.*]

And when we have our naked frailties hid,
That suffer in exposure, let us meet,
And question this most bloody piece of work,
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:
In the great hand of God I stand; and, thence,
Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice.

Macb. And so do I.

All. So all.

Macb. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet i' the hall together.

All. Well contented.

[*Exeunt all but Mal. and Don.*]

Mal. What will you do? Let's not consort
with them:

¹ With blood to their hilts.

To show an unfelt sorrow, is an office
Which the false man does easy: I'll to England.

Don. To Ireland, I; our separated fortune
Shall keep us both the safer, where we are,
There's daggers in men's smiles; the near in
The nearer bloody. [blood,

Mal. This murderous shaft that's shot,
Hath not yet lighted; and our safest way
Is, to avoid the aim. Therefore, to horse;
And let us not be dainty of leave taking,
But shift away: there's warrant in that theft,
Which steals itself, when there's no mercy left.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—WITHOUT THE CASTLE.

Enter Rosse and an Old Man.

Old M. Threescore and ten I can remember well:
Within the volume of which time, I have seen
Hours dreadful, and things strange; but this
sore night
Hath trifled former knowings.

Rosse. Ah, good father, [act,
Thou seest the heavens, as troubled with man's
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:
Is it night's predominance, or the day's shame,
That darkness does the face of earth intomb,
When living light should kiss it?

Old M. 'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last
A falcon, towering in her pride of place,
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at, and killed.

Rosse. And Duncan's horses, (a thing most
strange and certain,)
Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung
out,
Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would
War with mankind.

Old M. 'Tis said, they eat each other.
Rosse. They did so; to the amazement of mine
eyes, [duff:—
That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Mac-

Enter Macduff.

How goes the world, sir, now?
Macd. Why, see you not?
R. Is't known who did this more than bloody
Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain. [deed?
Rosse. Alas, the day:
What good could they pretend?

Macd. They were suborn'd:
Malcolm, and Donalbain, the king's two sons,
Are stol'n away and fled; which puts upon them
Suspicion of the deed.

Rosse. 'Gainst nature still;
Thrifless ambition, that wilt raven up
Thine own life's means!—Then 'tis most like,
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

Macd. He is already nam'd; and gone to
To be invested, [Scone,
Rosse. Where is Duncan's body?

Macd. Carried to Colmes-kill;
The sacred storehouse of his predecessors,
And guardian of their bones.

Rosse. Will you to Scone?
Macd. No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

1 Propose to themselves.

Rosse. Well, I will thither.
Macd. Well, may you see things well done
there;—adieu!—

Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!

Rosse. Father, farewell. [those
Old M. God's benison go with you: and with
That would make good of bad, and friends of
foes! [Exeunt.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—FORES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Banquo.

Ban. Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis,
As the weird women promis'd; and, I fear, [all,
Thou play'st most foully for't: yet it was said,
It should not stand in thy posterity;

But that myself should be the root, and father
Of many kings. If there come truth from them,
(As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine,)
Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well,
And set me up in hope? But, hush; no more.

*Senet sounded. Enter Macbeth, as King; Lady
Macbeth, as Queen; Lenox, Rosse, Lords,
Ladies, and Attendants.*

Macb. Here's our chief guest.
Lady M. If he had been forgotten,

It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all things unbecoming.

Macb. To-night we hold a solemn supper, sir,
And I'll request your presence.

Ban. Let your highness'
Command upon me; to the which, my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

Macb. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. We should have else desir'd your good
advice [ous,)

(Which still hath been both grave and prosper-
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.
Is't far you ride?

Ban. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the
I must become a borrower of the night, [better,
For a dark hour or twain.

Macb. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

M. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention: But of that to-morrow;
When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: Adieu,
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

B. Ay, my good lord: our time does call upon us.

M. I wish your horses swift and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs.
Farewell.— [Exit Banquo.

Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night; to make society
The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself [you.

Till supper-time alone: while then, God be with
[Exeunt Lady Macbeth, Lords, Ladies, &c.

Sirrah, a word: Attend those men our pleasure?

At. They are, my lord, without the palace gate.
Macb. Bring them before us.— [*Exit Atten.*]

To be thus, is nothing;

But to be safely thus:—Our fears in Banquo
 Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature
 Reigns that, which would be fear'd: 'Tis much
 he dares;

And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,
 He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
 To act in safety. There is none, but he
 Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
 My genius is rebuk'd; as, it is said, [*sisters*,
Mark Antony's was by *Cæsar*. He chid the
 When first they put the name of King upon me,
 And bade them speak to him; then, prophet-
 They hail'd him father to a line of kings; [*like*,
 Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,
 And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,
 Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
 No son of mine succeeding. If it be so,
 For Banquo's issue have I fil'd¹ my mind;
 For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;
 Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
 Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
 Given to the common enemy of man,
 To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
 Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,
 And champion me to the utterance!²—Who's
 there?—

Re-enter Attendant, with Two Murderers.

Now to the door, and stay there till we call.

[*Exit Attendant.*]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

1 Mur. It was, so please your highness.

Macb. Well then, now
 Have you consider'd of my speeches? Know,
 That it was he, in the times past, which held you
 So under fortune; which you thought, had been
 Our innocent self: this I made good to you [*you*,
 In our last conference; pass'd in probation with
 How you were borne in hand; how cross'd; the
 instruments;

Who wrought with them; and all things else, that
 To half a soul, and a notion craz'd, [*might*,
 Say, Thus did Banquo.

1 Mur. You made it known to us.

Ma. I did so; and went further, which is now
 Our point of second meeting. Do you find
 Your patience so predominant in your nature,
 That you can let this go? Are you so gospell'd,
 To pray for that good man, and for his issue,
 Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,
 And beggar'd yours for ever?

1 Mur. We are men, my liege.

Macb. Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;
 As hounds, and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels,
 curs, [*cleped*⁴
 Shoughs,³ water-rugs, and demi-wolves, are
 All by the name of dogs: the valued file⁵
 Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,
 The house-keeper, the hunter, every one
 According to the gift which bounteous nature
 Hath in him clos'd; whereby he does receive
 Particular addition,⁶ from the bill
 That writes them all alike: And so of men.

Now, if you have a station in the file,
 And not in the worst rank of manhood, say it;
 And I will put that business in your bosoms,
 Whose execution takes your enemy off;
 Grapples you to the heart and love of us,
 Who wear our health but sickly in his life,
 Which in his death were perfect.

2 Mur. I am one, my liege,
 Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world
 Have so incens'd that I am reckless what
 I do, to spite the world.

1 Mur. And I another,
 So weary with disasters, tugg'd with fortune,
 That I would set my life on any chance,
 To mend it, or be rid on't.

Macb. Both of you
 Know, Banquo was your enemy.

2 Mur. True, my lord.
Macb. So is he mine: and in such bloody dis-
 That every minute of his being thrusts [*tauce*,
 Against my nearest of life? And though I could
 With bare-fac'd power sweep him from my sight,
 And bid my will avouch it; yet I must not,
 For¹ certain friends that are both his and mine.
 Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall
 Whom I myself struck down: and thence it is,
 That I to your assistance do make love;
 Masking the business from the common eye,
 For sundry weighty reasons.

2 Mur. We shall, my lord,
 Perform what you command us.

1 Mur. Though our lives—

Macb. Your spirits shine through you. Within
 this hour, at most,

I will advise you where to plant yourselves,
 Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time,
 The moment on't: for't must be done to-night,
 And something from the palace; always thought,
 That I require a clearness: And with him,
 (To leave no rubs, nor botches, in the work,)
 Fleance, his son, that keeps him company,
 Whose absence is no less material to me
 Than is his father's, must embrace the fate
 Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart;
 I'll come to you anon.

2 Mur. We are resolv'd, my lord.

Ma. I'll call upon you straight; abide within.
 It is concluded:—Banquo, thy soul's flight,
 If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM.

Enter Lady Macbeth, and a Servant.

Lady M. Is Banquo gone from court?

Serv. Ay, madam, but returns again to-night.

Lady M. Say to the king, I would attend his
 For a few words. [*leisure*

Serv. Madam, I will. [*Exit.*

Lady M. Nought's had, all's spent,
 Where our desire is got without content:
 'Tis safer to be that which we destroy,
 Than, by destruction, dwell in doubtful joy.

Enter Macbeth.

How now, my lord? why do you keep alone,
 Of sorriest² fancies your companions making?

¹ Because of.

² Dismal.

¹ Deified. ³ Wolf-dogs. ⁵ Catalogue.

² Combat à l'outrance. ⁴ Called. ⁶ Description.

Using those thoughts, which should indeed have died [remedy,
With them they think on? Things without
Should be without regard; what's done, is done.

M. We have scotch'd¹ the snake, not kill'd it;
She'll close, and be herself; whilst our poor
Remains in danger of her former tooth. [malice
But let [suffer,

The frame of things disjoint, both the worlds
Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep
In the affliction of these terrible dreams,
That shake us nightly: Better be with the dead,
Than we, to gain our place, have sent to peace,
Whom on the torture of the mind to lie
In restless ecstasy.² Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst; nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestick, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further!

Lady M. Come on;
Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks;
Be bright and jovial 'mong your guests to-night.

Mac. So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:
Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;
Present him eminence,³ both with eye and tongue:
Unsafe the while, that we [streams;
Must lave our honours in these flattering
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.

Lady M. You must leave this.
M. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know'st, that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

Lady M. But in them nature's copy's not
etern.⁴

Mac. There's comfort yet; they are assailable;
Then be thou jocund: Ere the bat hath flown
His cloister'd flight; ere, to black Hecate's
summons,

The shard-borne⁵ beetle, with his drowsy hums,
Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be
A deed of dreadful note. [done

Lady M. What's to be done?
Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest
chuck,

Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling⁶ night,
Skarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;
And, with thy bloody and invisible hand,
Cancel, and tear to pieces, that great bond
Which keeps me pale!—Light thickens; and the
Makes wing to the rooky wood: [crow
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;
Whiles night's black agents to their prey do rouse.
Thou marvell'st at my words; but hold thee still;
Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill:
So, prythee, go with me. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—A PARK OR LAWN, WITH A GATE LEADING TO THE PALACE.

Enter Three Murderers.

1 Mur. But who did bid thee join with us?
3 Mur. Macbeth.
2 Mur. He needs not our mistrust: since he
Our offices, and what we have to do, [delivers
To the direction just.

¹ Crushed. ⁴ The lease of life is not eternal.
² Agony. ⁵ Scaly wing.
³ As eminent. ⁶ Blinding.

1 Mur. Then stand with us,
The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day:
Now spurs the lated traveller apace,
To gain the timely inn; and near approaches
The subject of our watch.

3 Mur. Hark! I hear horses.
Ban. [Within.] Give us a light there, ho!

2 Mur. Then it is he; the rest
That are within the note of expectation,
Already are i' the court.

1 Mur. His horses go about.
3 Mur. Almost a mile: but he does usually,
So all men do, from hence to the palace gate
Make it their walk.

*Enter Banquo and Fleance, a Servant with a
torch preceding them.*

2 Mur. A light! a light!

3 Mur. 'Tis he.

1 Mur. Stand to't.
Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1 Mur. Let it come down. [Assaults Banquo.
Ban. O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly,
Thou mayst revenge. O slave! [fly;

[Dies. Fleance and Servant escape.

3 Mur. Who did strike out the light?

1 Mur. Was't not the way?

3 Mur. There's but one down; the son has fled.

2 Mur. We have lost best half of our affair.

1 Mur. Well, let's away, and say how much
is done. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.

A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

*A Banquet prepared. Enter Macbeth, Lady
Macbeth, Rosse, Lenox, Lords, and Attendants.*

M. You know your own degrees, sit down: at
And last, the hearty welcome. [first

Lords. Thanks to your majesty.

Macb. Ourself will mingle with society,
And play the humble host.

Our hostess keeps her state; but, in best time,
We will require her welcome.

Lady M. Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our
For my heart speaks, they are welcome. [friends;

Enter First Murderer to the door.

Macb. See, they encounter thee with their
hearts' thanks:—

Both sides are even: Here I'll sit i' the midst:
Be large in mirth; anon, we'll drink a measure
The table round.—There's blood upon thy face.

Mur. 'Tis Banquo's then.

Mac. 'Tis better thee without, than he within.
Is he despatch'd? [him.

Mur. My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for
Mac. Thou art the best o' the cut-throats: Yet
he's good,

That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,
Thou art the nonpareil.

Mur. Most royal sir,
Fleance is 'scap'd.

Macb. Then comes my fit again: I had else
been perfect;

Whole as the marble, founded as the rock;
As broad, and general, as the casing air:

But now, I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

Mur. Ay, my good lord, safe in a ditch he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;
The least a death to nature.

Macb. Thanks for that:—
There the grown serpent lies; the worm, that's
fled,

Hath nature that in time will venom breed,
No teeth for the present.—Get thee gone; to-
morrow

We'll hear ourselves again. [*Exit Murderer.*]

Lady M. My royal lord,
You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold,
That is not often vouch'd, while 'tis a making,
'Tis given with welcome: To feed, were best at
home;

From thence the sauce to meat is ceremony;
Meeting were bare without it.

Macb. Sweet remembrancer!—
Now good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both!

Len. May it please your highness sit?
[*The Ghost of Banquo rises, and sits in
Macbeth's place.*]

Macb. Here had we now our country's honour
roof'd,

Were the grac'd person of our Banquo present;
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness,
Than pity for mischance!

Rosse. His absence, sir,
Lays blame upon his promise. Please it your
To grace us with your royal company? [highness
Macb. The table's full.

Len. Here's a place reserv'd, sir.
Macb. Where?

Len. Here, my lord. What is't that
moves your highness?

Macb. Which of you have done this?

Lords. What, my good lord?

Macb. Thou canst not say, I did it: never
Thy gory locks at me. [*shake*]

Ros. Gentlemen, rise; his highness is not well.

Lady M. Sit, worthy friends:—my lord is
often thus,

And hath been from his youth: 'pray you, keep
The fit is momentary; upon a thought [*seat*;
He will again be well: If much you note him,
You shall offend him, and extend his passion;
Feed, and regard him not.—Are you a man?

Macb. Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on
Which might appal the devil. [*that*]

Lady M. O proper stuff!
This is the very painting of your fear:
This is the air-drawn dagger, which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws,¹ and starts,
(Impostors to true fear,) would well become
A woman's story, at a winter's fire,
Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

Macb. Pr'ythee, see there! behold! look!
lo! how say you?— [*too.*—

Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak
If charnel-houses, and our graves, must send
Those that we bury, back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites. [*Ghost disappears.*]

1 Gusts.

Lady M. What! quite unmann'd in folly?

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady M. Fie, for shame!

Macb. Blood hath been shed ere now, i' the
olden time,

Ere human statute purg'd the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would
And there an end; but now, they rise again, [*die*,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: This is more
Than such a murder is. [*strange*]

Lady M. My worthy lord,
Your noble friends do lack you.

Macb. I do forget:—
Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends;
I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing
To those that know me. Come, love and health
to all;

Then I'll sit down:—Give me some wine, fill
full:—

I drink to the general joy of the whole table.

Ghost rises.

And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss:
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,
And all¹ to all.

Lords. Our duties, and the pledge.

Macb. Avaunt! and quit my sight! Let the
earth hide thee!

Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with!

Lady M. Think of this, good peers,
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

Macb. What man dare, I dare:
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger,
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves
Shall never tremble: Or, be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;
If trembling I inhibit² thee, protest me
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!

[*Ghost disappears.*]

Unreal mockery, hence!—Why so?—being gone,
I am a man again.—Pray you, sit still.

Lady M. You have displac'd the mirth, broke
the good meeting,

With most admired disorder.

Macb. Can such things be,
And overcome³ us like a summer's cloud,
Without our special wonder? You make me
Even to the disposition that I owe,⁴ [*strange*
When now I think you can behold such sights,
And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks,
When mine are blanch'd with fear.

Rosse. What sights, my lord?

Lady M. I pray you, speak not; he grows
worse and worse:

Question enrages him: at once, good night:—
Stand not upon the order of your going,
But go at once.

Len. Good night, and better health
Attend his majesty!

1 i. e. Good wishes.

2 Forbid.

3 Come over.

4 Possess.

Lady M. A kind good night to all!

[*Exeunt Lords and Attendants.*]

Macb. It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood:

Stones have been known to move, and trees to Augurs, and understood relations, have [speak; By magot-pies,¹ and choughs,² and rooks, brought forth

The secret'st man of blood.—What is the night?

Lady M. Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

Macb. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies At our great bidding? [his person,

Lady M. Did you send to him, sir?

Macb. I hear it by the way; but I will send: There's not a one of them, but in his house I keep a servant fee'd. I will to-morrow, (Betimes I will,) unto the weird sisters: [know, More shall they speak; for now I am bent to By the worst means, the worst: for mine own All causes shall give way; I am in blood [good, Stept in so far, that, should I wade no more, Returning were as tedious as go o'er; Strange things I have in head, that will to hand; Which must be acted, ere they may be scann'd.

L. M. You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

Macb. Come, we'll to sleep: my strange and self-abuse

Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use:—

We are yet but young in deed. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—THE HEATH.

Thunder. Enter Hecate, meeting the three Witches.

1 *Witch.* Why, how now, Hecate? you look angrily.

Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are, Saucy, and overbold? How did you dare To trade and traffick with Macbeth, In riddles and affairs of death; And I, the mistress of your charms, The close contriver of all harms, Was never call'd to bear my part, Or show the glory of our art?

And, which is worse, all you have done Hath been but for a wayward son, Spiteful, and wrathful; who, as others do, Loves for his own ends, not for you.

But make amends now: Get you gone, And at the pit of Acheron,

Meet me i' the morning; thither he Will come to know his destiny.

Your vessels, and your spells, provide, Your charms, and every thing beside: I am for the air: this night I'll spend Unto a dismal-fatal end.

Great business must be wrought ere noon; Upon the corner of the moon

There hangs a vaporous drop profound³; I'll catch it ere it come to ground:

And that distill'd by magic slights, Shall raise such artificial sprights,

As by the strength of their illusion, Shall draw him on to his confusion;

He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear:

1 Magpies. 2 Jackdaws. 3 Of hidden qualities.

And you all know, security Is mortal's chiefest enemy.

SONG. [*Within.*] Come away, come away, &c.

Hark, I am call'd: my little spirit, see, Sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me. [*Exit.*]

1 *Witch.* Come, let's make haste; she'll soon be back again. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—FORES. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Lenox and another Lord.

Len. My former speeches have but hit your thoughts,

Which can interpret further: only, I say, Things have been strangely borne: The gracious Duncan

Was pitied of Macbeth:—marry, he was dead:— And the right-valiant Banquo walk'd too late; Whom, you may say, if it please you, Fleance kill'd,

For Fleance fled. Men must not walk too late.

Who cannot want the thought, how monstrous It was for Malcolm, and for Donalbain,

To kill their gracious father? damned fact! How it did grieve Macbeth! did he not straight,

In pious rage, the two delinquents tear, [sleep? That were the slaves of drink, and thralls of

Was not that nobly done? Ay, and wisely too; For 'twould have angered any heart alive,

To hear the men deny it. So that, I say, He has borne all things well: and I do think,

That, had he Duncan's sons under his key, (As, an't please heaven, he shall not,) they should find

What 'twere to kill a father; so should Fleance. But, peace!—for from broad words, and 'cause

he fail'd

His presence at the tyrant's feast, I hear, Macduff lives in disgrace: Sir, can you tell

Where he bestows himself?

Lord. The son of Duncan, From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth,

Lives in the English court; and is receiv'd Of the most pious Edward with such grace,

That the malevolence of fortune nothing Takes from his high respect: Thither Macduff

Is gone to pray the holy king, on his aid To wake Northumberland, and warlike Siward:

That, by the help of these, (with Him above To ratify the work,) we may again

Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights; Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives;

Do faithful homage, and receive free honours, All which we pine for now: And this report

Hath so exasperate the king, that he Prepares for some attempt of war.

Len. Sent he to Macduff?

Lord. He did: and with an absolute, Sir, not I, The cloudy messenger turns me his back,

And hums; as who should say, You'll rue the That clogs me with this answer. [*Time*

Len. And that well might Advise him to a caution, to hold what distance

His wisdom can provide. Some holy angel Fly to the court of England, and unfold

His message ere he come: That a swift blessing May soon return to this our suffering country Under a hand accurs'd!

Lord. My prayers with him! [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A DARK CAVE. IN THE MIDDLE, A CAULDRON BOILING.

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches.*1 *Witch.* Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.2 *Witch.* Thrice; and once the hedge-pig whin'd.3 *Witch.* Harper cries:—"Tis time, 'tis time.1 *Witch.* Round about the cauldron go;

In the poison'd entrails throw.——

Toad, that under coldest stone,

Days and nights hast thirty-one

Swelter'd venom sleeping got,

Boil thou first i' the charmed pot!

All. Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2 *Witch.* Fillet of a fenny snake,

In the cauldron boil and bake:

Eye of newt, and toe of frog,

Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,

Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting,

Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing,

For a charm of powerful trouble,

Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

All. Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

3 *Witch.* Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf;Witches' mummy; maw, and gulf,¹Of the ravin'd² salt-sea shark;

Root of hemlock, digg'd i' the dark;

Liver of blaspheming Jew;

Gall of goat, and slips of yew,

Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;

Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;

Finger of birth-strangled babe,

Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,

Make the gruel thick and slab:

Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,

For the ingredients of our cauldron.

All. Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2 *Witch.* Cool it with a baboon's blood,

Then the charm is firm and good.

*Enter Hecate.**Hec.* O, well done! I commend your pains;

And every one shall share i' the gains.

And now about the cauldron sing,

Like elves and fairies in a ring,

Enchanting all that you put in.

SONG.

*Black spirits and white,**Blue spirits and grey;**Mingle, mingle, mingle,**You that mingle may.*2 *Witch.* By the pricking of my thumbs,

Something wicked this way comes:

Open locks, whoever knocks.

*Enter Macbeth.**M.* How now, you secret, black, and midnight
What is't you do? [hags?]*All.* A deed without a name.*M.* I conjure you, by that which you profess,

1 The throat.

2 Ravenous.

(Howe'er you come to know it,) answer me:
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up; [down;
Though bladed corn be lodg'd,¹ and trees blown
Though castles topple² on their warders' heads;
Though palaces, and pyramids, do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the
treasureOf nature's germins³ tumble all together,
Even till destruction sicken, answer me
To what I ask you.1 *Witch.* Speak.2 *Witch.* Demand.3 *Witch.* We'll answer.1 *Witch.* Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from
Or from our masters'? [our mouths,*Macb.* Call them, let me see them.1 *Witch.* Pour in sow's blood, that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease, that's sweaten
From the murderer's gibbet, throw
Into the flame.*All.* Come, high or low
Thyself, and office, deftly⁴ show.*Thunder.* An Apparition of an armed Head rises.*Macb.* Tell me, thou unknown power,——1 *Witch.* He knows thy thought;
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.*App.* Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware
Macduff;Beware the thane of Fife.—Dismiss me:—Enough.
[Descends.]*Macb.* Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution
thanks; [more.—Thou hast harp'd my fear aright:—But one word
1 *Witch.* He will not be commanded: Here's
More potent than the first. [another,*Thunder.* An Apparition of a bloody Child rises.*App.* Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!—*Macb.* Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.*App.* Be bloody, bold,
And resolute: laugh to scorn the power of man,
For none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.
[Descends.]*Macb.* Then live, Macduff: What need I fear of
But yet I'll make assurance double sure, [thee?
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;
That I may tell pale-hearted fear, it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder.—What is this,*Thunder.* An Apparition of a Child crowned,
with a tree in his hand, rises.That rises like the issue of a king;
And wears upon his baby brow the round
And top of sovereignty?*All.* Listen, but speak not.*App.* Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him. [Descends.]*Macb.* That will never be:
Who can impress the forest; bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? sweet bodements!
good!

1 Laid flat. 2 Tumble. 3 Seeds. 4 Dexterously.

Rebellious head, rise never, till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and our high-plac'd Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath
To time, and mortal custom.—Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing: Tell me, (if your art
Can tell so much,) shall Banquo's issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?

All. Seek to know no more.

Macb. I will be satisfied: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know:—
Why sinks that cauldron! and what noise is this?

[*Hautboys.*]

1 *Witch.* Show! 2 *Witch.* Show! 3 *Witch.* Show!

All. Show his eyes, and grieve his heart;
Come like shadows, so depart.

*Eight kings appear, and pass over the Stage
in order; the last with a glass in his hand;
Banquo following.*

Macb. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo;
down! [hair]

Thy crown does sear mine eyeballs:—And thy
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first:—
A third is like the former:—Filthy hags!

Why do you show me this?—A fourth?—Start,
eyes! [doom?]

What! will the line stretch out to the crack of
Another yet?—A seventh?—I'll see no more:—

And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass,
Which shows me many more; and some I see,
That two-fold balls and treble sceptres carry:

Horrible sight!—Ay, now, I see, 'tis true;
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,
And points at them for his.—What, is this so?

1 *Witch.* Ay, sir, all this is so:—But why
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly?—

Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprights,
And show the best of our delights;

I'll charm the air to give a sound,
While you perform you antique round:

That this great king may kindly say,
Our duties did his welcome pay.

[*Musick. The Witches dance, and vanish.*]

Macb. Where are they? gone!—Let this per-
nicious hour

Stand aye accursed in the calendar!—
Come in, without there!

Enter Lenox.

Len. What's your grace's will?

Macb. Saw you the weird sisters?

Len. No, my lord.

Macb. Came they not by you?

Len. No, indeed, my lord.

Macb. Infected be the air whereon they ride;
And damn'd, all those that trust them!—I did hear
The galloping of horse: Who was't came by?

Len. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you
Macduff is fled to England. [word]

Macb. Fled to England?

Len. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. Time, thou anticipat'st² my dread ex-
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook, [plots:]
Unless the deed go with it: From this moment,
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. And even now

¹ Besmeared.

² Preventest, by taking away the opportunity.

To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
The castle of Macduff I will surprise; [done];
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace his line. No boasting like a fool;
This deed I'll do, before this purpose cool:
But no more sights!—Where are these gentlemen?
Come, bring me where they are. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

FIFE. A ROOM IN MACDUFF'S CASTLE.

Enter Lady Macduff, her Son, and Rosse.

L. Macd. What had he done, to make him fly
the land?

Rosse. You must have patience, madam.

L. Macd. He had none:
His flight was madness: When our actions do
Our fears do make us traitors. [not]

Rosse. You know not,
Whether it was his wisdom or his fear.

L. Macd. Wisdom! to leave his wife, to leave his
His mansion, and his titles, in a place [babes,
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not;

He wants the natural touch: for the poor wren,
The most diminutive of birds, will fight,
Her young ones in her nest, against the owl.

All is the fear, and nothing is the love;
As little is the wisdom, where the flight
So runs against all reason.

Rosse. My dearest coz,
I pray you, school yourself: But, for your husband,
He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
The fits o' the season. I dare not speak much
further:

But cruel are the times, when we are traitors,
And do not know ourselves; when we hold rumour
From what we fear, yet know not what we fear;

But float upon a wild and violent sea,
Each way, and move.—I take my leave of you:
Shall not be long but I'll be here again: [ward
Things at the worst will cease, or else climb up-
To what they were before.—My pretty cousin,
Blessing upon you!]

L. Macd. Father'd he is, and yet he's fatherless.

Rosse. I am so much a fool, should I stay longer,
It would be my disgrace, and your discomfort:
I take my leave at once. [Exit Rosse.]

L. Macd. Sirrah, your father's dead;
And what will you do now? How will you live?

Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Macd. What, with worms and flies?

Son. With what I get, I mean; and so do they.

L. Macd. Poor bird! thou'dst never fear the
net, nor lime,

The pit-fall, nor the gin.

Son. Why should I, mother? Poor birds they
are not set for.

My father is not dead, for all your saying.

L. Macd. Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do
for a father?

Son. Nay, how will you do for a husband?

L. Macd. Why, I can buy me twenty at any
market.

Son. Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.

L. Macd. Thou speak'st with all thy wit; and
yet i' faith,

With wit enough for thee.

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Macd. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

L. Macd. Why, one that swears and lies.

Son. And he all traitors, that do so?

L. Macd. Every one that does so, is a traitor, and must be hanged.

Son. And must they all be hanged, that swear

L. Macd. Every one. [and lie?

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Macd. Why, the honest men.

Son. Then the liars and swearers are fools: for there are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest men, and hang up them.

L. Macd. Now, heaven help thee, poor monkey! But how wilt thou do for a father?

Son. If he were dead, you'd weep for him: if you would not, it were a good sign that I should quickly have a new father.

L. Macd. Poor prattler! how thou talk'st.

Enter a Messenger.

M. Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known, Though in your state of honour I am perfect.¹ I doubt, some danger does approach you nearly: If you will take a homely man's advice, Be not found here; hence, with your little ones. To fright you thus, methinks, I am too savage; To do worse to you, were fell cruelty, Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you!

I dare abide no longer. [*Exit Messenger.*

L. Macd. Whither should I fly? I have done no harm. But I remember now I am in this earthly world; where, to do harm, Is often laudable: to do good, sometime, Accounted dangerous folly: Why, then, alas! Do I put up that womanly defence, To say, I have done no harm!—What are these faces?

Enter Murderers.

Mur. Where is your husband?

L. Macd. I hope, in no place so unsanctified, Where such as thou mayst find him.

Mur. He's a traitor.

Son. Thou ly'st, thou shag-ear'd villain.

Mur. What, you egg? [*Stabbing him.* Young fry of treachery?

Son. He has kill'd me, mother; Run away, I pray you. [*Dies.*

[*Exit Lady Macduff, crying Murder, and pursued by the Murderers.*

SCENE III.

ENGLAND. A ROOM IN THE KING'S PALACE.

Enter Malcolm and Macduff.

Mal. Let us seek out some desolate shade, Weep our sad bosoms empty. [and there

Macd. Let us rather Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men, Estride our downfall'n birthdom: Each new morn,

[sorrows New widows howl; new orphans cry; new Strike heaven on the face, that it resounds As if it felt with Scotland, and yell'd out Like syllable of dolour.

¹ Acquainted with your rank.

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail; What know, believe; and, what I can redress, As I shall find the time to friend,¹ I will.

What you have spoke, it may be so, perchance. This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues, Was once thought honest; you have loved him well; [something

He hath not touch'd you yet. I am young; but You may deserve of him through me; and wisdom To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb, To appease an angry god.

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is. A good and virtuous nature may recoil,² In an imperial charge. But crave your pardon; That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose:

Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell: Though all things foul would bear the brows of Yet grace must still look so. [grace,

Macd. I have lost my hopes,

Mal. Perchance, even there, where I did find my doubts,

Why in that rawness³ left you wife, and child, (Those precious motives, those strong notes of Without leave-taking?—I pray you, [love, Let not my jealousies be your dishonours, But mine own safeties:—You may be rightly Whatever I shall think. [just,

Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country! Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure, For goodness dares not check thee! wear thou thy wrongs,

Thy title is affeer'd!⁴—Fare thee well, lord: I would not be the villain that thou think'st For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp, And the rich East to boot.

Mal. Be not offended:

I speak not as in an absolute fear of you. I think our country sinks beneath the yoke; It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash Is added to her wounds: I think, withal, There would be hands uplifted in my right; And here from gracious England, have I offer Of goodly thousands: But, for all this, When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head, Or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country Shall have more vices than it had before; More suffer, and more sundry ways than ever, By him that shall succeed.

Macd. What should he be?

Mal. It is myself I mean: in whom I know All the particulars of vice so grafted, That, when they shall be open'd, black Macbeth Will seem as pure as snow; and the poor state Esteem him as a lamb, being compar'd With my confineless harms.—I grant him bloody, Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful, Sudden,⁵ malicious, smacking of every sin That has a name; But there's no bottom, none, In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,

Your matrons, and your maids, could not fill up The cistern of my lust; and my desire All continent impediments would o'erbear,

¹ Befriend.

² Recede from goodness.

³ Unpreparedness.

⁴ Confirmed.

⁵ Passionate.

That did oppose my will: Better Macbeth
Than such a one to reign.

Macd. Boundless intemperance
In nature is a tyranny; it hath been
The untimely emptying of the happy throne,
And fall of many kings. But fear not yet
To take upon you what is yours; you may
Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,
And yet seem cold, the time you may so hood-
wink.

Mal. With this, there grows,
In my most ill-compos'd affection, such
A staunchless avarice, that, were I king,
I should cut off the nobles for their lands;
Desire his jewels, and this other's house:
And my more-having would be as a sauce
To make me hunger more; that I should forge
Quarrels unjust against the good, and loyal,
Destroying them for wealth.

Macd. This avarice
Grows with pernicious root; and it hath been
The sword of our slain kings: Yet do not fear;
Scotland hath foysons¹ to fill up your will,
Of your mere own; All these are portable,²
With other graces weigh'd.

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming
graces,

As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,
Bounty, persévérance, mercy, lowliness,
Devotion, patience, courage, fortitude,
I have no relish of them; but about
In the division of each several crime, [should
Acting it many ways. Nay, had I power, I
Uproar the universal peace, confound
All unity on earth.

Macd. O Scotland! Scotland!

Mal. If such a one be fit to govern, speak:
I am as I have spoken.

Macd. Fit to govern!
No, not to live.—O nation miserable,
With an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter'd,
When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again!
Since that the truest issue of thy throne
By his own interdiction stands accurs'd,
And does blaspheme his breed—Thy royal father
Was a most sainted king; the queen, that bore
Off'tner upon her knees than on her feet, [thee,
Died every day she liv'd. Fare thee well!
These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,
Have banish'd me from Scotland.—O, my
Thy hope ends here!

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth
By many of these trains hath sought to win me
Into his power; and modest wisdom plucks me
From over-credulous haste³: But God above
Deal between thee and me! for even now
I put myself to thy direction, and
Unspeak mine own detraction: here abjure
The taints and blames I laid upon myself,
For strangers to my nature. I am yet
Unknown to woman; never was forsworn;
Scarcely have coveted what was mine own;
At no time broke my faith; would not betray
The devil to his fellow; and delight

No less in truth than life: my first false speaking
Was this upon myself: What I am truly,
Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:
Whither, indeed, before thy here-approach,
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,
All ready at a point, was setting forth:
Now we'll together; and the chance of goodness,
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you
silent?

Macd. Such welcome and unwelcome things at
'Tis hard to reconcile.

Enter a Doctor.

Mal. Well; more anon.—Comes the king
forth, I pray you?

Doc. Ay, sir: there are a crew of wretched souls
That stay¹ his cure: their malady convinces²
The great assay of art; but, at his touch,
Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand,
They presently amend.

Mal. I thank you, doctor. [*Exit Doctor.*]

Macd. What's the disease he means?

Mal. 'Tis call'd the evil:
A most miraculous work in this good king;
Which often, since my here-remain in England,
I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven,
Himself best knows; but strangely visited peo-
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye, [ple,
The mere despair of surgery, he cures;
Hanging a golden stamp³ about their necks,
Put on with holy prayer: and 'tis spoken,
To the succeeding royalty he leaves [true,
The healing benediction. With this strange vir-
He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;
And sundry blessings hang about his throne,
That speak him full of grace.

Enter Rosse.

Macd. See, who comes here?

Mal. My countryman; but yet I know him not.

Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

Mal. I know him now: Good heaven, betimes
The means that make us strangers! [remove

Rosse. Sir, Amen.

Macd. Stands Scotland where it did?

Rosse. Alas, poor country;
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot [ing,
Be call'd our mother, but our grave: where noth-
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;
Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks that rent
the air, [seems
Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow
A modern ecstasy⁴; the dead man's knell
Is there scarce ask'd for, for who; and good men's
Expire before the flowers in their caps, [lives
Dying, or ere they sicken.

Macd. O, relation,
Too nice, and yet too true!

Mal. What is the newest grief?

R. That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker;
Each minute teems a new one.

Macd. How does my wife?

Rosse. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?

Rosse. Well, too.

M. The tyrant has not batter'd at their peace?

¹ Wait. ² The coin called an angel.

³ Overpowers. ⁴ Foolish madness.

¹ Plenty. ² Bearable. ³ Over-hasty credulity.

Rosse. No; they were well at peace, when I did leave them. [goes it?]

Macd. Be not a niggard of your speech; How

R. When I came hither to transport the tidings, Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumour Of many worthy fellows that were out: Which was to my belief witness'd the rather, For that I saw the tyrant's power a-foot: Now is the time of help; your eye in Scotland Would create soldiers, make our women fight, To doff¹ their dire distresses.

Mal. Be it their comfort, We are coming thither: gracious England hath Lent us good Siward, and ten thousand men; An older, and a better soldier none That Christendom gives out.

Rosse. Would I could answer This comfort with the like! But I have words That would be howl'd out in the desert air, Where hearing should not latch² them.

Macd. What concern they? The general cause? or is it a fee-grief,³ Due to some single breast?

Rosse. No mind that's honest, But in it shares some woe; though the main part Pertains to you alone.

Macd. If it be mine, Keep it not from me, quickly let me have it.

R. Let not your ears despise my tongue for ever, Which shall possess them with the heaviest That ever yet they heard. [sound,

Macd. Humph! I guess at it.

R. Your castle is surpris'd; your wife and babes, Savagely slaughter'd! to relate the manner, Were, on the quarry⁴ of these murder'd deer, To add the death of you.

Mal. Merciful heaven!—What, man! ne'er pull your hat upon your brows; Gives sorrow words: the grief that does not speak, Whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it

Macd. My children too? [break.

Rosse. Wife, children, servants, all That could be found.

Macd. And I must be from thence? My wife kill'd too?

Rosse. I have said.

Mal. Be comforted: Let's make us med'cines of our great revenge, To cure this deadly grief.

Macd. He has no children.—All my pretty ones? Did you say, all?—O, hell kite!—All? What, all my pretty chickens, and their dam, At one fell swoop?

Mal. Dispute it like a man.

Macd. I shall do so;

But I must also feel it as a man:

I cannot but remember such things were, [on, That were most precious to me.—Did heaven look And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff, They were all struck for thee! naught that I am, Not for their own demerits, but for mine, [now! Fell slaughter on their souls: Heaven rest them

Mal. Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

Macd. O, I could play the woman with mine eyes,

¹ Put off.

² Catch.

³ Peculiar sorrow.

⁴ The game after it is killed.

And braggart with my tongue!—But, gentle heaven,

Cut short all intermission: front to front, Bring thou this fiend of Scotland, and myself; Within my sword's length set him; if he 'scape, Heaven forgive him too!

Mal. This tune goes manly. Come, go we to the king; our power is ready; Our lack is nothing but our leave: Macbeth Is ripe for shaking, and the powers above [may; Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you The night is long that never finds the day.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

DUNSINANE. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter a Doctor of Physick, and a waiting Gentlewoman.

Doct. I have two nights watched with you, but can perceive no truth in your report. When was it she last walked?

Gent. Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown upon her, unlock her closet, take forth paper, fold it, write upon it, read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed: yet all this while in a most fast sleep.

D. A great perturbation in nature! to receive at once the benefit of sleep, and do the effects of watching.—In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking, and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say?

Gent. That, sir, which I will not report after her.

Doct. You may, to me; and 'tis most meet you should.

Gent. Neither to you, nor any one; having no witness to confirm my speech.

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a taper.

Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her; stand close.

Doct. How came she by that light?

Gent. Why, it stood by her: she has light by her continually; 'tis her command.

Doct. You see, her eyes are open.

Gent. Ay, but their sense is shut.

Doct. What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

Gent. It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands; I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

Lady M. Yet here's a spot.

Doct. Hark, she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

Lady M. Out, damned spot! out, I say!—One; Two; Why, then 'tis time to do't:—Hell is murky!—Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?—Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

¹ Dark.

Doct. Do you mark that?

Lady M. The thane of Fife had a wife; Where is she now?—What, will these hands ne'er be clean?—No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with this starting.

Doct. Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

Gent. She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that: Heaven knows what she has known.

Lady M. Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh! oh! oh!

Doct. What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

Gent. I would not have such a heart in my bosom, for the dignity of the whole body.

Doct. Well, well, well,—

Gent. 'Pray God, it be, sir.

Doct. This disease is beyond my practice: Yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep, who have died holily in their beds.

Lady M. Wash your hands, put on your night-gown; look not so pale: I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out of his grave.

Doct. Even so?

Lady M. To bed, to bed; there's knocking at the gate. Come, come, come, give me your hand: What's done, cannot be undone: To bed, to bed, to bed. [*Exit Lady Macbeth.*]

Doct. Will she go now to bed?

Gent. Directly. [deeds]

Doct. Foul whisperings are abroad; Unnatural Do breed unnatural troubles: Infected minds To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets. More needs she the divine than the physician.—God, God, forgive us all! Look after her; Remove from her the means of all annoyance, And still keep eyes upon her:—So, good night: My mind she has mated,¹ and amaz'd my sight: I think, but dare not speak.

Gent. Good night, good doctor.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE I.—THE COUNTRY NEAR DUNSINANE.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, Menteth, Cathness, Angus, Lenox, and Soldiers.

Ment. The English power is near, led on by Mal—His uncle Siward, and the good Macduff. [coln, Revenues burn in them: for their dear causes Would, to the bleeding, and the grim alarm, Excite the mortified² man.

Ang. Near Birnam way [coming. Shall we well meet them; that way are they

C. Who knows if Donalbain be with his brother?

Len. For certain, sir, he is not; I have a file Of all the gentry; there is Siward's son, And many unrough³ youths, that even now Protest their first of manhood.

Ment. What does the tyrant?

Cath. Great Dunsinane, he strongly fortifies: Some say, he's mad; others, that lesser hate him, Do call it valiant fury: but, for certain, He cannot buckle his distemper'd cause Within the belt of rule.

Ang. Now does he feel His secret murders sticking on his hands;

1 Confounded. 2 Ascetic. 3 Unbearded.

Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach: Those he commands, move only in command, Nothing in love: now does he feel his title Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe Upon a dwarfish thief.

Ment. Who then shall blame His pester'd senses to recoil and start, When all that is within him does condemn Itself for being there?

Cath. Well, march we on, To give obedience where 'tis truly ow'd: Meet we the medicin¹ of the sickly weal²: And with him pour we, in our country's purge, Each drop of us.

Len. Or so much as it needs, To dew the sovereign flower, and drown the Make we our march towards Birnam. [weeds. [*Exeunt marching.*]

SCENE III.

DUNSINANE. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Macbeth, Doctor, and Attendants.

M. Bring me no more reports; let them fly all; Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane, I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm? Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know All mortal consequents, pronounc'd me thus: Fear not, Macbeth; no man, that's born of woman,

Shall e'er have power on thee.—Then fly, false And mingle with the English epicures: [thane, The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear, Shall never sag³ with doubt, nor shake with fear.

Enter a Servant.

Thou cream-fac'd loon⁴! where gott'st thou that goose look?

Serv. There is ten thousand—

Macb. Geese, villain?

Serv. Soldiers, sir.

Mac. Go prick thy face, and over-red thy fear, Thou lily-liver'd boy. What soldiers, patch⁵! Death of thy soul! those linen cheeks of thine Are counsellors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face?

Serv. The English force, so please you.

Macb. Take thy face hence,—Seyton!—I am sick at heart,

When I behold—Seyton, I say!—This push Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.

I have liv'd long enough: my May of life Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf: And that which should accompany old age, As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends, I must not look to have; but, in their stead, Curses not loud, but deep, mouth honour, breath, Which the poor heart would fain deny, but dare Seyton! [not.

Enter Seyton.

Sey. What is your gracious pleasure?

Macb. What news more?

Sey. All is confirm'd, my lord, which was reported.

Macb. I'll fight, till from my bones my flesh Give me my armour. [be hack'd.

1 The physician.

4 Base fellow.

2 Welfare.

5 An appellation of contempt.

3 Sink.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

Send out more horses, skirr¹ the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear.—Give me mine
armour.—

How does your patient, doctor?

Doct. Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

Macb. Cure her of that.
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd;
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;
And with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff,
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doct. Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

M. Throw physick to the dogs, I'll none of it.—
Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff:—
Seyton, send out.—Doctor, the thanes fly from
me:—

Come, sir, despatch:—If thou couldst, doctor,
The water of my land, find her disease, [cast
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,
I would applaud thee to the very echo,
That should applaud again.—Pull't off, I say.—
What rhubarb, senna, or what purgative drug,
Would scour these English hence!—Hearest thou
of them?

Doct. Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation
Makes us hear something.

Macb. Bring it after me.—
I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane. [Exit.

Doct. Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,
Profit again should hardly draw me here. [Exit.

SCENE IV.

COUNTRY NEAR DUNSINANE. A WOOD IN VIEW.

*Enter, with Drum and Colours, Malcolm, old
Sivard and his Son, Macduff, Menteth,
Cathness, Angus, Lenox, Rosse, and Soldiers,
marching.*

Mal. Cousins, I hope, the days are near at hand
That chamber will be safe.

Ment. We doubt it nothing.

Siv. What wood is this before us?

Ment. The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow
The numbers of our host, and make discovery
Err in report of us.

Sold. It shall be done.

St. We learn no other, but the confident tyrant
Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure
Our setting down before't.

Mal. 'Tis his main hope:
For where there is advantage to be given,
Both more and less² have given him the revolt:
And none serve with him but constrained things,
Whose hearts are absent too.

Macb. Let our just censures
Attend the true event, and put we on
Industrious soldiiership.

¹ Scour.

² Great and small.

Siv.

The time approaches,
That will with due decision make us know
What we shall say we have, and what we owe.
Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate;
But certain issue strokes must arbitrate:
Towards which, advance the war.

[*Exeunt, marching.*]

SCENE V.

DUNSINANE. WITHIN THE CASTLE.

*Enter, with Drums and Colours, Macbeth,
Seyton, and Soldiers.*

Macb. Hang out our banners on the outward
walls;

The cry is still, *They come*: Our castle's strength
Will laugh a siege to scorn: here let them lie,
Till famine, and the ague, eat them up: [ours,
Were they not forc'd with those that should be
We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,
And beat them backward home. What is that
noise? [A cry within of women.

Sey. It is the cry of women, my good lord.

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell¹ of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir
As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors:
Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts
Cannot once start me.—Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.—
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow: a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

Enter a Messenger.

Thou com'st to use thy tongue; thy story quickly.

Mess. Gracious my lord,
I shall report that which I say I saw,
But know not how to do it.

Macb. Well, say, sir.

Mess. As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,
The wood began to move.

Macb. Liar, and slave! [Striking him.

Mess. Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so:
Within this three mile may you see it coming;
I say, a moving grove.

Macb. If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling² thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much,—
I pull in resolution; and begin
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend,
That lies like truth: *Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane*;—and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane.—Arm, arm, and out.—
If this which he avouches, does appear,
There is nor flying hence, nor tarrying here.

¹ Skin.

² Shriveled.

I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun, [done.—
And wish the estate of the world were now un-
Ring the alarum bell:—Blow, wind! come, wrack!
At least we'll die with harness on our back. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A PLAIN BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Enter, with Drums and Colours, Malcolm, old Siward, Macduff, &c., and their Army, with Boughs.

Mal. Now near enough; your leavy screens throw down,
And show like those you are:—You, worthy uncle, Shall, with my cousin, your right-noble son, Lead our first battle; worthy Macduff, and we, Shall take upon us what else remains to do, According to our order.

Siw. Fare you well.—
Do we but find the tyrant's power to-night,
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.

Macd. Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath,

Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death. [Exeunt. Alarums continued.

SCENE VII.—ANOTHER PART OF THE PLAIN.

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly. But, bear-like, I must fight the course.—What's That was not born of woman? Such a one [he, Am I to fear, or none.

Enter Young Siward.

Y. Siw. What is thy name?

Macb. Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

Y. Siw. No; though thou call'st thyself a
Than any is in hell. [hotter name

Macb. My name's Macbeth.

Y. Siw. The devil himself could not pronounce
More hateful to mine ear. [a title

Macb. No, nor more fearful.

Y. Siw. Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st. [sword

[They fight, and young Siward is slain.

Macb. Thou wast born of woman.—
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born. [Exit.

Alarums. Enter Macduff.

Macd. That way the noise is:—Tyrant, show thy face:

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.
I cannot strike at wretched kernes,¹ whose arms
Are hir'd to bear their staves; either thou, Mac-
Or else my sword, with an unbatter'd edge, [beth,
I sheathe again undeeded. There thou shouldst
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born. [Exit.
And more I beg not. [Alarums.

Enter Malcolm and old Siward.

Siw. This way, my lord;—the castle's gently
render'd:

The tyrant's people on both sides do fight;

¹ Raw foot soldiers.

² Noised.

The noble thanes do bravely in the war;
The day almost itself professes yours,
And little is to do.

Mal. We have met with foes
That strike beside us.

Siw. Enter, sir, the castle.

[Exeunt. Alarums.

Re-enter Macbeth.

Macb. Why should I play the Roman fool,
and die

On mine own sword? whiles I see lives, the
Do better upon them. [gashes

Re-enter Macduff.

Macd. Turn, hell-hound, turn.

Macb. Of all men else I have avoided thee:
But, get thee back, my soul is too much charg'd
With blood of thine already.

Macd. I have no words,
My voice is in my sword; thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out! [They fight.

Macb. Thou lovest labour:
As easy mayst thou the intrenchant¹ air
With thy keen sword impress, as make me bleed:
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield
To one of woman born.

Macd. Despair thy charm;
And let the angel, whom thou still hast serv'd,
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

Macb. Accurs'd be that tongue that tells me
For it hath cow'd my better part of man! [so,
And be these juggling fiends no more believ'd,
That palter² with us in a double sense;
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope.—I'll not fight with

Macd. Then yield thee, coward, [thee.
And live to be the show and gaze o' the time.

We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole; and underwrit,
Here may you see the tyrant.

Macb. I'll not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.

Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou oppos'd, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last: Before my body
I throw my warlike shield: lay on, Macduff;
And damn'd be him that first cries, Hold, enough.

[Exeunt fighting.

Retreat. Flourish. Re-enter with Drum and
Colours, Malcolm, old Siward, Rosse, Lenox,
Angus, Cathness, Menteth, and Soldiers.

Mal. I would, the friends we miss were safe
arriv'd.

Siw. Some must go off; and yet, by these I see,
So great a day as this is cheaply bought.

Mal. Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

Ros. Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt:
He only liv'd but till he was a man;

The which no sooner had his prowess confirm'd
In the unshrinking station where he fought,
But like a man he died.

Siw.

Then he is dead?

¹ Uncuttable.

² Shuffie.

Ros. Ay, and brought off the field : your cause
of sorrow
Must not be measur'd by his worth, for then
It hath no end.

Siw. Had he his hurts before?

Rosse. Ay, on the front.

Siw. Why then, God's soldier be he!
Had I as many sons as I have hairs,
I would not wish them to a fairer death :
And so his knell is knoll'd.

Mal. He's worth more sorrow,
And that I'll spend for him.

Siw. He's worth no more ;
They say he parted well, and paid his score :
So God be with him. -- Here comes newer comfort.

Re-enter Macduff, with Macbeth's head on a pole.

Macd. Hail, king! for so thou art : Behold,
where stands

The usurper's cursed head : the time is free :
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl,

That speak my salutation in their minds ;
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine, --
Hail, king of Scotland !

All. King of Scotland, hail! [*Flourish.*]
Mal. We shall not spend a large expense of time,
Before we reckon with your several loves, [men,
And make us even with you. My thanes and kins-
Henceforth be ears, the first that ever Scotland,
In such an honour nam'd. What's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time, --
As calling home our exil'd friends abroad,
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny ;
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher, and his fiend-like queen;
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life : -- This, and what needful else
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,
We will perform in measure, time, and place :
So thanks to all at once, and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone.

[*Flourish. Exeunt.*]

King John.

Persons Represented.

KING JOHN.

PRINCE HENRY, *his Son; afterwards K. Henry III.*

ARTHUR, *Duke of Bretagne, Son of Geoffrey, late Duke of Bretagne, the elder Brother of King John.*

WILLIAM MARESHALL, *Earl of Pembroke.*

GEFFREY FITZ-PETER, *Earl of Essex, Chief Justiciary of England.*

WILLIAM LONGSWORD, *Earl of Salisbury.*

ROBERT BIGOT, *Earl of Norfolk.*

HUBERT DE BURGH, *Chamberlain to the King.*

ROBERT FAULCONBRIDGE, *Son of Sir Robert Faulconbridge.*

PHILIP FAULCONBRIDGE, *his Half-Brother, Bastard Son to King Richard the First.*

JAMES GURNEY, *Servant to Lady Faulconbridge.*

PETER of Pomfret, *a Prophet.*

PHILIP, *King of France.*

LEWIS, *the Dauphin.*

ARCHDUKE OF AUSTRIA.

CARDINAL PANDULPH, *the Pope's Legate.*

MELUN, *a French Lord.*

CHATILLON, *Ambassador from France to King John.*

ELINOR, *the Widow of King Henry II., and Mother of King John.*

CONSTANCE, *Mother to Arthur.*

BLANCH, *Daughter to Alphonso, King of Castile, and Niece to King John.*

LADY FAULCONBRIDGE, *Mother to the Bastard, and Robert Faulconbridge.*

Lords, Ladies, Citizens of Angiers, Sheriff, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and other Attendants.

SCENE. -- Sometimes in England, and sometimes in France.

Act First.

SCENE I. -- NORTHAMPTON.

A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

Enter King John, Queen Elinor, Pembroke, Essex, Salisbury, and others, with Chatillon.

K. John. Now, say, Chatillon, what would France with us?

Chat. Thus, after greeting, speaks the king of France,

In my behaviour, to the majesty,
The borrow'd majesty of England here.

Eli. A strange beginning; -- borrow'd majesty!
K. John. Silence, good mother; hear the embassy.

Chat. Philip of France, in right and true behalf Of thy deceased brother Geoffrey's son, Arthur Plantagenet, lays most lawful claim To this fair island, and the territories; To Ireland, Poitiers, Anjou, Touraine, Maine: Desiring thee to lay aside the sword, Which sways usurpingly these several titles; And put the same into young Arthur's hand, Thy nephew, and right royal sovereign.

K. John. What follows, if we disallow of this?

C. The proud control of fierce and bloody war,
To enforce these rights so forcibly withheld.

K. John. Here have we war for war, and
blood for blood,

Controlment for controlment: so answer France.

Chat. Then take my king's defiance from my
The furthest limit of my embassy. [mouth,

K. John. Bear mine to him, and so depart in
peace:

Be thou as lightning in the eyes of France;
For ere thou canst report I will be there,
The thunder of my cannon shall be heard:
So, hence! Be thou the trumpet of our wrath,
And sullen presage of your own decay.—
An honourable conduct let him have:—
Pembroke, look to't: Farewell, Chatillon.

[*Exeunt Chatillon and Pembroke.*]

Eli. What now, my son? have I not ever said,
How that ambitious Constance would not cease,
Till she had kindled France, and all the world,
Upon the right and party of her son?
This might have been prevented, and made
With very easy arguments of love; [whole,
Which now the manage¹ of two kingdoms must
With fearful bloody issue arbitrate.

K. John. Our strong possession, and our right,
for us. [your right;

Eli. Your strong possession, much more than
Or else it must go wrong with you, and me:
So much my conscience whispers in your ear;
Which none but heaven, and you, and I, shall
hear.

*Enter the Sheriff of Northamptonshire, who
whispers Essex.*

Essex. My liege, here is the strangest con-
troversy,
Come from the country to be judged by you,
That e'er I heard: Shall I produce the men?

K. John. Let them approach,—[*Exit Sheriff.*
Our abbies, and our priories, shall pay

*Re-enter Sheriff, with Robert Faulconbridge,
and Philip, his bastard Brother.*

This expedition's charge.—What men are you?

Bast. Your faithful subject I, a gentleman,
Born in Northamptonshire; and eldest son,
As I suppose, to Robert Faulconbridge;
A soldier, by the honour-giving hand
Of Cœur-de-lion knighted in the field.

K. John. What art thou? [bridge.

Rob. The son and heir to that same Faulcon-
K. J. Is that the elder, and art thou the heir?
You came not of one mother then, it seems.

Bast. Most certain of one mother, mighty king,
That is well known; and, as I think, one father:
But, for the certain knowledge of that truth,
I put you o'er to heaven, and to my mother;
Of that I doubt, as all men's children may.

Eli. Out on thee, rude man! thou dost shame
thy mother,

And wound her honour with this diffidence.

Bast. I, madam? no, I have no reason for it;
That is my brother's plea, and none of mine;
The which if he can prove, a pops me out
At least from fair five hundred pound a year:
Heaven guard my mother's honour, and my land!

¹ Administration.

K. John. A good blunt fellow:—Why, being
younger born,

Doth he lay claim to thine inheritance?

Bast. I know not why, except to get the land.

But once he slander'd me with bastardy:

But whe'r I be as true-begot, or no,

That still I lay upon my mother's head;

But, that I am as well begot, my liege,

Compare our faces, and be judge yourself.

If old Sir Robert did beget us both,

And were our father, and this son like him;—

O old Sir Robert, father, on my knee,

I give heaven thanks, I was not like to thee.

K. John. Why, what a madcap hath heaven
lent us here!

Eli. He hath a trick¹ of Cœur-de-lion's face,

The accent of his tongue affecteth him:

Do you not read some tokens of my son

In the large composition of this man? [parts,

K. John. Mine eye hath well examined his

And finds them perfect Richard.—Sirrah,

speak, [land?

What doth move you to claim your brother's

B. Because he hath a half-face, like my father:

With that half-face would he have all my land:

A half-faced groat² five hundred pound a year!

R. My gracious liege, when that my father liv'd,

Your brother did employ my father much;

And once despatch'd him in an embassy

To Germany, there, with the emperor,

To treat of high affairs touching that time:

The advantage of his absence took the king,

And in the mean time sojourn'd at my father's;

Where how he did prevail, I shame to speak;

But truth is truth; large lengths of seas and

Between my father and my mother lay, [shores

(As I have heard my father speak himself,

When this same lusty gentleman was got.)

Upon his death-bed he by will bequeath'd

His lands to me; and took it, on his death,

That this my mother's son, was none of his;

And, if he were, he came into the world

Full fourteen weeks before the course of time.

Then, good my liege, let me have what is mine,

My father's land, as was my father's will.

K. John. Sirrah, your brother is legitimate;

Your father's wife did after wedlock bear him:

And, if she did play false, the fault was hers;

Which fault lies on the hazards of all husbands

That marry wives. Tell me, how if my brother

Had of your father claim'd this son for his?

In sooth, good friend, your father might have

kept him;

In sooth, he might; then, if he were my brother's,

My brother might not claim him; nor your

father,

Being none of his, refuse him: This concludes,—

Your father's heir must have your father's land.

Rob. Shall then my father's will be of no force,

To dispossess that child which is not his?

Bast. Of no more force to dispossess me, sir,

Than was his will to get me, as I think.

Eli. Whether hadst thou rather,—be a Faul-

conbridge,

And like thy brother, to enjoy thy land;

¹ Tracing.

² Sneeringly comparing his meagre visage to the

half profile on the silver groat.

Or the reputed son of Cœur-de-lion,
Lord of thy presence and no land beside?

Bast. Madam, an if my brother had my shape,
And I had his, Sir Robert his, like him:
And if my legs were two such riding-reds,
My arms such eel-skins stuffed; my face so thin,
That in mine ear I durst not stick a rose,
Lest men should say, Look, where three-far-
things goes!

And to his shape, were heir to all this land,
'Would I might never stir from off this place,
I'd give it every foot to have this face;
I would not be Sir Nob in any case.

Eli. I like thee well; Wilt thou forsake thy
fortune,

Bequeath thy land to him, and follow me?

I am a soldier, and now bound to France.

Bast. Brother, take you my hand, I'll take
my chance:

Your face hath got five hundred pounds a year;
Yet sell your face for five pence, and, 'tis dear.—
Madam, I'll follow you unto the death.

Eli. Nay, I would have you go before me
thither.

Bast. Our country manners give our betters
K. John. What is thy name? [way.

Bast. Philip, my liege; so is my name begun
Philip, good old Sir Robert's wife's eldest son.

K. John. From henceforth bear his name
whose form thou bear'st:

Kneel thou down Philip, but arise more great:
Arise Sir Richard, and Plantagenet.—

Bast. Brother, by my mother's side, give me
your hand;

My father gave me honour, yours gave land.—

Eli. The very spirit of Plantagenet!

I am thy grandame, Richard; call me so.

Bast. Madam, by chance, but not by truth:
What though? [thy desire,

K. John. Go, Faulconbridge; now hast thou
A landless knight makes thee a landed 'squire.—
Come, madam, and come, Richard; we must speed
For France, for France; for it is more than need.

Bast. Brother, adieu; good fortune come to
For thou was got i' the way of honesty. [thee!

[*Exeunt all but the Bastard.*

A foot of honour better than I was;

But many a foot of land the worse.

Well, now can I make any Joan a lady:—

Good den, ¹ Sir Richard,—

And if his name be George, I'll call him Peter:
For new made honour doth forget men's names;

'Tis too respective, and too sociable,

For your conversion. Now your traveller,—

He and his tooth-pick at my worship's mess;

And when my knightly stomach is suffic'd,

Why then I suck my teeth and catechise

My picked man of countries²:—*My dear sir,*
(Thus, leaning on mine elbow, I begin.)

I shall beseech you—That is question now;

And then comes answer like an ABC-book:—

O sir, says answer, at your best command;

At your employment; at your service, sir:

No, sir, says question, I, sweet sir, at yours:

And so, ere answer knows what question would,
(Saving in dialogue of compliment;

And talking of the Alps, and Appennines,

¹ Good evening. ² My travelled fop.

The Pyrenean, and the river Po,)

It draws towards supper in conclusion so.

But this is worshipful society.

And fits the mounting spirit, like myself:

And not alone in habit and device,

Exterior form, outward accoutrement;

But from the inward motion to deliver

Sweet, sweet, sweet poison for the age's tooth:

Which, though I will not practise to deceive,

Yet, to avoid deceit, I mean to learn;

For it shall strew the footsteps of my rising.—

But who comes in such haste, in riding robes?

What woman-post is this? hath she no husband,

That will take pains to blow a horn before her?

Enter Lady Faulconbridge and James Gurney.

O me! it is my mother:—How now, good lady?

What brings you here to court so hastily?

Lady F. Where is that slave, thy brother?
where is he?

That holds in chase mine honour up and down?

Bast. My brother Robert? old Sir Robert's son?

Colbrand the giant, that same mighty man?

Is it Sir Robert's son, that you seek so? [boy,

Lady F. Sir Robert's son! Ay, thou unreverend
Sir Robert's son: Why scorn'st thou at Sir

Robert?

He is Sir Robert's son; and so art thou.

Bast. James Gurney, wilt thou give us leave

Gur. Good leave,¹ good Philip. [awhile?

Bast. Philip?—sparrow!—James,

There's toys² abroad; anon I'll tell thee more.

[*Exit Gurney.*

Madam, I was not old Sir Robert's son.

Lady F. Hast thou conspired with thy brother
too,

That for thine own gain shouldst defend mine
honour? [knave?

What means this scorn, thou most untoward

Bast. Knight, knight, good mother,—Basil-
isco like³:

What! I am dubb'd; I have it on my shoulder.

But, mother, I am not Sir Robert's son;

I have disclaim'd Sir Robert, and my land;

Legitimation, name, and all is gone:

Then, good my mother, let me know my father;

Some proper man, I hope; Who was it, mother?

Lady F. Hast thou denied thyself a Faulcon-
bridge?

Bast. As faithfully as I deny the devil.

Lady F. King Richard Cœur-de-lion was thy
father;

By long and vehement suit I was seduc'd:

Heaven lay not my transgression to my charge!

Thou art the issue of my great offence,

Which was so strongly urg'd, past my defence.

Bast. Madam, I would not wish a better father.

Some sins do bear their privilege on earth,

And so doth yours; your fault was not your folly:

Needs must you lay your heart at his dispose,—

Subjected tribute to commanding love,—

Against whose fury and unmatched force

The aweless lion could not wage the fight,

Nor keep his princely heart from Richard's hand.

He that perforce robs lions of their hearts,

May easily win a woman's. [*Exeunt.*

¹ Reudily.

² Idle reports.

³ A character in an old drama.

Act Second.

SCENE I.

FRANCE. BEFORE THE WALLS OF ANGIERS.

Enter, on one side, the Archduke of Austria, and Forces; on the other, Philip King of France, and Forces; Lewis, Constance, Arthur, and Attendants.

Lew. Before Angiers well met, brave Austria.—
Arthur, that great fore-runner of thy blood,
Richard, that robb'd the lion of his heart,
And fought the holy wars in Palestine,
By this brave duke came early to his grave:
And, for amends to his posterity,
At our importance,¹ hither is he come,
To spread his colours, boy, in thy behalf;
And to rebuke the usurpation
Of thy unnatural uncle, English John:
Embrace him, love him, give him welcome hither.

Arth. Heaven will forgive you Cœur-de-lion's
The rather, that you give his offspring life, [death,
Shadowing their right under your wings of war:
I give you welcome with a powerless hand,
But with a heart full of unstained love:
Welcome before the gates of Angiers, duke.

Lew. A noble boy! Who would not do thee right?
Aust. Upon thy cheek lay I this zealous kiss,
As seal to this indenture of my love;
That to my home I will no more return,
Till Angiers, and the right thou hast in France,
Together with that pale, that white-fac'd shore,
Whose foot spurns back the ocean's roaring tides,
And coops from other lands her islanders,
Even till that England, hedg'd in with the main,
The water-walled bulwark, still secure
And confident from foreign purposes,
Even till that utmost corner of the west
Salute thee for her king: till then, fair boy,
Will I not think of home, but follow arms.

Const. O, take his mother's thanks, a widow's thanks,

Till your strong hand shall help to give him strength,

To make a more requital to your love.

Aust. The peace of heaven is theirs, that lift their swords

In such a just and charitable war. [be bent

K. Phi. Well then, to work; our cannon shall
Against the brows of this resisting town.

Call for our chiefest men of discipline,
To cull the plots of best advantages:—

We'll lay before this town our royal bones,
Wade to the market-place in Frenchmen's blood,
But we will make it subject to this boy.

Const. Stay for an answer to your embassy,
Lest unadvis'd you stain your swords with blood:
My lord Chatillon may from England bring
That right in peace, which here we urge in war;
And then we shall repent each drop of blood,
That hot rash haste so indirectly shed.

Enter Chatillon.

K. Phi. A wonder, lady!—lo, upon thy wish,
Our messenger Chatillon is arriv'd.—
What England says, say briefly, gentle lord,

1 Importunity.

We coldly pause for thee; Chatillon, speak.

Ch. Then turn your forces from this paltry siege,
And stir them up against a mightier task.
England, impatient of your just demands,
Hath put himself in arms; the adverse winds,
Whose leisure I have staid, have given him time
To land his legions all as soon as I:
His marches are expedient¹ to this town,
His forces strong, his soldiers confident.
With him along is come the mother-queen,
An Até,² stirring him to blood and strife;
With her her niece, the lady Blanch of Spain;
With them a bastard of the king deceas'd:
And all the unsettled humours of the land,—
Rash, inconsiderate, fiery voluntaries,
With ladies' faces, and fierce dragons' spleens,—
Have sold their fortunes at their native homes,
Bearing their birthrights proudly on their backs,
To make a hazard of new fortunes here.
In brief, a braver choice of dauntless spirits,
Than now the English bottoms have waft o'er
Did never float upon the swelling tide,
To do offence and scath³ in Christendom.
The interruption of their churlish drums

[Drums beat.

Cuts off more circumstance: they are at hand,
To parley, or to fight; therefore, prepare.

K. P. How much unlook'd for is this expedition!

Aust. By how much unexpected, by so much
We must awake endeavour for defence;
For courage mounted with occasion:

Let them be welcome then, we are prepar'd.

Enter King John, Elinor, Blanch, the Bastard, Pembroke, and Forces.

K. John. Peace be to France; if France in
peace permit

Our just and lineal entrance to our own!
If not; bleed France, and peace ascend to heaven.
Whiles we, God's wrathful agent, do correct
Their proud contempt that beat his peace to
heaven. [return

K. Phi. Peace be to England: if that war
From France to England, there to live in peace!
England we love: and, for that England's sake,
With burden of our armour hear we sweat:
This toil of ours should be a work of thine;
But thou from loving England art so far,
That thou hast under-wrought his lawful king,
Cut off the sequence of posterity,
Outfaced infant state, and done a rape
Upon the maiden virtue of the crown.
Look here upon thy brother Geoffrey's face:—
These eyes, these brows, were moulded out of his:
This little abstract doth contain that large,
Which died in Geoffrey; and the hand of time
Shall draw this brief⁴ into as huge a volume.
That Geoffrey was thy elder brother born,
And this his son; England was Geoffrey's right,
And this is Geoffrey's: In the name of God,
How comes it then, that thou art call'd a king,
When living blood doth in these temples beat,
Which owe⁵ the crown that thou o'ermasterest?

K. John. From whom hast thou this great
commission, France,

To draw my answer from thy articles?

1 Expediting.

2 The goddess of revenge.

3 Mischief.

4 Little one.

5 Own.

K. Phi. From that supernal judge, that stirs good thoughts

In any breast of strong authority,
To look into the blots and stains of right.
That judge hath made me guardian to this boy:
Under whose warrant, I impeach thy wrong;
And, by whose help, I mean to chastise it.

K. John. Alack, thou dost usurp authority.

K. Phi. Excuse; it is to beat usurping down.

Eli. Who is it, thou dost call usurper, France?

Con. Let me make answer;—thy usurping son.

Eli. Out, insolent! thy bastard shall be king;
That thou mayst be a queen, and check the world!

Const. My bed was ever to thy son as true,
As thine was to thy husband: and this boy
Liker in feature to his father Geoffrey,
Than thou and John in manners; By my soul, I
His father never was so true begot; [think,
It cannot be, an if thou wert his mother.

Eli. There's a good mother, boy, that blots thy father.

Const. There's a good grandam, boy, that would blot thee.

Aust. Peace!

Bast. Hear the crier.

Aust. What art thou?

Bast. One that will play the devil, sir, with An 'a may catch your hide and you alone. [you, You are the hare of whom the proverb goes, Whose valour plucks dead lions by the beard; I'll smoke your skin-coat, as I catch you right: Sirrah, look to't; i'faith, I will, i'faith.

Blanch. O, well did he become that lion's robe, That did disrobe the lion of that robe!

Bast. It lies as sightly on the back of him, As great Alcides' shoes upon an ass:—

But, ass, I'll take that burden from your back;
Or lay on that, shall make your shoulders crack.

Aust. What cracker is this same, that deafs our ears

With this abundance of superfluous breath?

K. Phi. Lewis, determine what we shall do straight.

L. Women and fools, break off your confer-
King John, this is the very sum of all,—[ence, England, and Ireland, Anjou, Touraine, Maine, In right of Arthur do I claim of thee:

Wilt thou resign them, and lay down thy arms?

K. John. My life as soon:—I do defy thee, France.

Arthur of Bretagne, yield thee to my hand;
And, out of my dear love, I'll give thee more
Than e'er the coward hand of France can win:
Submit thee, boy.

Eli. Come to thy grandam, child.

Const. Do, child, go to it' grandam, child;
Give grandam kingdom, and it' grandam will
Give it a plum, a cherry, and a fig:
There's a good grandam.

Arth. Good my mother, peace!

I would, that I were low laid in my grave;
I am not worth this coil¹ that's made for me.

Eli. His mother shames him so, poor boy, he weeps. [no!]

Co. Now shame upon me, whe'er she does, or
His grandam's wrongs, and not his mother's shames,

1 Bustle.

Draw those heaven-moving pearls from his poor
Which heaven shall take in nature of a fee; [eyes,
Ay, with these crystal beads heaven shall be brib'd

To do him justice, and revenge on you. [earth!

Eli. Thou monstrous slanderer of heaven and

Const. Thou monstrous injurer of heaven and earth!

Call not me slanderer; thou, and thine, usurp
The dominations, royalties, and rights,
Of this oppressed boy: This is thy eldest son's
Infortunate in nothing but in thee; [son,
Thy sins are visited in this poor child.

K. John. Bedlam, have done.

Const. I have but this to say,—

That he's not only plagued for her sin,
But God hath made her sin and her the plague
On this removed issue, plagu'd for her,
And with her plague, her sin; his injury
Her injury, the beadle to her sin;
All punish'd in the person of this child,
And all for her; a plague upon her!

Eli. Thou unadvised scold, I can produce
A will that bars the title of thy son.

Co. Ay, who doubts that? a will! a wicked will;

A woman's will; a canker'd grandam's will!

K. P. Peace, lady; pause, or be more temper-
It ill beseems this presence, to cry aim¹ [ate:
To these ill-tuned repetitions.—

Some trumpet summon hither to the walls
These men of Angiers; let us hear them speak,
Whose title they admit, Arthur's or John's.

Trumpets sound. Enter Citizens upon the Walls.

1 *Cit.* Who is it that hath warn'd us to the

K. Phi. 'Tis France, for England. [walls?

K. John. England, for itself:

You men of Angiers, and my loving subjects,—

K. Phi. You loving men of Angiers, Arthur's subjects,

Our trumpet call'd you to this gentle parl²

K. John. For our advantage;—Therefore hear us first.—

These flags of France, that are advanced here
Before the eye and prospect of your town,
Have hither march'd to your endamage:—
The cannons have their bowels full of wrath;
And ready mounted are they to spit forth
Their iron indignation 'gainst your walls:

All preparation for a bloody siege,
And merciless proceeding by these French,
Confront your city's eyes, your winking gates;

And, but for our approach, those sleeping stones,
That as a waist do girdle you about,
By the compulsion of their ordinance

By this time from their fixed beds of lime
Had been dishabited, and wide havock made
For bloody power to rush upon your peace.

But, on the sight of us, your lawful king,—
Who painfully with much expedient march,
Have brought a countercheck before your gates,
To save unscratch'd your city's threaten'd

checks,—

Behold, the French, amaz'd, vouchsafe a parl²:
And, now, instead of bullets wrapp'd in fire,
To make a shaking fever in your walls,

They shoot but calm words, folded up in smoke,

1 Encouragement.

2 Conference.

To make a faithless error in your ears:
Which trust accordingly, kind citizens,
And let us in, your king: whose labour'd spirits,
Forwearied¹ in this action of swift speed,
Crave harbourage within your city walls.

K. Phi. When I have said, make answer to us
Lo, in this right hand, whose protection [both.
Is most divinely vow'd upon the right
Of him it holds, stands young Plantagenet;
Son to the elder brother of this man,
And king o'er him, and all that he enjoys:
For this down-trodden equity, we tread
In warlike march these greens before your town;
Being no further enemy to you,
Than the constraint of hospitable zeal,
In the relief of this oppressed child,
Religiously provokes. Be pleased then
To pay that duty, which you truly owe,
To him that owes it; namely, this young prince:
And then our arms, like to a muzzled bear,
Save in aspect, have all offence seal'd up;
Our cannons' malice vainly shall be spent
Against the invulnerable clouds of heaven;
And, with a blessed and unvex'd retire, [bruise'd,
With unback'd swords, and helmets all un-
We will bear home that lusty blood again,
Which here we came to spout against your town,
And leave your children, wives, and you in peace.
But if you fondly pass our proffer'd offer,
'Tis not the roundure³ of your old-fac'd walls
Can hide you from our messengers of war:
Though all these English, and their discipline,
Were harbour'd in their rude circumference.
Then, tell us, shall your city call us lord,
In that behalf which we have challeng'd it?
Or shall we give the signal to our rage,
And stalk in blood to our possession?

1 Cit. In brief, we are the king of England's subjects;

For him, and in his right, we hold this town.

K. John. Acknowledge then the king, and let me in. [king,

1 C. That can we not: but he that proves the
To him will we prove loyal; till that time,
Have we ramm'd up our gates against the world.

K. J. Doth not the crown of England prove the
And, if not that, I bring you witnesses, [king?
Twice fifteen thousand hearts of England's
To verify our title with their lives. [breed,—

K. P. As many, and as well-born bloods as
Stand in his face to contradict his claim. [those,

1 Cit. Till you compound whose right is
worst,

We, for the worthiest, hold the right from both.

K. J. Then God forgive the sin of all those
That to their everlasting residence, [souls,
Before the dew of evening fall, shall fleet,
In dreadful trial of our kingdom's king! [arms!]

K. P. Amen! Amen!—Mount, chevaliers, to
East. St George,—that swing'd⁴ the dragon,
and e'er since,

Sits on his horseback at mine hostess' door,
Teach us some fence!—Sirrah, were I at home,
At your den, sirrah, [To Aust.] with your lioness,
I'd set an ox-head to your lion's hide,
And make a monster of you.

Aust.

Peace; no more.

¹ Worn out. ² Owns. ³ Circle. ⁴ Thrashed.

Bast. O, tremble; for you hear the lion roar.
K. John. Up higher to the plain; where we'll
set forth,

In best appointment, all our regiments.

B. Speed then, to take advantage of the field.

K. Phi. It shall be so;—[To Lewis.] and at
the other hill

Command the rest to stand.—God, and our
right! [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Alarums and Excursions; then a Retreat.
*Enter a French Herald, with Trumpets, to
the Gates.*

F. Her. You men of Angiers, open wide your
gates,

And let young Arthur, duke of Bretagne, in;
Who, by the hand of France, this day hath made
Much work for tears in many an English mother,
Whose sons lie scatter'd on the bleeding ground:
Many a widow's husband grovelling lies,
Coldly embracing the discolour'd earth;
And victory, with little loss, doth play
Upon the dancing banners of the French;
Who are at hand, triumphantly display'd,
To enter conquerors, and to proclaim
Arthur of Bretagne, England's king, and yours.

Enter an English Herald, with Trumpets.

E. Her. Rejoice, you men of Angiers, ring
your bells, [proach,
King John, your king and England's, doth ap-
Commander of this hot malicious day!
Their armours, that march'd hence so silver-
bright,

Hither return all gilt with Frenchman's blood;
There stuck no plume in any English crest,
That is removed by a staff of France;
Our colours do return in those same hands
That did display them when we first march'd
forth,

And, like a jolly troop of huntsmen, come
Our lusty English, all with purple hands
Dyed in the dying slaughter of their foes:
Open your gates, and give the victors way.

C. Heralds, from off our towers we might be-
From first to last, the onset and retire [hold,
Of both your armies; whose equality
By our best eyes cannot be censur'd¹:

Blood hath bought blood, and blows have an-
swer'd blows; [fronted power:

Strength match'd with strength, and power con-
Both are alike; and both alike we like. [even,
One must prove greatest: while they weigh so
We hold our town for neither; yet for both.

*Enter, at one side, King John, with his Power;
Elinor, Blanch, and the Bastard; at the other,
King Philip, Lewis, Austria, and Forces.*

K. John. France, hast thou yet more blood to
cast away?

Say, shall the current of our right run on?
Whose passage, vex'd with thy impediment,
Shall leave his native channel, and o'erswell
With course disturb'd even thy confining shores,
Unless thou let his silver water keep
A peaceful progress to the ocean.

¹ Determined.

K. Phi. England, thou hast not sav'd one drop of blood,

In this hot trial, more than we of France;
Rather, lost more: And by this hand I swear,
That sways the earth this climate overlooks,—
Before we will lay down our just-borne arms,
We'll put thee down, 'gainst whom these arms we
Or add a royal number to the dead; [bear,
Gracing the scroll, that tells of this war's loss,
With slaughter coupled to the name of kings.

Bast. Ha, majesty! how high thy glory towers,
When the rich blood of kings is set on fire!
O, now doth death line his death chaps with steel;
The swords of soldiers are his teeth, his fangs;
And now he feasts, moulthing the flesh of men,
In undetermin'd differences of kings.—

Why stand these royal fronts amazed thus?
Cry, havock, kings! back to the stained field,
You equal potents,¹ fiery kindled spirits!
Then let confusion of one part confirm [death!
The other's peace; till then, blows, blood, and

K. J. Whose party do the townsmen yet admit?

K. Phi. Speak, citizens, for England, who's your king?

1 C. The king of England, when we know the king.

K. Phi. Know him in us, that here hold up

K. John. In us that are our own great deputy,
And bear possession of our person here;
Lord of our presence, Angiers, and of you.

1 Cit. A greater power than he, denies all this;
And, till it be undoubted, we do lack
Our former scruple in our strong-barr'd gates:
King'd of our fears; until our fears resolv'd,
Be by some certain king purg'd and depos'd.

Bast. By heaven these scroyles² of Angiers
flout you, kings;

And stand securely on their battlements,
As in a theatre, whence they gape and point
At your industrious scenes and acts of death.
Your royal presences be rul'd by me;
Do like the mutines³ of Jerusalem;
Be friends a while, and both conjunctly bend
Your sharpest deeds of malice on this town:
By east and west let France and England mount
Their battering cannon, charged to the mouths;
Till their soul-fearing clamours have brawl'd
The flinty ribs of this contemptuous city: [down
I'd play incessantly upon these jades,
Even till unfenced desolation

Leave them as naked as the vulgar air.
That done, dissever your united strengths,
And part your mingled colours once again;
Turn face to face, and bloody point to point:
Then, in a moment, fortune shall cull forth
Out of one side her happy minion;
To whom in favour she shall give the day,
And kiss him with a glorious victory.

How like you this wild counsel, mighty states?
Smacks it not something of the policy? [heads,

K. John. Now, by the sky that hangs above our
I like it well;—France, shall we knit our powers,
And lay this Angiers even with the ground;
Then, after, fight who shall be king of it?

Bast. An if thou hast the mettle of a king,—
Being wrong'd, as we are, by this peevish town,—
Turn thou the mouth of thy artillery,

As we will ours, against these saucy walls:
And when that we have dash'd them to the ground,

Why, then, defy each other; and pell-mell,
Make work upon ourselves, for heaven, or hell.

K. P. Let it be so:—Say, where will you assault?

K. J. We from the west will send destruction
Into this city's bosom.

Aust. I from the north.

K. Phi. Our thunder from the south,
Shall rain their drift of bullets on this town.

Bas. [Aside.] O prudent discipline! From
north to south;

Austria and France shoot in each other's mouth:
I'll stir them to it:—Come, away, away! [stay,

1 Cit. Hear us, great kings: vouchsafe a while to
And I shall show you peace, and fair-faced league;
Win you this city without stroke, or wound;
Rescue those breathing lives to die in beds,
That here come sacrifices for the field:

Perséver not, but hear me, mighty kings. [hear.

K. J. Speak on, with favour; we are bent to

1 Cit. That daughter there of Spain, the lady
Blanch,

Is near to England: Look upon the years
Of Lewis the Dauphin, and that lovely maid:

If youthful love should go in quest of beauty,
Where should he find it fairer than in Blanch?

If zealous¹ love should go in search of virtue,
Where should he find it purer than in Blanch?

If love ambitious sought a match of birth,
Whose veins bound richer blood than lady

Such as she is, in beauty, virtue, birth, [Blanch?

Is the young Dauphin every way complete:
If not complete, O say, he is not she;

And she again wants nothing, to name want,
If want it be not, that she is not he:

He is the half part of a blessed man,
Left to be finished by such as she;

And she a fair divided excellence,
Whose fulness of perfection lies in him.

O, two such silver currents, when they join,
Do glorify the banks that bound them in: [one,

Do glorify the banks that bound them in: [one,
And two such shores to two such streams made

Two such controlling bounds, shall you be, kings,
To these two princes, if you marry them.

This union shall do more than battery can,
To our fast-closed gates; for, at this match,

With swifter spleen² than powder can enforce,
The mouth of passage shall we fling wide ope,

And give you entrance; but without this match,
The sea enraged is not half so deaf,

Lions more confident, mountains and rocks
More free from motion; no, not death himself

In mortal fury half so peremptory,
As we to keep this city.

Bast. Here's a stay,
That shakes the rotten carcase of old Death

Out of his rags! Here's a large mouth, indeed,
That spits forth death, and mountains, rocks, and

And talks familiarly of roaring lions, [seas;
He speaks plain cannon, fire, and smoke, and

He gives the bastinado with his tongue; [bounce;
Our ears are cudgel'd; not a word of his,

But buffets better than a fist of France:
Why! I was never so bethump'd with words,
Since I first call'd my brother's father, dad.

Eli. Son, list to this conjunction, make this match;

Give with our niece a dowry large enough:
For by this knot thou shalt so surely tie
Thy now unsur'd assurance to the crown,
That yon green boy shall have no sun to ripe
The bloom that promiseth a mighty fruit.
I see a yielding in the looks of France;
Mark, how they whisper: urge them, while their
Are capable of this ambition: [souls
Lest zeal, now melted by the windy breath
Of soft petitions, pity and remorse,
Cool and congeal again to what it was.

1 Cit. Why answer not the double majesties
This friendly treaty of our threaten'd town?

K. Phi. Speak England first, that hath been
forward first

To speak unto this city: What say you?

K. J. If that the Dauphin there, thy princely
Can in this book of beauty read, I love, [son,
Her dowry shall weigh equal with a queen:
For Anjou, and fair Touraine, Maine, Poitiers,
And all that we upon this side the sea
(Except this city now by us besieg'd)
Find liable to our crown and dignity,
Shall gild her bridal bed; and make her rich
In titles, honours, and promotions,
As she in beauty, education, blood,
Holds hand with any princess of the world. [face.

K. P. What say'st thou, boy? look in the lady's
Lew. I do, my lord, and in her eye I find

A wonder, or a wondrous miracle,
The shadow of myself form'd in her eye;
Which, being but the shadow of your son,
Becomes a sun, and makes your son a shadow:
I do protest, I never lov'd myself,
Till now infixed I beheld myself,
Drawn in the flattering table of her eye.

[*Whispers with Blanch.*

Bast. Drawn in the flattering table of her eye!—
Hang'd in the frowning wrinkle of her brow!—
And quarter'd in her heart!—he doth espy

Himself love's traitor: This is pity now,
That hang'd, and drawn, and quarter'd, there
In such a love, so vile a lout as he. [should be,

Blan. My uncle's will, in this respect is mine:
If he see aught in you, that makes him like,
That any thing he sees, which moves his liking,
I can with ease translate it to my will;
Or, if you will, (to speak more properly,)

I will enforce it easily to my love.
Further, I will not flatter you, my lord,
That all I see in you is worthy love,
Than this—that nothing do I see in you,
(Though churlish thoughts themselves should
be your judge,)

That I can find should merit any hate.

K. John. What say these young ones? What
say you, my niece?

Blanch. That she is bound in honour still to do
What you in wisdom shall vouchsafe to say.

K. John. Speak then, prince Dauphin; can
you love this lady?

Lew. Nay, ask me if I can refrain from love:
For I do love her most unfeignedly. [Maine,

K. John. Then I do give Volquessen, Touraine,
Poitiers, and Anjou, these five provinces,
With her to thee; and this addition more,

Full thirty thousand marks of English coin.—
Philip of France, if thou be pleas'd withal,
Command thy son and daughter to join hands.

K. P. It likes us well;—Young princes, close
your hands.

Aust. And your lips too; for, I am well assur'd,
That I did so, when I was first assur'd.¹

K. P. Now, citizens of Angiers, ope your gates,
Let in that amity which you have made;
For at Saint Mary's chapel, presently,
The rites of marriage shall be solemniz'd.—
Is not the lady Constance in this troop?—

I know, she is not; for this match made up,
Her presence would have interrupted much:—
Where is she and her son? tell me, who knows.

Lew. She is sad and passionate² at your
highness' tent.

K. Phi. And, by my faith, this league, that
we have made,

Will give her sadness very little cure.—
Brother of England, how may we content
This widow lady? In her right we came:

Which we, Heaven knows, have turn'd another
To our own vantage. [way,

K. John. We will heal up all;

For we'll create young Arthur duke of Bretagne,
And earl of Richmond; and this rich fair town
We make him lord of.—Call the lady Constance;

Some speedy messenger bid her repair

To our solemnity:—I trust we shall,

If not fill up the measure of her will,

Yet in some measure satisfy her so,

That we shall stop her exclamation.

Go we, as well as haste will suffer us,

To this unlook'd for unprepared pomp.

[*Exeunt all but the Bastard.*—*The Citizens
retire from the walls.*

Ba. Mad world! mad kings! mad composition!

John, to stop Arthur's title in the whole,
Hath willingly departed with a part:

And France, (whose armour conscience buckled
Whom zeal and charity brought to the field, [on;

As God's own soldier,) rounded³ in the ear
With that same purpose-changer, that sly-devil;

That broker, that still breaks the pate of faith;
That daily break-vow; he that wins of all,

Of kings, of beggars, old men, young men, maids;—
That smooth-faced gentleman, talking commo-

Commodity, the bias of the world; [dity,
The world, who of itself is peis'd⁴ well,

Made to run even, upon even ground;

Till this advantage, this vile drawing bias,
This sway of motion, this commodity,

Makes it take head from all indifferency,
From all direction, purpose, course, intent:

And this same bias, this commodity,
Clapp'd on the outward eye of fickle France,

Hath drawn him from his own determin'd aid,
From a resolv'd and honourable war,

To a most base and vile-concluded peace.—

And why rail I on this commodity?

But for because he hath not woo'd me yet:

Not that I have the power to clutch⁵ my hand,

When his fair angels⁶ would salute my palm:

But for my hand, as unattempted yet,
Like a poor beggar, raieth on the rich.

¹ Affianced. ³ Whispered. ⁵ Clasp.

² Mournful. ⁴ Poised. ⁶ Coin.

Well, whiles I am a beggar, I will rail,
And say,—there is no sin, but to be rich;
And being rich, my virtue then shall be,
To say,—there is no vice but beggary:
Since kings break faith upon commodity,
Gain, bemylord? for I will worship thee! [*Exit.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE FRENCH KING'S TENT.

Enter Constance, Arthur, and Salisbury.

Con. Gone to be married! gone to swear a peace!
False blood to false blood join'd? Gone to be
friends! [*vinces?*]

Shall Lewis have Blanch? and Blanch these pro-
It is not so; thou hast mis-spoke, mis-heard;
Be well advis'd, tell o'er thy tale again:
It cannot be; thou dost but say, 'tis so:
I trust, I may not trust thee; for thy word
Is but the vain breath of a common man:
Believe me, I do not believe thee, man;
I have a king's oath to the contrary.

Thou shalt be punish'd for thus frightening me,
For I am sick, and capable¹ of fears; [*fears;*
Oppress'd with wrongs, and therefore full of
A widow, husbandless, subject to fears;
A woman, naturally born to fears;
And though thou now confess, thou didst but jest
With my vex'd spirits, I cannot take a truce,
But they will quake and tremble all this day.
What dost thou mean by shaking of thy head?
Why dost thou look so sadly on my son?
What means that hand upon that breast of thine?

Why holds thine eye that lamentable rheum,
Like a proud river peering o'er his bounds?
Be these sad signs confirmers of thy words?
Then speak again; not all thy former tale,
But this one word; whether thy tale be true.

Sal. As true as I believe, you think them false
That give you cause to prove my saying true.

Con. O, if thou teach me to believe this sorrow,
Teach thou this sorrow how to make me die;
And let belief and life encounter so,
As doth the fury of two desperate men,
Which, in the very meeting, fall, and die.—
Lewis marry Blanch! O, boy, then where art thou?
France friend with England! what becomes of
me?—

Fellow, be gone; I cannot brook thy sight;
This news hath made thee a most ugly man.

Sal. What other harm have I, good lady, done,
But spoke the harm that is by others done?

Con. Which harm within itself so heinous is,
As it makes harmful all that speak of it.

Arth. I do beseech you, madam, be content.
C. If thou, that bid'st me be content, wert grim,

Ugly, and slanderous to thy mother's womb,
Full of unpleasing blots, and sightless² stains,
Lame, foolish, crooked, swarth, prodigious,
Patch'd with foul moles, and eye-offending marks,
I would not care, I then would be content;
For then I should not love thee; no, nor thou
Become thy great birth, nor deserve a crown.
But thou art fair; and at thy birth, dear boy!

¹ Susceptible.

² Unsightly.

Nature and fortune join'd to make thee great:
Of nature's gifts thou may'st with lilies boast,
And with the half-blown rose; but fortune, O!
She is corrupted, chang'd, and won from thee;
She adulterates hourly with thine uncle John;
And with her golden hand hath pluck'd on France
To tread down fair respect of sovereignty.
Tell me, thou fellow, is not France forsworn?
Envenom him with words; or get thee gone,
And leave those woes alone, which I alone
Am bound to underbear.

Sal. Pardon me, madam,
I may not go without you to the kings.

C. Thou may'st, thou shalt, I will not go with
thee:

I will instruct my sorrows to be proud;
For grief is proud, and makes his owner stout.
To me, and to the state¹ of my great grief,
Let kings assemble; for my grief's so great,
That no supporter but the huge firm earth
Can hold it up: here I and sorrow sit;
Here is my throne, bid kings come bow to it.
[*She throws herself on the ground.*]

*Enter King John, King Philip, Lewis, Blanch,
Elinor, Bastard, Austria, and Attendants.*

K. Phi. 'Tis true, fair daughter; and this blessed
Ever in France shall be kept festival: [*day,*
To solemnize this day, the glorious sun
Stays in his course, and plays the alchemist;
Turning, with splendour of his precious eye,
The meagre cloddy earth to glittering gold:
The yearly course, that brings this day about,
Shall never see it but a holyday.

Const. A wicked day, and not a holyday!—
[*Rising.*]

What hath this day deserv'd; what hath it done:
That it in golden letters should be set,
Among the high tides, in the kalendar?
Nay, rather turn this day out of the week;
This day of shame, oppression, perjury:

Or, if it must stand still, let wives with child
Pray, that their burdens may not fall this day,
Lest that their hopes prodigiously be cross'd:

But on this day, let seamen fear no wreck,
No bargains break, that are not this day made:
This day, all things begun come to ill end;
Yea, faith itself to hollow falsehood change!

K. Phi. By heaven, lady, you shall have no cause
To curse the fair proceedings of this day:
Have I not pawn'd to you my majesty?

Con. You have beguil'd me with a counterfeit,
Resembling majesty; which, being touched and
tried,

Proves valueless: You are forsworn, forsworn;
You came in arms to spill mine enemies' blood,
But now in arms you strengthen it with yours:
The grappling vigour and rough frown of war,
Is cold in amity and painted peace,

And our oppression hath made up this league:—
Arm, arm, you heavens, against these perjur'd
kings!

A widow cries; be husband to me, heavens!
Let not the hours of this ungodly day
Wear out the day in peace; but, ere sunset,
Set arm'd discord 'twixt these perjur'd kings!
Hear me, O, hear me!

¹ Dignity.

Aust. Lady Constance, peace.
C. War! war! no peace! peace is to me a war.
O Lymoges! *O* Austria! thou dost shame
 That bloody spoil! Thou slave, thou wretch, thou
 Thou little valiant, great in villainy! [coward;
 Thou ever strong upon the stronger side!
 Thou fortune's champion, that dost never fight
 But when her humorous ladyship is by
 To teach thee safety! thou art perjur'd too,
 And sooth'st up greatness. What a fool art thou,
 A ramping fool; to brag, and stamp, and swear,
 Upon my party! Thou cold-blooded slave,
 Hast thou not spoke like thunder on my side?
 Been sworn my soldier? bidding me depend
 Upon thy stars, thy fortune, and thy strength?
 And dost thou now fall over to my foes?
 Thou wear a lion's hide! doff it! for shame,
 And hang a calf's skin on those recreant limbs.

A. O, that a man should speak those words to me!

Bast. And hang a calf's skin on those recreant limbs.

Aust. Thou dar'st not say so, villain, for thy life.
Bast. And hang a calf's skin on those recreant limbs.

K. J. We like not this: thou dost forget thyself.

Enter Pandulph.

K. Phi. Here comes the holy legate of the pope.

Pand. Hail, you anointed deputies of heaven!—
 To thee, king John, my holy errand is,
I, Pandulph, of fair Milan cardinal,
 And from Pope Innocent the legate here,
 Do, in his name, religiously demand,
 Why thou against the church, our holy mother,
 So wilfully dost spurn; and, force perforce,
 Keep Stephen Langton, chosen archbishop
 Of Canterbury, from that holy see?
 This in our 'foresaid holy father's name,
 Pope Innocent, I do demand of thee.

K. John. What earthly name to interrogatories
 Can task the free breath of a sacred king?
 Thou canst not, cardinal, devise a name
 So slight, unworthy, and ridiculous,
 To charge me to an answer, as the pope. [land,
 Tell him this tale; and from the mouth of Eng-
 Add thus much more,—That no Italian priest
 Shall tithe or toll in our dominions:
 But as we under heaven are supreme head,
 So, under him, that great supremacy,
 Where we do reign, we will alone uphold,
 Without the assistance of a mortal hand:
 So tell the pope; all reverence set apart,
 To him, and his usurp'd authority.

K. Phi. Brother of England, you blaspheme
 in this. [dom,

K. J. Though you, and all the kings of Christen-
 Are led so grossly by this meddling priest,
 Dreading the curse that money may buy out;
 And, by the merit of vile gold, dross, dust,
 Purchase corrupted pardon of a man,
 Who, in that sale, sells pardon from himself:
 Though you, and all the rest, so grossly led,
 This juggling witchcraft with revenue cherish;
 Yet I, alone, alone do me oppose
 Against the pope, and count his friends my foes.

Pand. Then, by the lawful power that I have,
 Thou shalt stand curst and excommunicate:

1 Put it off.

And blessed shall he be, that doth revolt
 From his allegiance to an heretick;
 And meritorious shall that hand be call'd,
 Canoniz'd, and worshipp'd as a saint,
 That takes away by any secret course
 Thy hateful life.

Const. O, lawful let it be,
 That I have room with Rome to curse a while!
 Good father cardinal, cry thou, amen,
 To my keen curses; for, without my wrong,
 There is no tongue hath power to curse him right.

P. There's law and warrant, lady, for my curse.

C. And for mine too; when law can do no right,
 Let it be lawful that law bar no wrong:
 Law cannot give my child his kingdom here;
 For he, that holds his kingdom, holds the law:
 Therefore, since law itself is perfect wrong,
 How can the law forbid my tongue to curse?

Pand. Philip of France, on peril of a curse,
 Let go the hand of that arch-heretick;
 And raise the power of France upon his head,
 Unless he do submit himself to Rome. [hand.

E. Look'st thou pale, France? do not let go thy
C. Look to that, devil! lest that France repent.

Aust. King Philip, listen to the cardinal.

Ba. And hang a calf's skin on his recreant limbs.

Aust. Well, ruffian, I must pocket up these
 wrongs.

K. J. Philip, what say'st thou to the cardinal?

Const. What should he say, but as the cardinal?

Lew. Bethink you, father: for the difference
 Is, purchase of a heavy curse from Rome,
 Or the light loss of England for a friend:
 Forego the easier.

Blanch. That's the curse of Rome.

Const. O Lewis, stand fast; the devil tempts thee
 In likeness of a new untrimmed bride. [here,

Blanch. The lady Constance speaks not from
 her faith,

But from her need.

Const. O, if thou grant my need,
 Which only lives but by the death of faith,
 That need must needs infer this principle,—
 That faith would live again by death of need;
 O, then, tread down my need, and faith mounts
 Keep my need up, and faith is trodden down. [up;

K. John. The king is mov'd, and answers not
 to this.

Con. O, be remov'd from him, and answer well.

Aust. Do so, king Philip; hang no more in
 doubt. [out.

Ba. Hang nothing but a calf's skin, most sweet

K. P. I am perplex'd, and know not what to say.

Pan. What canst thou say, but will perplex thee
 If thou stand excommunicate, and curs'd? [more,

K. Phi. Good reverend father, make my person
 yours,

And tell me, how you would bestow yourself.
 This royal hand and mine are newly knit;
 And the conjunction of our inward souls
 Married in league, coupled and link'd together
 With all religious strength of sacred vows;
 The latest breath that gave the sound of words,
 Was deep-sworn faith, peace, amity, true love,
 Between our kingdoms, and our royal selves;
 And even before this truce, but new before,—
 No longer than we well could wash our hands,
 To clasp this royal bargain up of peace,—

Heaven knows, they were besmear'd and over-
stain'd

With slaughter's pencil; where revenge did paint
The fearful difference of incensed kings:
And shall these hands so lately purg'd of blood,
So newly join'd in love, so strong in both,
Unyoke this seizure, and this kind regret?
Playfast and loose with faith? so jest with heaven,
Make such unconstant children of ourselves,
As now again to snatch our palm from palm;
Unswear faith sworn; and on the marriage bed
Of smiling peace to march a bloody host,
And make a riot on the gentle brow
Of true sincerity? O holy sir,
My reverend father, let it not be so:
Out of your grace, devise, ordain, impose
Some gentle order; and then we shall be bless'd
To do your pleasure, and continue friends.

Pand. All form is formless, order orderless,
Save what is opposite to England's love.
Therefore, to arms! be champion of our church!
Or let the church, our mother, breathe her curse,
A mother's curse, on her revolting son.
France, thou mayst hold a serpent by the tongue,
A cased lion by the mortal paw,
A fasting tiger safer by the tooth, [hold.
Than keep in peace that hand which thou dost
K. P. I may disjoin my hand, but not my faith.

Pand. So mak'st thou faith an enemy to faith;
And, like a civil war, sett'st oath to oath,
Thy tongue against thy tongue. O, let thy vow
First made to heaven, first be to heaven per-
That is, to be the champion of our church! form'd;
What since thou swor'st, is sworn against thyself.
And may not be performed by thyself:
For that, which thou hast sworn to do amiss,
Is not amiss when it is truly done;
And being not done, where doing tends to ill,
The truth is then most done not doing it:
The better act of purposes mistook
Is, to mistake again; though indirect,
Yet indirection thereby grows direct,
And falsehood, falsehood cures; as fire cools fire,
Within the scorched veins of one new burn'd.
It is religion, that doth make vows kept;
But thou hast sworn against religion; [swear'st;
By what thou swear'st, against the thing thou
And mak'st an oath the surety for thy truth
Against an oath: The truth thou art unsure
To swear, swear only not to be forsworn:
Else, what a mockery should it be to swear?
But thou dost swear only to be forsworn;
And most forsworn, to keep what thou dost swear.
Therefore, thy latter vows, against thy first,
Is in thyself rebellion to thyself:

And better conquest never canst thou make,
Than arm thy constant and thy nobler parts
Against those giddy loose suggestions:
Upon which better part our prayers come in,
If thou vouchsafe them: but, if not, then know,
The peril of our curses light on thee;
So heavy, as thou shalt not shake them off,
But, in despair, die under their black weight.

Aust. Rebellion, flat rebellion!

Bast. Will't not be?

Will not a calf's skin stop that mouth of thine?

Lew. Father, to arms!

Blanch. Upon thy wedding day?

Against the blood that thou hast married? [men?
What, shall our feast be kept with slaughter'd
Shall braying trumpets, and loud churlish
Be measures¹ to our pomp! [drums,—
O, husband, hear me!—ah, alack, how new
Is husband in my mouth!—even for that name,
Which till this time my tongue did ne'er pro-
Upon my knee I beg, go not to arms [nounce,
Against mine uncle.

Const. O, upon my knee,
Made hard with kneeling, I do pray to thee,
Thou virtuous Dauphin, alter not the doom
Fore-thought by heaven.

B. Now shall I see thy love; What motive may
Be stronger with thee than the name of wife?

C. That which upholdeth him that thee upholds,
His honour; O thine honour, Lewis, thine honour.

Lew. I muse, your majesty doth seem so cold,
When such profound respects do pull you on.

Pand. I will denounce a curse upon his head.

K. Phi. Thou shalt not need:—England, I'll
fall from thee.

Const. O fair return of banish'd majesty!

Eli. O foul revolt of French inconstancy!

K. John. France, thou shalt rue this hour
within this hour. [ton Time,

Bas. Old Time, the clock-setter, that bald sex-
Is it as he will? well then, France shall rue.

Blan. The sun's o'er cast with blood: Fair day,
Which is the side that I must go withal? [adieu!
I am with both: each army hath a hand;
And, in their rage, I having hold of both,
They whirl asunder, and dismember me.
Husband, I cannot pray that thou mayst win;
Uncle, I needs must pray that thou mayst lose;
Father, I may not wish the fortune thine;
Grandam, I will not wish thy wishes thrive:
Whoever wins, on that side shall I lose;
Assured loss, before the match be play'd.

Lew. Lady, with me; with me thy fortune lies.

Blanch. There where my fortune lives, there
my life dies.

K. John. Cousin, go draw our puissance² to-
gether.— [Exit Bastard.

France, I am burn'd up with inflaming wrath;
A rage, whose heat hath this condition,
That nothing can allay, nothing but blood,
The blood, and dearest-valu'd blood of France.

K. Phi. Thy rage shall burn thee up, and thou
shalt turn

To ashes, ere our blood shall quench that fire:
Look to thyself, thou art in jeopardy.

K. John. No more than he that threatens.—To
arms let's hie! [Exit.

SCENE II.—PLAINS NEAR ANGIERS.

Alarums; Excursions. Enter the Bastard, with
Austria's head.

Bast. Now, by my life, this day grows wondrous
Some airy devil hovers in the sky, [hot;
And pours down mischief. Austria's head lie
While Philip breathes. [there,

Enter King John, Arthur, and Hubert.

K. J. Hubert, keep this boy:—Philip, make up.
My mother is assailed in our tent,
And ta'en, I fear.

Bast. My lord, I rescu'd her ;
Her highness is in safety, fear you not :
But on, my liege : for very little pains
Will bring this labour to an happy end. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Alarums; Excursions; Retreat. Enter King John, Elinor, Arthur, the Bastard, Hubert, and Lords.

K. John. So shall it be ; [*To Elinor.*] your grace shall stay behind,
So strongly guarded.—[*To Arthur.*] Cousin, look not sad :

Thy grandam loves thee ; and thy uncle will
As dear be to thee as thy father was.

Ar. O, this will make my mother die with grief.

K. John. [*To the Bastard.*] Cousin, away for England ; haste before :

And, ere our coming, see thou shake the bags
Of hoarding abbots ; angels¹ imprison'd
Set thou at liberty : the fat ribs of peace
Must by the hungry now be fed upon :
Use our commission in its utmost force.

Bast. Bell, book, and candle shall not drive me back,

When gold and silver beckons me to come on.
I leave your highness :—Grandam, I will pray
(If ever I remember to be holy),

For your fair safety ; so I kiss your hand.

Eli. Farewell, my gentle cousin.

K. John. Coz, farewell. [*Exit Bastard.*]

Eli. Come hither, little kinsman ; hark, a word. [*She takes Arthur aside.*]

K. John. Come hither, Hubert. O my gentle Hubert,

We owe thee much ; within this wall of flesh
There is a soul, counts thee her creditor,
And with advantage means to pay thy love :
And, my good friend, thy voluntary oath
Lives in this bosom, dearly cherished.
Give me thy hand. I had a thing to say,—
But I will fit it with some better time.
By heaven, Hubert, I am almost asham'd
To say what good respect I have of thee.

Hub. I am much bounden to your majesty.

K. John. Good friend, thou hast no cause to say so yet :—[*slow,*

But thou shalt have ; and creep time ne'er so
Yet it shall come, for me to do thee good.

I had a thing to say,—But let it go :

The sun is in the heaven, and the proud day,

Attended with the pleasures of the world,

Is all too wanton, and too full of gawds,²

To give me audience :—If the midnight bell

Did, with his iron tongue and brazen mouth,

Sound one unto the drowsy race of night ;

If this same were a church-yard where we stand,

And thou possessed with a thousand wrongs ;

Or if that surly spirit, melancholy,

Had bak'd thy blood, and made it heavy, thick ;

(Which, else, runs tickling up and down the veins,

Making that idiot, laughter, keep men's eyes,

And strain their cheeks to idle merriment,

A passion hateful to my purposes ;)

Or if that thou couldst see me without eyes,

Hear me without thine ears, and make reply

1 Gold coins.

2 Ornaments.

Without a tongue, using conceit alone,
Without eyes, ears, and harmful sounds of words ;
Then, in despite of brooded watchful day,
I would into thy bosom pour my thoughts :
But, ah, I will not :—Yet I love thee well ;
And, by my troth, I think, thou lov'st me well.
H. So well, that what you bid me undertake,
Though that my death were adjunct to my act,
By heaven, I'd do't.

K. John. Do not I know, thou would'st ?
Good Hubert, Hubert, Hubert, throw thine eye
On yon young boy : I'd tell thee what, my friend,
He is a very serpent in my way ;
And, wheresoe'er this foot of mine doth tread,
He lies before me : Dost thou understand me ?
Thou art his keeper.

Hub. And I will keep him so,
That he shall not offend your majesty.

K. John. Death.

Hub. My lord ?

K. John. A grave.

Hub. He shall not live.

K. John. Enough.

I could be merry now : Hubert, I love thee ;

Well, I'll not say what I intend for thee ;

Remember.—Madam, fare you well :

I'll send those powers o'er to your majesty.

Eli. My blessing go with thee !

K. John. For England, cousin :

Hubert shall be your man, attend on you

With all true duty.—On toward Calais, ho !

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

THE SAME. THE FRENCH KING'S TENT.

Enter King Philip, Lewis, Pandulph, and Attendants.

K. Phi. So, by a roaring tempest on the flood,
A whole armada¹ of convicted² sail
Is scatter'd and disjoint'd from fellowship.

P. Courage and comfort ! all shall yet go well.

K. P. What can go well, when we have run so
Are we not beaten ! Is not Angiers lost ? [ill ?
Arthur ta'en prisoner ? divers dear friends slain ?
And bloody England into England gone,
O'erbearing interruption, spite of France ?

Lew. What he hath won, that hath he fortified :
So hot a speed with such advice dispos'd,
Such temperate order in so fierce a cause,
Doth want example : Who hath read, or heard,
Of any kindred action like to this ? [praise,

K. P. Well could I bear that England had this
So we could find some pattern of our shame.

Enter Constance.

Look, who comes here ! a grave unto a soul ;
Holding the eternal spirit, against her will,
In the vile prison of afflicted breath :—
I pry'thee, lady, go away with me.

Con. Lo, now ! now see the issue of your peace !

K. Phi. Patience, good lady ! comfort, gentle Constance !

Const. No, I defy³ all counsel, all redress,
But that which ends all counsel, true redress,
Death, death :—O amiable lovely death !
Arise forth from the couch of lasting night,

1 Fleet.

2 Baffled.

3 Refuse.

Thou hate and terror to prosperity,
 And I will kiss thy detestable bones;
 And put my eye-balls in thy vaulty brows;
 And ring these fingers with thy household worms;
 And stop this gap of breath with fulsome dust,
 And be a carrion monster like thyself:
 Come, grin on me, and I will think thou smil'st,
 And buss¹ thee as thy wife! Misery's love,
 O, come to me.

K. Phi. O fair affliction, peace.

Con. No, no, I will not, having breath to cry:—
 O, that my tongue were in the thunder's mouth!
 Then with a passion would I shake the world;
 And rouse from sleep that fell anatomy,
 Which cannot hear a lady's feeble voice,
 Which scorns a modern² invocation.

P. Lady, you utter madness, and not sorrow.

Const. Thou art not holy to belie me so;
 I am not mad: this hair I tear, is mine;
 My name is Constance; I was Geoffrey's wife;
 Young Arthur is my son, and he is lost:
 I am not mad; I would to heaven, I were!
 For then, 'tis like I should forget myself:
 O, if I could, what grief should I forget!—
 Preach some philosophy, to make me mad,
 And thou shalt be canoniz'd, cardinal;
 For, being not mad, but sensible of grief,
 My reasonable part produces reason
 How I may be deliver'd of these woes,
 And teaches me to kill or hang myself:
 If I were mad, I should forget my son;
 Or madly think, a babe of clouts were he:
 I am not mad; too well, too well I feel
 The different plague of each calamity.

K. Phi. Bind up those tresses: O, what love I
 In the fair multitude of those her hairs! [note
 Where but by chance a silver drop hath fallen,
 Even to that drop ten thousand wiry friends
 Do glew themselves in sociable grief;
 Like true, inseparable, faithful loves,
 Sticking together in calamity.

Const. To England, if you will.

K. Phi. Bind up your hairs.
Const. Yes, that I will; and wherefore will I
 do it?

I tore them from their bonds: and cried aloud,
 O that these hands could so redeem my son,
 As they have given these hairs their liberty!
 But now I envy at their liberty,
 And will again commit them to their bonds,
 Because my poor child is a prisoner.—
 And, father cardinal, I have heard you say,
 That we shall see and know our friends in heaven;
 If that be true, I shall see my boy again:
 For since the birth of Cain, the first male child,
 To him that did but yesterday expire,³
 There was not such a gracious⁴ creature born.
 But now will canker sorrow eat my bud,
 And chase the native beauty from his cheek,
 And he will look as hollow as a ghost;
 As dim and meagre as an ague's fit;
 And so he'll die; and, rising so again,
 When I shall meet him in the court of heaven
 I shall not know him: therefore never, never
 Must I behold my pretty Arthur more.

Pand. You hold too heinous a respect of grief.

Const. He talks to me that never had a son.

1 Kiss. 2 Common. 3 Breath. 4 Graceful.

K. P. You are as fond of grief, as of your child.
Con. Grief fills the room up of my absent child,
 Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me;
 Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words,
 Remembers me of all his gracious parts,
 Stuffs out his vacant garments with his form;
 Then have I reason to be fond of grief.
 Fare you well: had you such a loss as I,
 I could give better comfort than you do.—
 I will not keep this form upon my head,

[Tearing off her head-dress.

When there is such disorder in my wit.
 O lord, my boy, my Arthur, my fair son!
 My life, my joy, my food, my all the world!
 My widow-comfort, and my sorrow's cure. [Exit.

K. P. I fear some outrage, and I'll follow her.
 [Exit.

Lew. There's nothing in this world can make
 Life as tedious as a twice-told tale, [me joy:
 Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man;
 And bitter shame hath spoil'd the sweet world's
 taste.

That it yields nought but shame and bitterness.
Pand. Before the curing of a strong disease,
 Even in the instant of repair and health,
 The fit is strongest; evils that take leave,
 On their departure most of all show evil:
 What have you lost, by losing of this day?

Lew. All days of glory, joy, and happiness.

Pand. If you had won it, certainly you had.
 No, no: when fortune means to men most good,
 She looks upon them with a threatening eye.
 'Tis strange, to think how much king John hath
 In this which he accounts so clearly won: [lost
 Are not you griev'd that Arthur is his prisoner?

Lew. As heartily as he is glad he hath him.

P. Your mind is all as youthful as your blood.
 Now hear me speak with a prophetick spirit;
 For even the breath of what I mean to speak
 Shall blow each dust, each straw, each little rub,
 Out of the path which shall directly lead [mark
 Thy foot to England's throne; and, therefore
 John hath seiz'd Arthur; and it cannot be,
 That, whiles warm life plays in that infant's veins,
 The misplac'd John should entertain an hour,
 One minute, nay, one quiet breath of rest:
 A sceptre snatch'd with an unruly hand,
 Must be as boisterously maintain'd as gain'd:
 And he that stands upon a slippery place,
 Makes nice of no vile hold to stay him up:
 That John may stand, then Arthur needs must
 So be it, for it cannot be but so. [fall;

L. But what shall I gain by young Arthur's fall?

P. You, in the right of lady Blanch, your wife,
 May then make all the claim that Arthur did.
Lew. And lose it, life and all, as Arthur did.

Pand. How green are you, and fresh in this
 old world! [you;

John lays you plots; the times conspire with
 For he that steeps his safety in true blood,
 Shall find but bloody safety, and untrue.
 This act, so evilly born, shall cool the hearts
 Of all his people, and freeze up their zeal;
 That none so small advantage shall step forth,
 To check his reign, but they will cherish it:
 No natural exhalation in the sky,
 No scape of nature, no distemper'd day,
 No common wind, no custom'd event,

But they will pluck away his natural cause,
And call them meteors, prodigies, and signs,
Abortives, presages, and tongues of heaven,
Plainly denouncing vengeance upon John.

L. May be, he will not touch young Arthur's life,
But hold himself safe in his prisonment.

P. O, sir, when he shall hear of your approach,
If that young Arthur be not gone already,
Even at that news he dies: and then the heart
Of all his people shall revolt from him,
And kiss the lips of unacquainted change;
And pick strong matter of revolt, and wrath,
Out of the bloody fingers' ends of John.

Methinks, I see this hurly¹ all on foot;
And, O, what better matter breeds for you,
Than I have nam'd!—The bastard Faulconbridge
Is now in England, ransacking the church,
Offending charity: If but a dozen French
Were there in arms, they would be as a call
To train ten thousand English to their side;
Or, as a little snow, tumbled about,
Anon becomes a mountain. O noble Dauphin,
Go with me to the king: 'Tis wonderful,
What may be wrought out of their discontent:
Now that their souls are topful of offence,
For England go; I will whet on the king.

Lew. Strong reasons make strong actions; Let
us go;

If you say, ay, the king will not say, no.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

NORTHAMPTON. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Hubert and two Attendants.

Hub. Heat me these irons hot: and look thou
stand

Within the arras²: when I strike my foot
Upon the bosom of the ground, rush forth;
And bind the boy, which you shall find with me,
Fast to the chair: be heedful: hence, and watch.

1 *Attend.* I hope your warrant will bear out
the deed.

Hub. Uncleanly scruples! Fear not you: look
to't.— [*Exeunt Attendants.*]

Young lad, come forth; I have to say with you.

Enter Arthur.

Arth. Good-morrow, Hubert.

Hub. Good-morrow, little prince.

Arth. As little prince (having so great a title
To be more prince,) as may be.—You are sad.

Hub. Indeed, I have been merrier.

Arth. Mercy on me!

Methinks, no body should be sad but I:
Yet I remember, when I was in France,
Young gentlemen would be as sad as night,
Only for wantonness. By my christendom,
So I were out of prison and kept sheep,
I should be merry as the day is long;
And so I would be here, but that I doubt
My uncle practises more harm to me:
He is afraid of me, and I of him:
Is it my fault that I was Gefirey's son?

1 Turnell.

2 Tapestry.

No, indeed, is't not; And I would to heaven,
I were your son, so you would love me, Hubert.

Hub. [*Aside.*] If I talk to him with his inno-
cent prate

He will awake my mercy which lies dead:

Therefore, I will be sudden and despatch.

Arth. Are you sick, Hubert? you look pale
to-day:

In sooth, I would you were a little sick,
That I might sit all night, and watch with you:
I warrant I love you more than you do me.

H. His words do take possession of my bosom.
Read here, young Arthur. [*Showing a paper.*]

How now, foolish rheum: [*Aside.*]

Turning spiteous¹ torture out of door!

I must be brief; lest resolution drop

Out at mine eyes, in tender womanish tears.—

Can you not read it? is it not fair writ?

Arth. Too fairly, Hubert, for so foul effect:

Must you with hot irons burn out both mine eyes!

Hub. Young boy, I must.

Arth. And will you?

Hub. And I will.

Arth. Have you the heart? When your head
did but ake,

I knit my handkerchief about your brows,
(The best I had, a princess wrought it me,)

And I did never ask it you again:

And with my hand at midnight held your head;

And, like the watchful minutes to the hour,

Still and anon cheer'd up the heavy time;

Saying, What lack you? and, Where lies your
grief?

Or, What good love may I perform for you?

Many a poor man's son would have lain still,

And ne'er have spoke a loving word to you;

But you at your sick service had a prince.

Nay, you may think my love was crafty love,

And call it cunning: Do, an if you will:

If heaven be pleas'd that you must use me ill,

Why, then you must.—Will you put out mine
eyes?

These eyes, that never did, nor never shall,
So much as frown on you?

Hub. I have sworn to do it;
And with hot irons must I burn them out.

A. Ah, none, but in this iron age, would do it!

The iron of itself, though heat red-hot,

Approaching near these eyes, would drink my

And quench his fiery indignation, [tears,

Even in the matter of mine innocence:

Nay after that consume away in rust,

But for containing fire to harm mine eye,

Are you more stubborn-hard than hammer'd

An if an angel should have come to me, [iron?

And told me, Hubert should put out mine eyes,

I would not have believ'd no tongue, but
Hubert's.

Hub. Come forth. [*Stamps.*]

Re-enter Attendants, with Cord, Irons, &c.

Do as I bid you do. [*are out,*

Arth. O, save me, Hubert, save me! my eyes

Even with the fierce looks of these bloody men.

Hub. Give me the iron, I say, and bind him here.

Ar. Alas! what need you be so boist'rous rough?

I will not struggle, I will stand stone still,

1 Unpitying.

For heaven's sake, Hubert, let me not be bound!
Nay, hear me, Hubert? drive these men away,
And I will sit as quiet as a lamb;
I will not stir, nor vince, nor speak a word,
Nor look upon the iron angrily:
Thrust but these men away, and I'll forgive you,
Whatever torment you do put me to.

Hub. Go, stand within; let me alone with him.

1 Attend. I am best pleas'd to be from such a deed. [*Exeunt Attendants.*]

Arth. Alas! I then have chid away my friend;
He hath a stern look, but a gentle heart:—
Let him come back, that his compassion may
Give life to yours.

Hub. Come, boy, prepare yourself.

Arth. Is there no remedy?

Hub. None, but to lose your eyes.

Arth. O heaven!—that there were but a mote
in yours,

A grain, a dust, a gnat, a wand'ring hair,
Any annoyance in that precious sense!
Then, feeling what small things are boist'rous
there,

Your vile intent must needs seem horrible.

H. Is this your promise? go to, hold your tongue.

Ar. Hubert, the utterance of a brace of tongues
Must needs want pleading for a pair of eyes:
Let me not hold my tongue; let me not, Hubert!
Or, Hubert, if you will, cut out my tongue,
So I may keep mine eyes; O, spare mine eyes;
Though to no use, but still to look on you!
Lo, by my troth, the instrument is cold,
And would not harm me.

Hub. I can heat it, boy.

Arth. No, in good sooth: the fire is dead with
Being create for comfort, to be us'd [*grief,*
In undeserv'd extremes¹: See else, yourself;
There is no malice in this burning coal;
The breath of heaven hath blown his spirit out,
And strew'd repentant ashes on his head.

Hub. But with my breath I can revive it, boy.

Ar. And if you do, you will but make it blush,
And glow with shame of your proceedings,
Hubert:

Nay, it, perchance, will sparkle in your eyes;
And, like a dog that is compell'd to fight,
Snatch at his master that doth tarre² him on.
All things, that you should use to do me wrong,
Deny their office: only you do lack
That mercy, which fierce fire, and iron, extends,
Creatures of note, for mercy-lacking uses.

Hub. Well, see to live; I will not touch thine
eyes

For all the treasure that thine uncle owes³:
Yet am I sworn, and I did purpose, boy,
With this same very iron to burn them out.

Arth. O, now you look like Hubert! all this
You were disguised. [*while*]

Hub. Peace: no more. Adieu;

Your uncle must not know but you are dead:
I'll fill these dogged spies with false reports.
And, pretty child, sleep doubtless, and secure,
That Hubert, for the wealth of all the world,
Will not offend thee.

Arth. O heaven!—I thank you, Hubert.

Hub. Silence; no more: Go closely in with me;
Much danger do I undergo for thee. [*Exeunt.*]

1 Cruelty.

2 Urge.

3 Owes.

SCENE II.—A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

*Enter K. John, crowned; Pembroke, Salisbury,
and other Lords. The King takes his State.*

K. John. Here once again we sit, once again
crown'd,

And look'd upon, I hope, with cheerful eyes.

Pem. This once again, but that your highness
pleas'd,

Was once superfluous: you were crown'd before,
And that high royalty was ne'er pluck'd off:
The faiths of men ne'er stained with revolt;
Fresh expectation troubled not the land,
With any long'd-for change, or better state.

Sal. Therefore, to be possess'd with double
To guard¹ a title that was rich before, [*pomp,*
To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,
To throw a perfume on the violet,
To smooth the ice, or add another hue
Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish,
Is wasteful, and ridiculous excess.

Pem. But that your royal pleasure must be
This act is as an ancient tale new told; [*done,*
And, in the last repeating, troublesome,
Being urged at a time unseasonable.

Sal. In this the antique and well-noted face
Of plain old form is much disfigured:
And, like a shifted wind unto a sail,
It makes the course of thoughts to fetch about:
Startles and frights consideration;
Makes sound opinion sick, and truth suspected,
For putting on so new a fashion'd robe. [*well,*

Pem. When workmen strive to do better than
They do confound their skill in covetousness:
And, oftentimes, excusing of a fault,
Doth make the fault the worse by the excuse;
As patches, set upon a little breach,
Discredit more in hiding of the fault,
Than did the fault before it was so patch'd.

Sal. To this effect before you were new crown'd,
We breath'd our counsel: but it pleas'd your
highness

To overbear it; and we are all well pleas'd;
Since all and every part of what we would,
Doth make a stand at what your highness will.

K. J. Some reasons of this double coronation
I have possess'd you with, and think them strong;
And more, more strong, (when lesser is my fear,)
I shall indue you with: Mean time, but ask
What you would have reform'd that is not well:
And well shall you perceive, how willingly
I will both hear and grant you your requests.

P. Then I, (as one that am the tongue of these
To sound² the purposes of all their hearts,)
Both for myself and them, (but chief of all,
Your safety, for the which myself and them
Bend their best studies,) heartily request
The enfranchisement of Arthur; whose restraint
Doth move the murmuring lips of discontent
To break into this dangerous argument, —
If, what in rest you have, in right you hold,
Why then your fears, (which, as they say, attend
The steps of wrong,) should move you to mew up
Your tender kinsman, and to choke his days
With barbarous ignorance, and deny his youth
The rich advantage of good exercise?

1 Fringe with lace.

2 Declare.

That the time's enemies may not have this
To grace occasions, let it be our suit,
That you have bid us ask his liberty;
Which for our goods we do no further ask,
Than whereupon our weal, on you depending,
Counts it your weal, he have his liberty.

K. John. Let it be so; I do commit his youth

Enter Hubert.

To your direction.—Hubert, what news with you?

Pem. This is the man should do the bloody deed;
He show'd his warrant to a friend of mine:
The image of a wicked heinous fault
Lives in his eye; that close aspect of his
Does show the mood of a much-troubled breast;
And I do fearfully believe, 'tis done,
What we so fear'd he had a charge to do.

Sal. The colour of the king doth come and go,
Between his purpose and his conscience,
Like heralds 'twixt two dreadful battles set:
His passion is so ripe, it needs must break.

P. And, when it breaks, I fear will issue thence
The foul corruption of a sweet child's death.

K. John. We cannot hold mortality's strong
hand:—

Good lords, although my will to give is living,
The suit which you demand is gone and dead:
He tells us, Arthur is deceas'd to-night.

S. Indeed, we fear'd, his sickness was past cure.

P. Indeed we heard how near his death he was,
Before the child himself felt he was sick:

This must be answer'd, either here, or hence.

K. J. Why do you bend such solemn brows on
Think you, I bear the shears of destiny? [me?
Have I commandment on the pulse of life?

Sal. It is apparent foul-play; and 'tis shame,
That greatness should so grossly offer it:
So thrive it in your game! and so farewell.

Pem. Stay yet, lord Salisbury; I'll go with thee,
And find the inheritance of this poor child,
This little kingdom of a forced grave. [isle,
That blood, which ow'd¹ the breadth of all this
Three foot of it doth hold: Bad world the while!
This must not be thus borne: this will break out
To all our sorrows, and ere long, I doubt,

[*Exeunt Lords.*

K. John. They burn in indignation; I repent;
There is no sure foundation set on blood;
No certain life achiev'd by other's death.—

Enter a Messenger.

A fearful eye thou hast: Where is that blood,
That I have seen inhabit in those cheeks?
So foul a sky clears not without a storm:
Pour down thy weather:—How goes all in France?

Mess. From France to England.—Never such
a power

For any foreign preparation,
Was levied in the body of a land!
The copy of your speed is learn'd by them;
For, when you should be told they do prepare,
The tidings come, that they are all arriv'd.

K. John. O, where hath our intelligence been
drunk?

Where hath it slept? Where is my mother's care?
That such an army could be drawn in France,
And she not hear of it?

1 Owned.

Mess. *He is call'd on.* My liege, her ear
Is stopp'd with dust; the first of April, died
Your noble mother: And, as I hear, my lord,
The lady Constance in a frenzy died
Three days before: but this from rumour's tongue
I idly heard; if true, or false, I know not.

K. J. Withhold thy speed, dreadful occasion;
O, make a league with me, till I have pleas'd
My discontented peers!—What! mother dead?
How wildly then walks my estate in France!—
Under whose conduct came those powers of
France,

That thou for truth giv'st out, are landed here?
Mess. Under the Dauphin.

Enter the Bastard and Peter of Pomfret.

K. John. Thou hast made me giddy
With these ill tidings.—Now, what says the world
To your proceedings? do not seek to stuff
My head with more ill news, for it is full.

Bast. But, if you be afraid to hear the worst,
Then let the worst, unheard, fall on your head.

K. J. Bear with me, cousin; for I was amaz'd
Under the tide; but now I breathe again
Aloft the flood; and can give audience
To any tongue, speak it of what it will.

Bast. How I have sped among the clergymen,
The sums I have collected shall express.

But, as I travelled hither through the land,
I find the people strangely fantasied;
Possess'd with rumours, full of idle dreams;
Not knowing what they fear, but full of fear:
And here's a prophet, that I brought with me
From forth the streets of Pomfret, whom I found
With many hundreds treading on his heels;
To whom he sung, in rude harsh-sounding rhymes,
That, ere the next Ascension-day at noon,
Your highness should deliver up your crown.

K. John. Thou idle dreamer, wherefore didst
thou so? [so.

Pet. Foreknowing that the truth will fall out
K. J. Hubert, away with him; imprison him;

And on that day at noon, whereon, he says,
I shall yield up my crown, let him be hang'd:
Deliver him to safety,¹ and return,
For I must use thee.—O my gentle cousin,

[*Exit Hubert, with Peter.*

Hear'st thou the news abroad, who are arriv'd?

Bast. The French, my lord; men's mouths are
full of it:

Besides, I met lord Bigot, and lord Salisbury,
(With eyes as red as new-enkindled fire,)
And others more, going to seek the grave
Of Arthur, who, they say, is kill'd to-night
On your suggestion.

K. John. Gentle kinsman, go,
And thrust thyself into their companies:
I have a way to win their loves again;
Bring them before me.

Bast. I will seek them out.
K. John. Nay, but make haste; the better
foot before.—

O, let me have no subject enemies,
When adverse foreigners affright my towns
With dreadful pomp of stout invasion!—
Be Mercury, set feathers to thy heels;
And fly, like thought, from them to me again.

1 Safe custody.

Bast. The spirit of the time shall teach me speed. *[Exit.]*

K. J. Spoke like a spritful noble gentleman.—Go after him; for he, perhaps, shall need Some messenger betwixt me and the peers; And be thou he.

Mess. With all my heart, my liege. *[Exit.]*

K. John. My mother dead!

Re-enter Hubert.

Hub. My lord, they say, five moons were seen to-night:

Four fixed; and the fifth did whirl about
The other four, in wond'rous motion.

K. John. Five moons?

Hub. Old men, and beldams, in the streets
Do prophecy upon it dangerously: [mouths:
Young Arthur's death is common in their
And when they talk of him they shake their
And whisper one another in the ear; [heads,
And he, that speaks, doth gripe the hearer's wrist;
Whilst he, that hears, makes fearful action,
With wrinkled brows, with nods, with rolling
eyes.

I saw a smith stand with his hammer, thus,
The whilst his iron did on the anvil cool,
With open mouth swallowing a tailor's news;
Who, with his shears and measure in his hand,
Standing on slippers, (which his nimble haste
Had falsely thrust upon contrary feet,)
Told of a many thousand warlike French,
That were embattled and rank'd in Kent:
Another lean unwash'd artificer
Cuts off his tale, and talks of Arthur's death.

K. John. Why seek'st thou to possess me with these fears?

Why urgest thou so oft young Arthur's death?
Thy hand hath murder'd him: I had mighty
cause *[him.]*

To wish him dead, but thou hadst none to kill
Hub. Had none, my lord! why, did you not
provoke me?

K. John. It is the curse of kings, to be attended
By slaves, that take their humours for a warrant
To break within the bloody house of life:
And, on the winking of authority,
To understand a law; to know the meaning
Of dangerous majesty, when, perchance, it frowns
More upon humour than advis'd respect.¹

Hub. Here is your hand and seal for what I did.

K. John. O, when the last account 'twixt
heaven and earth

Is to be made, then shall this hand and seal
Witness against us to damnation!
How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds,
Makes deeds ill done! Hadest not thou been by,
A fellow by the hand of nature mark'd,
Quoted,² and sign'd, to do a deed of shame,
This murder had not come into my mind:
But, taking note of thy abhor'd aspect,
Finding thee fit for bloody villainy,
Apt, liable, to be employ'd in danger,
I faintly broke with thee of Arthur's death;
And thou, to be endeared to a king,
Made it no conscience to destroy a prince.

Hub. My lord, —

¹ Deliberate consideration.

² Distinguished.

K. John. Hadst thou but shook thy head, or
made a pause,

When I spake darkly what I purposed;
Or turn'd an eye of doubt upon my face,
As bid me tell my tale in express words;
Deep shame had struck me dumb, made me
break off,

And those thy fears might have wrought fears in
But thou didst understand me by my signs, [me:
And didst in signs again parley with sin:
Yea, without stop, didst let thy heart consent,
And, consequently, thy rude hand to act
The deed which both our tongues held vile to
name, —

Out of my sight and never see me more!
My nobles leave me; and my state is brav'd,
Even at my gates, with ranks of foreign powers:
Nay in the body of this fleshly land,
This kingdom, this confine of blood and breath,
Hostility and civil tumult reigns
Between my conscience, and my cousin's death.

Hub. Arm you against your other enemies,
I'll make a peace between your soul and you.
Young Arthur is alive: This hand of mine
Is yet a maiden and an innocent hand,
Not painted with the crimson spots of blood.
Within this bosom never enter'd yet
The dreadful motion of a murderous thought,
And you have slander'd nature in my form;
Which, howsoever rude exteriorly,
Is yet the cover of a fairer mind
Than to be butcher of an innocent child.

K. John. Doth Arthur live? O, haste thee to
the peers,

Throw this report on their incensed rage,
And make them tame to their obedience!
Forgive the comment that my passion made
Upon thy feature; for my rage was blind,
And foul imaginary eyes of blood
Presented thee more hideous than thou art.
O, answer not; but to my closet bring
The angry lords, with all expedient haste:
I conjure thee but slowly; run more fast.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Enter Arthur, on the Walls.

Ar. The wall is high; and yet will I leap down;
Good ground, be pitiful, and hurt me not! —
There's few, or none, do know me; if they did,
This ship-boy's semblance hath disguis'd me
I am afraid; and yet I'll venture it. *[quite.]*
If I get down, and do not break my limbs,
I'll find a thousand shifts to get away:
As good to die, and go, as die, and stay.

[Leaps down.]

O me! my uncle's spirit is in these stones: —
Heaven take my soul, and England keep my
bones! *[Dies.]*

Enter Pembroke, Salisbury, and Bigot.

Sal. Lords, I will meet him at Saint Edmund's
Bury;

It is our safety, and we must embrace
This gentle offer of the perilous time.

Pe. Who brought that letter from the cardinal?

Sal. The count Melun, a noble lord of France;

Whose private with me, of the Dauphin's love,
Is much more general than these lines import.
Big. To-morrow morning let us meet him
then.

Sal. Or, rather then set forward : for 'twill be
Two long days' journey, lords, or e'er we meet.

Enter the Bastard.

Bast. Once more to-day well met, distemper'd
lords !

The king by me requests your presence straight.

Sal. The king hath dispossess'd himself of us ;
We will not line his thin bestained cloak
With our pure honours, nor attend the foot
That leaves the print of blood where'er it walks ;
Return, and tell him so : we know the worst.

Bast. What'e'er you think, good words, I
think, were best. [now.]

Sal. Our griefs, and not our manners reason

Bast. But there is little reason in your grief ;
Therefore, 'twere reason you had manners now.

Pem. Sir, sir, impatience hath his privilege,

Bas. 'Tis true ; to hurt his master, no man else.

Sal. This is the prison : What is he lies here ?

[Seeing Arthur.]

Pem. O death, made proud with pure and
princely beauty !

The earth hath not a hole to hide this deed.

Sa. Murder, as hating what himself hath done,
Doth lay it open, to urge on revenge.

Big. Or when he doom'd this beauty to a grave,
Found it too precious-princely for a grave.

Sal. Sir Richard, what think you ? Have you
beheld,

Or have you read, or heard ? or could you think ?
Or do you almost think, although you see,
That you do see ? could thought, without this
object,

Form such another ? This is the very top,
The height, the crest, or crest unto the crest,
Of murder's arms : this is the bloodiest shame,
The wildest savag'ry, the vilest stroke,
That ever wall-ey'd wrath, or staring rage,
Presented to the tears of soft remorse.²

Pem. All murders past do stand excus'd in this :
And this, so sole, and so unmatchable,
Shall give a holiness, a purity,
To the yet-unbegotten sin of time ;
And prove a deadly bloodshed but a jest,
Exampl'd by this heinous spectacle.

Bast. It is a damned and a bloody work ;
The graceless action of a heavy hand,
If that it be the work of any hand.

Sal. If that it be the work of any hand ?—
We had a kind of light, what would ensue :
It is the shameful work of Hubert's hand ;
The practice and the purpose, of the king :—
From whose obedience I forbid my soul,
Kneeling before this ruin of sweet life,
And breathing to his breathless excellence
The incense of a vow, a holy vow ;
Never to taste the pleasures of the world,
Never to be infected with delight,
Nor conversant with ease and idleness,
Till I have set a glory to this hand,
By giving it the worship of revenge. [words.]

Pem. Big. Our souls religiously confirm thy

1 Ruffled.

2 Pity.

Enter Hubert.

Hu. Lords, I am hot with haste in seeking you :
Arthur doth live ; the king hath sent for you.

Sal. O, he is bold, and blushes not at death :—
Avant, thou hateful villain, get thee gone !

Hub. I am no villain.

Sal. Must I rob the law ? [Drawing his sword.]

Bast. Your sword is bright, sir : put it up again.

Sal. Not till I sheath it in a murderer's skin.

Hub. Stand back, lord Salisbury, stand back,

I say :

By heaven, I think, my sword's as sharp as
yours :

I would not have you, lord, forget yourself,
Nor tempt the danger of my true defence ;
Lest I, by marking of your rage, forget

Your worth, your greatness, and nobility. [man ?]

Big. Out, dunghill ! dars't thou brave a noble-

Hub. Not for my life : but yet I dare defend
My innocent life against an emperor.

Sal. Thou art a murderer.

Hub. Do not prove me so ;

Yet, I am none : Whose tongue soe'er speaks
false,

Not truly speaks ; who speaks not truly, lies.

Pem. Cut him to pieces.

Bast.

Keep the peace, I say.

S. Stand by, or I shall gall you, Faulconbridge !

Bas. Thou wert better gall the devil, Salisbury :
If thou but frown on me, or stir thy foot,

Or teach thy hasty spleen to do me shame,
I'll strike thee dead. Put up thy sword, betime,

Or I will maul you and your toasting iron.

Big. What wilt thou do, renowned Faulcon-
Second a villain, and a murderer ? [bridge ?]

Hub. Lord Bigot, I am none.

Big. Who kill'd this prince ?

Hub. 'Tis not an hour since I left him well :
I honour'd him, I lov'd him ; and will weep

My date of life out, for his sweet life's loss.

S. Trust not those cunning waters of his eyes,
For villainy is not without such rheum ;

And he, long traded in it, makes it seem
Like rivers of remorse and innocence.

Away, with me, all you whose souls abhor
The uncleanly savours of a slaughter-house,
For I am stifled with this smell of sin.

Big. Away, toward Bury, to the Dauphin there.

Pem. There, tell the king, he may inquire us
out. [Exeunt Lords.]

Bast. Here's a good world !—Knew you of
this fair work ?

Beyond the infinite and boundless reach
Of mercy, if thou didst this deed of death,
Art thou damn'd, Hubert.

Hub. Do but hear me, sir.

Bast. Ha ! I'll tell thee what ;
Thou art damn'd as black,—nay, nothing is so

black ;

Thou art more deep damn'd than prince Lucifer,
There is not yet so ugly a fiend of hell

As thou shalt be, if thou didst kill this child.

Hub. Upon my soul,—

Bast. If thou didst but consent
To this most cruel act, do but despair,

And, if thou wantest a cord, the smallest thread
That ever spider twisted from her womb

Will serve to strangle thee : a rush will be

A beam to hang thee on; or wouldst thou drown thyself,

Put but a little water in a spoon,
And it shall be as all the ocean,
Enough to stifle such a villain up. —
I do suspect thee very grievously.

Hub. If I in act, consent, or sin of thought,
Be guilty of the stealing that sweet breath
Which was embounded in this beauteous clay,
Let hell want pains enough to torture me!
I left him well.

Bast. Go bear him in thine arms. —
I am amaz'd, methinks; and lose my way
Among the thorns and dangers of this world. —
How easy dost thou take all England up!
From forth this morsel of dead royalty,
The life, the right, and truth of all this realm
Is fled to heaven; and England now is left
To tug and scramble, and to part by the teeth
The unow'd¹ interest of proud swelling state.
Now, for the bare-pick'd bone of majesty,
Doth dogged war bristle his angry crest,
And snarl²eth in the gentle eyes of peace:
Now powers from home, and discontents at home,

Meet in one line; and vast confusion waits
(As doth a raven on a sick-fallen beast,)
The imminent decay of wrested pomp.
Now happy he, whose cloak and cincture² can
Hold out this tempest. Bear away that child,
And follow me with speed; I'll to the king:
A thousand businesses are brief in hand,
And heaven itself doth frown upon the land.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King John, Pandulph with the Crown, and Attendants.

K. J. Thus have I yielded up into your hand
The circle of my glory.

Pand. Take again
[*Giving John the Crown.*]

From this my hand, as holding of the pope,
Your sovereign greatness and authority.

K. John. Now keep your holy word: go meet
the French;

And from his holiness use all your power
To stop their marches, 'fore we are inflam'd.
Our discontented counties do revolt,
Our people quarrel with obedience;
Swearing allegiance, and the love of soul,
To stranger blood, to foreign royalty.
This inundation of distemper'd humour
Rests by you only to be qualified.
Then pause not; for the present time's so sick,
That present medicine must be minister'd,
Or overthrow incurable ensues.

P. It was my breath that blew this tempest up,
Upon your stubborn usage of the pope:
But, since you are a gentle convertite,
My tongue shall hush again this storm of war,
And make fair weather in your blustering land.
On this Ascension-day, remember well,

¹ Unowned.

² Girdle.

Upon your oath of service to the pope,
Go I to make the French lay down their arms.

[*Exit.*]

K. John. Is this Ascension-day? Did not the
prophet

Say, that, before Ascension-day at noon,
My crown I should give off? Even so I have:
I did suppose, it should be on constraint;
But heaven be thank'd, it is but voluntary.

Enter the Bastard.

B. All Kent hath yielded; nothing there holds
But Dover castle: London hath receiv'd, [out
Like a kind host, the Dauphin and his powers:
Your nobles will not hear you, but are gone
To offer service to your enemy;
And wild amazement hurries up and down
The little number of your doubtful friends.

K. J. Would not my lords return to me again,
After they heard young Arthur was alive?

Bast. They found him dead, and cast into the
streets;

An empty casket, where the jewel of life
By some curst hand was robb'd and ta'en away.

K. J. That villain Hubert told me he did live.

Bas. So, on my soul, he did, for aught he knew.
But wherefore do you droop? why look you sad?
Be great in act, as you have been in thought;
Let not the world see fear, and sad distrust,
Govern the motion of a kingly eye:
Be stirring as the time; be fire with fire;
Threaten the threat'ner, and outface the brow
Of bragging horror: so shall inferior eyes,
That borrow their behaviours from the great,
Grow great by your example, and put on
The dauntless spirit of resolution.

Away; and glister like the god of war,
When he intendeth to become the field:
Show boldness, and aspiring confidence.
What, shall they seek the lion in his den,
And fright him there? and make him tremble
there?

O, let it not be said! — Forage, and run
To meet displeasure further from the doors;
And grapple with him, ere he come so nigh.

K. John. The legate of the pope hath been
with me,

And I have made a happy peace with him;
And he hath promis'd to dismiss the powers
Led by the Dauphin.

Bast. O inglorious league!

Shall we, upon the footing of our land,
Send fair-play orders, and make compromise,
Insinuation, parley, and base truce,
To arms invasive? Shall a beardless boy,
A cocker'd¹ silken wanton brave our fields,
And flesh his spirit in a warlike soil,
Mocking the air with colours idly spread,
And find no check? Let us, my liege, to arms:
Perchance, the cardinal cannot make your peace;
Or if he do, let it at least be said,
They saw we had a purpose of defence.

K. John. Have thou the ordering of this
present time. [know,

B. Away then, with good courage; yet, I
Our party may well meet a prouder foe.

[*Exeunt.*]

¹ Pampered.

SCENE II.

A PLAIN NEAR ST EDMUND'S BURY.

Enter, in arms, Lewis, Salisbury, Melun, Pembroke, Bigot, and Soldiers.

Lew. My lord Melun, let this be copied out, And keep it safe for our remembrance: Return the precedent¹ to these lords again; That, having our fair order written down, Both they, and we, perusing o'er these notes, May know wherefore we took the sacrament, And keep our faiths firm and inviolable.

Sal. Upon our sides it never shall be broken. And, noble Dauphin, albeit we swear A voluntary zeal, and unurg'd faith, To your proceedings; yet, believe me, prince, I am not glad that such a sore of time Should seek a plaster by condemn'd revolt, And heal the inveterate canker of one wound, By making many: O, it grieves my soul, That I must draw this metal from my side To be a widow-maker; O, and there, Where honourable rescue, and defence, Cries out upon the name of Salisbury: But such is the infection of the time, That, for the health and physick of our right, We cannot deal but with the very hand Of stern injustice and confused wrong.— And is't not pity, O my griev'd friends! That we, the sons and children of this isle, Were born to see so sad an hour as this; Wherein we step after a stranger march Upon her gentle bosom, and fill up Her enemies' ranks, (I must withdraw and weep Upon the spot of this enforced cause,) To grace the gentry of a land remote, And follow unacquainted colours here? What here?—O nation, that thou couldst remove! That Neptune's arms, who clipph² thee about, Would bear thee from the knowledge of thyself, And grapple thee unto a pagan shore; Where these two Christian armies might combat the blood of malice in a vein of league, [bine And not to spend it so unneighbourly!

Lew. A noble temper dost thou show in this; And great affections, wrestling in thy bosom, Do make an earthquake of nobility. O, what a noble combat hast thou fought, Between compulsion³ and a brave respect!⁴ Let me wipe off this honourable dew, That silverly doth progress on thy cheeks: My heart hath melted at a lady's tears, Being an ordinary inundation; But this effusion of such manly drops, This shower, blown up by tempest of the soul, Startles mine eyes, and makes me more amaz'd Than had I seen the vaulty top of heaven Figur'd quite o'er with burning meteors. Lift up thy brow, renowned Salisbury, And with a great heart heave away this storm. Commend these waters to those baby eyes, That never saw the giant world enrag'd; Nor met with fortune other than at feasts, Full warm of blood, of mirth, of gossiping.

Come, come; for thou shalt thrust thy hand as Into the purse of rich prosperity, [deep As Lewis himself:—so, nobles, shall you all, That knit your sinews to the strength of mine.

Enter Pandolph, attended.

And even there, methinks an angel spake: Look, where the holy legate comes apace, To give us warrant from the hand of heaven; And on our actions set the name of right, With holy breath.

Pand. Hail, noble prince of France! The next is this,—king John hath reconcil'd Himself to Rome; his spirit is come in, That so stood out against the holy church, The great metropolis and see of Rome: Therefore thy threat'ning colours now wind up, And tame the savage spirit of wild war; That, like a lion foster'd up at hand, It may lie gently at the foot of peace, And be no further harmful than in show.

Lew. Your grace shall pardon me, I will not I am too high-born to be propertied,¹ [back; To be a secondary at control, Or useful serving-man, and instrument, To any sovereign state throughout the world. Your breath first kindled the dead coal of wars, Between this chastis'd kingdom and myself, And brought in matter that should feed this fire; And now 'tis far too huge to be blown out With that same weak wind which enkindled it. You taught me how to know the face of right, Acquainted me with interest to this land, Yea, thrust this enterprise into my heart; And come you now to tell me, John hath made His peace with Rome? What is that peace to me? I, by the honour of my marriage-bed, After young Arthur, claim this land for mine; And, now it is half-conquer'd, must I back, Because that John hath made his peace with Rome? [borne,

Am I Rome's slave? What penny hath Rome What men provided, what munition sent, To underprop this action? is't not I, That undergo this charge? who else but I, And such as to my claim are liable, Sweat in this business, and maintain this war? Have I not heard these islanders shout out, *Vive le roy!* as I have bank'd² their towns? Have I not here the best cards for the game, To win this easy match play'd for a crown? And shall I now give o'er the yielded set? No, on my soul, it never shall be said.

Pand. You look but on the outside of this work.

Lew. Outside or inside, I will not return Till my attempt so much be glorified As to my ample hope was promised Before I drew this gallant head of war, And cull'd these fiery spirits from the world, To outlook³ conquest, and to win renown Even in the jaws of danger and of death.—

[Trumpet sounds.

What lusty trumpet thus doth summon us?

Enter the Bastard, attended.

Bast. According to the fair play of the world, Let me have audience; I am sent to speak:—

¹ The original. ³ Of rebellion.
² Embroceth. ⁴ For his country.

¹ To receive my estate from another's will.
² Raised entrenchments against. ³ Outbrave.

My holy lord of Milan, from the king
I come, to learn how you have dealt for him;
And, as you answer, I do know the scope
And warrant limited unto my tongue.

Pand. The Dauphin is too wilful-opposite,
And will not temporize with my entreaties;
He flatly says, he'll not lay down his arms.

Bast. By all the blood that ever fury breath'd,
The youth says well:—Now hear our English king;
For thus his royalty doth speak in me.
He is prepar'd; and reason too, he should:
This unhair'd sauciness, and boyish troops,
The king doth smile at; and is well prepar'd
To whip this dwarfish war, these pigmy arms,
From out the circle of his territories.
That hand, which had the strength, even at your
door,

To cudgel you, and make you take the hatch;¹
To dive like buckets, in concealed wells;
To crouch in litter of your stable planks;
To lie, like pawns, lock'd up in chests and
trunks;

To hug with swine; to seek sweet safety out
In vaults and prisons; and to thrill and shake,
Even at the crying of your nation's crow,
Thinking his voice an armed Englishman;
Shall that victorious hand be feeble here,
That in your chambers gave you chastisement?
No: Know the gallant monarch is in arms;
And like an eagle o'er his airy towers,
To souse² annoyance that comes near his nest.—
And you degenerate, you ingrate revolts,
You bloody Neroes, ripping up the womb
Of your dear mother England, blush for shame:
For your own ladies, and pale-visag'd maids,
Like Amazons, come tripping after drums;
Their thimbles into armed gauntlets change,
Their needs³ to lances, and their gentle hearts
To fierce and bloody inclination.

Lew. There end thy brave,⁴ and turn thy face in
peace;

We grant, thou canst outscold us: fare thee well;
We hold our time too precious to be spent
With such a brabbler.⁵

Pand. Give me leave to speak.

Bast. No, I will speak.

Lew. We will attend to neither:—
Strike up the drums; and let the tongue of war
Plead for our interest, and our being here.

Bast. Indeed, your drums being beaten, will
cry out;

And so shall you, being beaten: Do but start
An echo with the clamour of thy drum,
And even at hand a drum is ready brac'd,
That shall reverberate all as loud as thine;
Sound but another, and another shall,
As loud as thine, rattle the welkin's⁶ ear,
And mock the deep-mouth'd thunder; for at hand
(Nor trusting to this halting legate here,
Whom he hath us'd rather for sport than need,)
Is warlike John; and in his forehead sits
A bare-ribb'd death, whose office is this day
To feast upon whole thousands of the French.

1 Flee precipitately.

2 Rush upon.

3 Needles.

4 Bravado.

5 Clamourer.

6 Vault of heaven.

L. Strike up our drums to find this danger out.
Bast. And thou shall find it, Dauphin, do not
doubt. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—A FIELD OF BATTLE.

Alarums. Enter King John and Hubert.

K. John. How goes the day with us? O, tell
me, Hubert.

Hub. Badly, I fear: How fares your majesty?

K. John. This fever, that hath troubled me so
Lies heavy on me; O, my heart is sick! [long,

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, your valiant kinsman, Faul-
conbridge,

Desires your majesty to leave the field;

And send him word by me, which way you go.

K. John. Tell him toward Swinstead, to the
abbey there.

Mess. Be of good comfort; for the great supply
That was expected by the Dauphin here,
Are wreck'd three nights ago on Goodwin sands.
This news was brought to Richard but even now:
The French fight coldly, and retire themselves.

K. John. Ah me! this tyrant fever burns me up,
And will not let me welcome this good news.—
Set on toward Swinstead: to my litter straight:
Weakness possesseth me, and I am faint.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE SAME.

Enter Salisbury, Pembroke, Bigot, and others.

Sal. I did not think the king so stor'd with
friends.

Pem. Up once again; put spirit in the French;
If they miscarry, we miscarry too.

Sal. That misbegotten devil, Faulconbridge,
In spite of spite, alone upholds the day.

Pem. They say, King John, sore sick, hath
left the field.

Enter Melun wounded, and led by Soldiers.

Mel. Lead me to the revolts of England here.

Sal. When we were happy, we had other

Pem. It is the Count Melun. [names.]

Sal. Wounded to death.

Mel. Fly, noble English, you are bought and
Unthread the rude eye of rebellion, [sold];
And welcome home again discarded faith.

Seek out King John, and fall before his feet;
For if the French be lords of this loud day,
He¹ means to recompense the pains you take,
By cutting off your heads: Thus hath he sworn,
And I with him, and many more with me,
Upon the altar at St Edmund's Bury;
Even on that altar, where we swore to you
Dear amity and everlasting love.

Sal. May this be possible? may this be true?

Mel. Have I not hideous death within my view,
Retaining but a quantity of life;
Which bleeds away, even as a form of wax
Resolved from his figure 'gainst the fire²?
What in the world should make me now deceive,
Since I must lose the use of all deceit?

Why should I then be false, since it is true

1 Lewis. 2 Alluding to the images made by witches.

That I must die here, and live hence by truth?
 I say again, if Lewis do win the day,
 He is forsworn, if e'er those eyes of yours
 Behold another day break in the east:
 But even this night,—whose black contagious
 Already smokes about the burning crest [breath
 Of the old, feeble, and day-wearied sun,—
 Even this ill night your breathing shall expire;
 Paying the fine of rated treachery,
 Even with a treacherous fine of all your lives,
 If Lewis by your assistance win the day.
 Commend me to one Hubert, with your king;
 The love of him,—and this respect besides,
 For that my grandsire was an Englishman,—
 Awakes my conscience to confess all this.
 In lieu whereof, I pray you bear me hence
 From forth the noise and rumour of the field;
 Where I may think the remnant of my thoughts
 In peace, and part this body and my soul
 With contemplation and devout desires.

Sal. We do believe thee.—And beshrew my
 But I do love the favour and the form [soul
 Of this most fair occasion, by the which
 We will unthread the steps of this our flight;
 And, like a bated and retired flood,
 Leaving our rankness and irregular course,
 Stoop low within those bounds we have o'er-
 look'd,

And calmly run on in obedience,
 Even to our ocean, to our great king John.—
 My arm shall give thee help to bear thee thence;
 For I do see the cruel pangs of death [flight:
 Right in thine eye.—Away, my friends! New
 And happy newness,¹ that intends old right.

[*Exeunt, leading off Melun.*]

SCENE V.—THE FRENCH CAMP.

Enter Lewis and his Train.

Lew. The sun of heaven, methought, was loth
 to set;
 But stay'd and made the western welkin blush,
 When the English measur'd backward their own
 ground,
 In faint retire: O, bravely came we off,
 When with a volley of our needless shot,
 After such bloody toil we bid good night;
 And wound our tatter'd colours clearly up,
 Last in the field, and almost lords of it!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Where is my prince, the Dauphin?

Lew. Here:—What news?

Mess. The Count Melun is slain; the English
 By his persuasion, are again fall'n off: [lords,
 And your supply, which you have wish'd so long,
 Are cast away, and sunk, on Goodwin Sands.

L. Ah, foul shrewd news!—Beshrew thy very
 I did not think to be so sad to-night, [heart!
 As this hath made me.—Who was he, that said,
 King John did fly, an hour or two before
 The stumbling night did part our weary powers?

Mess. Whoever spoke it, it is true, my lord.

L. Well; keep good quarter, and good care
 The day shall not be up so soon as I, [to-night;
 To try the fair adventure of to-morrow. [*Exeunt.*

¹ Innovation.

SCENE VI.

AN OPEN PLACE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF
 SWINSTEAD ABBEY.

Enter the Bastard and Hubert meeting.

Hub. Who's there? speak, ho! speak quickly,
 or I shoot.

Bast. A friend:—What art thou?

Hub. Of the part of England.

Bast. Whither dost thou go?

H. What's that to thee? Why may not I do-
 mand

Of thine affairs, as well as thou of mine?

Bast. Hubert, I think.

Hub. Thou hast a perfect thought:
 I will upon all hazards, well believe
 Thou art my friend, that know'st my tongue so
 Who art thou? [well:

Bast. Who thou wilt: an if thou please,
 Thou mayst befriend me so much as to think
 I come one way of the Plantagenets. [night,

Hub. Unkind remembrance! thou, and eyeless
 Have done me shame:—Brave soldier, pardon me,
 That any accent, breaking from thy tongue,
 Should 'scape the true acquaintance of mine ear.

Bast. Come, come; sans¹ compliment, what
 news abroad?

Hub. Why, here walk I in the black brow of
 To find you out. [night,

Bast. Brief, then; and what's the news?

Hub. O, my sweet sir, news fitting to the night,
 Black, fearful, comfortless, and horrible.

Bast. Show me the very wound of this ill news;
 I am no woman, I'll not swoon at it.

Hub. The king, I fear, is poison'd by a monk:
 I left him almost speechless, and broke out
 To acquaint you with this evil; that you might,
 The better arm you to the sudden time
 Than if you had at leisure known of this.

Bast. How did he take it? who did taste to him?

Hub. A monk, I tell you, a resolved villain,
 Whose bowels suddenly burst out: the king
 Yet speaks, and, peradventure, may recover.

B. Who didst thou leave to tend his majesty?

Hub. Why, know you not? the lords are all
 come back,

And brought Prince Henry in their company;
 At whose request the king hath pardon'd them,
 And they are all about his majesty.

B. Withhold thine indignation, mighty heaven!
 And tempt us not to bear above our power!—

I'll tell thee, Hubert, half my power this night,
 Passing these flats, are taken by the tide,
 These Lincoln washes have devoured them;
 Myself, well mounted, hardly have escaped.
 Away, before, conduct me to the king;
 I doubt, he will be dead, or e'er I come.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.

THE ORCHARD OF SWINSTEAD ABBEY.

Enter Prince Henry, Salisbury, and Bigot.

P. Hen. It is too late; the life of all his blood
 Is touched corruptibly; and his pure brain,

¹ Without.

(Which some suppose the soul's frail dwelling-
Doth by the idle comments that it makes, [house],
Foretell the ending of mortality.)

Enter Pembroke.

P. His highness yet doth speak; and holds
That, being brought into the open air, [belief,
It would allay the burning quality
Of that fell poison which assaileth him. [here.—

P. Hen. Let him be brought into the orchard
Doth he still rage? [Exit Bigot.

Pem. He is more patient
Than when you left him; even now he sung.

P. Hen. O vanity of sickness! fierce extremes,
In their continuance will not feel themselves.
Death, having prey'd upon the outward parts,
Leaves them insensible; and his siege is now
Against the mind, the which he pricks and wounds
With many legions of strange fantasies;
Which, in their throng and press to that last hold,
Confound themselves. 'Tis strange, that death
should sing.—

I am the cygnet to this pale faint swan,
Who chants a doleful hymn to his own death;
And, from the organ-pipe of frailty, sings
His soul and body to their lasting rest.

Sal. Be of good comfort, prince; for you are born
To set a form upon that indigest
Which he hath left so shapeless and so rude.

*Re-enter Bigot and Attendants, who bring in
King John in a chair.*

K. J. Ay, marry, now my soul hath elbow-room;
It would not out at windows, nor at doors.
There is so hot a summer in my bosom,
That all my bowels crumble up to dust:
I am a scribbled form, drawn with a pen
Upon a parchment; and against this fire
Do I shrink up.

P. Hen. How fares your majesty?

K. John. Poison'd:—ill-fare;—dead, forsook,
cast off;

And none of you will bid the winter come,
To thrust his icy fingers in my maw;
Nor let my kingdom's rivers take their course
Through my burn'd bosom; nor entreat the north
To make his bleak winds kiss my parched lips,
And comfort me with cold:—I do not ask you
much,

I beg cold comfort, and you are so strait!
And so ingrateful, you deny me that.

P. Hen. O, that there were some virtue in my
That might relieve you! [tears,

K. John. The salt in them is hot.—
Within me is a hell; and there the poison
Is, as a fiend, confin'd to tyrannize
On unreprievable condemned blood.

Enter the Bastard.

Bast. O, I am scalded with my violent motion,
And spleen of speed to see your majesty.

K. J. O cousin, thou art come to set mine eye:
The tackle of mine heart is crack'd and burn'd;
And all the shrouds, wherewith my life should
Are turned to one thread, one little hair: [sail,
My heart hath one poor string to stay it by,
Which holds but till thy news be uttered;

1 Niggardly.

And then all this thou see'st, is but a clod,
And module¹ of confounded royalty.

Bast. The Dauphin is preparing hitherward;
Where heaven he knows how we shall answer
For, in a night, the best part of my power, [him:
As I upon advantage did remove,
Were in the washes, all unwarily,
Devoured by the unexpected flood.

[The King dies.

Sal. You breathe these dead news in as dead
an ear.— [thus.

My liege! my lord!—But now a king,—now

P. H. Even so must I run on, and even so stop.
What surety of the world, what hope, what stay,
When this was now a king, and now is clay!

Bast. Art thou gone so? I do but stay behind,
To do the office for thee of revenge;

And then my soul shall wait on thee to heaven,
As it on earth hath been thy servant still.—
Now, now, you stars, that move in your right
spheres, [faithis;

Where be your powers? Show now your mended
And instantly return with me again,

To push destruction, and perpetual shame,
Out of the weak door of our fainting land:

Straight let us seek, or straight we shall be
The Dauphin rages at our very heels. [sought;

S. It seems, you know not then so much as we;
The cardinal Pandolph is within at rest,

Who half an hour since came from the Dauphin;
And brings from him such offers of our peace

As we with honour and respect may take,
With purpose presently to leave this war.

Bast. He will the rather do it, when he sees
Ourselves well sinewed to our defence.

Sal. Nay, it is in a manner done already;

For many carriages he hath despatch'd
To the sea-side, and put his cause and quarrel

To the disposing of the cardinal;
With whom yourself, myself, and other lords,

If you think meet, this afternoon will post
To consummate this business happily.

B. Let it be so:—And you, my noble prince,
With other princes that may best be spar'd,

Shall wait upon your father's funeral.

P. H. At Worcester must his body be interr'd;
For so he will'd it.

Bast. Thither shall it then.
And happily may your sweet self put on

The lineal state and glory of the land!
To whom, with all submission, on my knee,

I do bequeath my faithful services
And true subjection everlastingly.

Sal. And the like tender of our love we make,
To rest without a spot for evermore.

P. Hen. I have a kind soul that would give
you thanks,

And knows not how to do it, but with tears.
Bast. O, let us pay the time but needful woe,

Since it hath been beforehand with our griefs.—
This England never did (nor never shall)

Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror,
But when it first did help to wound itself.

Now these her princes are come home again,
Come the three corners of the world in arms, [rue,
And we shall shock them: Nought shall make us
If England to itself do rest but true. [Exeunt.

1 Model.

The Life and Death of King Richard II.

Persons Represented.

KING RICHARD THE SECOND.

EDMUND OF LANGLEY, *Duke of York*; } *Uncles*
JOHN OF GAUNT, *Duke of Lancaster*; } *to the*
 } *King.*

HENRY, surnamed Bolingbroke, *Duke of Hereford, Son to John of Gaunt; afterwards K. Henry IV.*

DUKE OF AUMERLE, *Son to the Duke of York.*

MOWBRAY, *Duke of Norfolk.*

DUKE OF SURREY.

EARL OF SALISBURY. EARL BERKELEY.

BUSHY,

BAGOT, } *Creatures to King Richard.*
GREEN, }

EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

HENRY PERCY, *his Son.*

LORD ROSS. LORD WILLOUGHBY.

LORD FITZWATER.

BISHOP OF CARLISLE. ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER.

Lord Marshal; and another Lord.

SIR PIERCE OF EXTON. SIR STEPHEN SCROOP.

Captain of a Band of Welshmen.

QUEEN to King Richard.

DUCHESS OF GLOSTER.

DUCHESS OF YORK.

Lady attending on the Queen.

Lords, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, two Gardeners, Keeper, Messenger, Groom, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Dispersedly in England and Wales.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Richard, attended; John of Gaunt, and other Nobles, with him.

K. Rich. Old John of Gaunt, time-honour'd Lancaster,

Hast thou, according to thy oath and band,¹
Brought hither Henry Hereford, thy bold son;
Here to make good the boisterous late appeal,
Which then our leisure would not let us hear,
Against the Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?
Gaunt. I have, my liege.

K. Rich. Tell me, moreover, hast thou sounded him,

If he appeal the duke on ancient malice;
Or worthily as a good subject should,
On some known ground of treachery in him?

G. As near as I could sift him on that argument,—
On some apparent danger seen in him, [ment,—
Aim'd at your highness; no inveterate malice.

K. Rich. Then call them to our presence; face to face,

And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear
The accuser, and the accused, freely speak:

[*Exeunt some Attendants.*

High-stomach'd are they both, and full of ire,
In rage deaf as the sea, hasty as fire.

Re-enter Attendants, with Bolingbroke and Norfolk.

Boling. May many years of happy days befall
My gracious sovereign, my most loving liege!
Nor. Each day still better other's happiness:
Until the heavens, envying earth's good hap,
Add an immortal title to your crown!

K. Rich. We thank you both: yet one but flatters us,

As well appeareth by the cause you come;
Namely, to appeal each other of high treason.
Cousin of Hereford, what dost thou object
Against the duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray?

B. First, (heaven be the record to my speech!)
In the devotion of a subject's love,
Tendering the precious safety of my prince,
And free from other misbegotten hate,
Come I appellant to this princely presence.—
Now, Thomas Mowbray, do I turn to thee,
And mark my greeting well; for what I speak,
My body shall make good upon this earth,
Or my divine soul answer it in heaven.
Thou art a traitor, and a miscreant;
Too good to be so, and too bad to live:
Since, the more fair and crystal is the sky,
The uglier seem the clouds that in it fly.
Once more, the more to aggravate the note,
With a foul traitor's name stuff I thy throat;
And wish, (so please my sovereign,) ere I move
What my tongue speaks, my right-drawn sword
may prove.

N. Let not my cold words here accuse my zeal:
'Tis not the trial of a woman's war,
The bitter clamour of two eager tongues,
Can arbitrate this cause betwixt us twain:
The blood is hot, that must be cool'd for this,
Yet can I not of such tame patience boast,
As to be nush'd, and nought at all to say: [me
First, the fair reverence of your highness curbs
From giving reins and spurs to my free speech:
Which else would post, until it had return'd
These terms of treason doubled down his throat,
Setting aside his high blood's royalty,
And let him be no kinsman to my liege,
I do defy him, and I spit at him;
Call him—a slanderous coward, and a villain:
Which to maintain, I would allow him odds,
And meet him, were I tied to run a-foot
Even to the frozen ridges of the Alps,

Or any other ground inhabitable,¹
Where ever Englishman dost set his foot.
Mean time, let this defend my loyalty,—
By all my hopes, most falsely doth he lie.

Bol. Pale trembling coward, there I throw my
Disclaiming here the kindred of a king; [gage,
And lay aside my high blood's royalty,
Which fear, not reverence, makes thee to except:
If guilty dread hath left thee so much strength,
As to take up mine honour's pawn, then stoop;
By that, and all the rights of knighthood else,
Will I make good against thee, arm to arm,
What I have spoke, or thou canst worse devise.

Nor. I take it up; and, by that sword I swear,
Which gently laid my knighthood on my shoulder,
I'll answer thee in any fair degree, [der,
Or chivalrous design of knightly trial:
And, when I mount, alive may I not light,
If I be traitor, or unjustly fight! [charge?

K. R. What doth our cousin lay to Mowbray's
It must be great, that can inherit us
So much as of a thought of ill in him.

Bol. Look, what I speak my life shall prove
it true;— [nobles,

That Mowbray hath receiv'd eight thousand
In name of lendings for your highness' soldiers;
The which he hath detain'd for vile employments,
Like a false traitor, and injurious villain.

Besides, I say, and will in battle prove,—
Or here, or elsewhere, to the furthest verge
That ever was survey'd by English eye,—

That all the treasons, for these eighteen years
Complotted and contrived in this land, [spring.
Fetch from false Mowbray their first head and

Further I say,—and further will maintain
Upon his bad life, to make all this good,—
That he did plot the duke of Gloster's death;

Suggest his soon-believing adversaries;
And, consequently, like a traitor coward,
Slue'd out his innocent soul through streams of

Which blood, like sacrificing Abel's, cries [blood:
Even from the tongueless caverns of the earth,
To me, for justice, and rough chastisement;

And, by the glorious worth of my descent,
This arm shall do it, or this life be spent.

K. R. How high a pitch his resolution soars!—
Thomas of Norfolk, what say'st thou to this?

Nor. O, let my sovereign turn away his face,
And bid his ears a little while be deaf,
Till I have told this slander of his blood,

How God, and good men, hate so foul a liar.

K. Rich. Mowbray, impartial are our eyes,
and ears:

Were he my brother, nay, my kingdom's heir,
(As he is but my father's brother's son,)
Now by my scepter's awe I make a vow,

Such neighbour nearness to our sacred blood
Should nothing privilege him, nor partialize
The unstooping firmness of my upright soul;

He is our subject, Mowbray, so art thou;
Free speech, and fearless, I to thee allow.

Nor. Then, Bolingbroke, as low to thy heart,
Through the false passage of thy throat, thou liest!

Three parts of that receipt I had for Calais,
Disburs'd I duly to thy highness' soldiers;

The other part reserv'd I by consent;
For that my sovereign liege was in my debt,

¹ Uninhabitable.

Upon remainder of a dear account,
Since last I went to France to fetch his queen:
Now swallow down that lie.——For Gloster's
death,—

I slew him not; but to my own disgrace,
Neglected my sworn duty in that case,—

For you, my noble lord of Lancaster,
The honourable father to my foe,

Once did I lay in ambush for your life,
A trespass that doth vex my grieved soul,

But, ere I last receiv'd the sacrament,
I did confess it; and exactly begg'd

Your grace's pardon, and I hope, I had it.
This is my fault: As for the rest appeal'd,

It issues from the rancour of a villain,
A recreant and most degenerate traitor:

Which in myself I boldly will defend;
And interchangeably hurl down my gage

Upon this overweening traitor's foot,
To prove myself a loyal gentleman

Even in the best blood chamber'd in his bosom:
In haste whereof, most heartily I pray

Your highness to assign our trial day.

K. R. Wrath-kindled gentlemen, be rul'd by me;
Let's purge this choler without letting blood:

This we prescribe, though no physician;
Deep malice makes too deep incision:

Forget, forgive; conclude, and be agreed;
Our doctors say, this is no time to bleed.—

Good uncle, let this end where it begun;
We'll calm the duke of Norfolk, you your son.

Gau. To be a make-peace shall become my age:
Throw down, my son, the duke of Norfolk's gage.

K. Rich. And, Norfolk, throw down his.

Gaunt. When, Harry, when
Obedience bids, I should not bid again.

K. Rich. Norfolk, throw down; we bid; there
is no boot.¹

N. Myself I throw, dread sovereign, at thy foot:
My life thou shalt command, but not my shame:

The one my duty owes; but my fair name,
(Despite of death, that lives upon my grave,)
To dark dishonour's use thou shalt not have.

I am disgrac'd, impeach'd, and baffled here;
Pierc'd to the soul with slander's venom'd spear;

The which no balm can cure, but his heart-blood
Which breath'd this poison.

K. Rich. Rage must be withstood;
Give me his gage:—Lions make leopards tame.

Nor. Yea, but not change their spots: take
but my shame,

And I resign my gage. My dear dear lord,
The purest treasure mortal times afford,

Is—spotless reputation; that away,
Men are but gilded loam, or painted clay.

A jewel in a ten-times-barred-up chest
Is—a bold spirit in a loyal breast.

Mine honour is my life; both grow in one;
Take honour from me, and my life is done;

Then, dear my liege, mine honour let me try;
In that I live, and for that will I die. [begin.

K. R. Cousin, throw down your gage; do you
Bol. O, God defend my soul from such foul sin!

Shall I seem crest-fallen in my father's sight?
Or with pale beggar-fear impeach my height

Before this outard'd dastard? Ere my tongue
Shall wound mine honour with such feeble wrong,

¹ Advantage in delay.

Or sound so base a parle, my teeth shall tear
The slavish motive of recanting fear;
And spit it bleeding in his high disgrace,
Where shame doth harbour, even in Mowbray's
face. [Exit Gaunt.]

K. R. We were not born to sue, but to command:
Which since we cannot do to make you friends,
Be ready, as your lives shall answer it,
At Coventry, upon Saint Lambert's day;
There shall your swords and lances arbitrate
The swelling difference of your settled hate;
Since we cannot atone¹ you, we shall see
Justice design² the victor's chivalry.—
Marshal, command our officers at arms
Be ready to direct these home-alarms. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME. A ROOM IN THE DUKE
OF LANCASTER'S PALACE.

Enter Gaunt and Duchess of Gloster.

Gaunt. Alas! the part I had in Gloster's blood
Doth more solicit me, than your exclains,
To stir against the butchers of his life.
But since correction lieth in those hands,
Which made the fault that we cannot correct,
Put we our quarrel to the will of heaven;
Who when he sees the hours ripe on earth,
Will rain hot vengeance on offenders' heads.

Du. Finds brotherhood in thee no sharper spur?
Hath love in thy old blood no living fire?
Edward's seven sons, whereof thyself art one,
Were as seven phials of his sacred blood,
Or seven fair branches springing from one root:
Some of those seven are dried by nature's course,
Some of those branches by the destinies cut:
But Thomas, my dear lord, my life, my Gloster,—
One phial full of Edward's sacred blood,
One flourishing branch of his most royal root,—
Is crack'd, and all the precious liquor spilt;
Is hack'd down, and his summer leaves all faded,
By envy's hand, and murder's bloody axe.
Ah, Gaunt! his blood was thine; and though thou
liv'st,

Yet art thou slain in him: thou dost consent
In some large measure to thy father's death,
In that thou seest thy wretched brother die,
Who was the model of thy father's life.
Call it not patience, Gaunt, it is despair:
In suffering thus thy brother to be slaughter'd,
Thou show'st the naked pathway to thy life,
Teaching stern murder how to butcher thee:
That which in mean men we entitle—patience,
Is pale cold cowardice in noble breasts.
What shall I say? to safeguard thine own life,
The best way is—to 'venge my Gloster's death.

Gaunt. Heaven's is the quarrel; for heaven's
His deputy anointed in his sight, [substitute,
Hath caus'd his death: the which if wrongfully,
Let heaven revenge; for I may never lift
An angry arm against his minister.

D. Where then, alas! may I complain myself?
Gaunt. To heaven, the widow's champion and
defence.

Duch. Why then, I will. Farewell, old Gaunt.
Thou go'st to Coventry, there to behold
Our cousin Hereford and fell Mowbray fight:

¹ Reconcile.

² Show.

O, sit my husband's wrongs on Hereford's spear,
That it may enter butcher Mowbray's breast!
Or, if misfortune miss the first career,
Be Mowbray's sins so heavy in his bosom,
That they may break his foaming courser's back,
And throw the rider headlong in the lists,
A catiff recreant to my cousin Hereford!
Farewell, old Gaunt; thy sometimes brother's
wife,

With her companion grief must end her life.

Gaunt. Sister; farewell: I must to Coventry!
As much good stay with thee, as go with me!

Duch. Yet one word more;—Grief boundeth
where it falls,

Not with the empty hollowness, but weight;

I take my leave before I have begun;

For sorrow ends not when it seemeth done.

Commend me to my brother, Edmund York.

Lo, this is all;—Nay, yet depart not so:

Though this be all, do not so quickly go;

I shall remember more. Bid him—O, what?—

With all good speed at Plashy¹ visit me.

Alack, and what shall good old York there see,

But empty lodgings and unfurnished walls,

Unpeopled offices, untrodden stones? [groans]

And what cheer there for welcome, but my

Therefore commend me; let him not come there,

To seek out sorrow that dwells every where:

Desolate, desolate, will I hence, and die;

The last leave of thee takes my weeping eye.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

GOSFORD GREEN, NEAR COVENTRY.

*Lists set out, and a Throne. Herald, &c.,
attending.*

Enter the Lord Marshal, and Aumerle.

M. My lord Aumerle, is Harry Hereford arm'd?

Aum. Yea, at all points: and longs to enter in!

Mar. The duke of Norfolk, sprightly and

bold, [trumpet.

Stays but the summons of the appellant's

Aum. Why, then the champions are prepar'd,

and stay

For nothing but his majesty's approach.

*Flourish of Trumpets. Enter King Richard,
who takes his seat on his throne; Gaunt, and
several Noblemen, who take their places. A
trumpet is sounded, and answered by another
trumpet within. Then enter Norfolk, in
armour, preceded by a Herald.*

K. Rich. Marshal, demand of yonder champion
The cause of his arrival here in arms:

Ask him his name; and orderly proceed

To swear him in the justice of his cause.

Mar. In God's name, and the king's, say who
thou art,

And why thou com'st, thus knightly clad in arms:
Against what man thou com'st, and what thy
quarrel:

Speak truly, on thy knighthood, and thy oath;
And so defend thee heaven, and thy valour!

Nor. My name is Thomas Mowbray, duke of
Norfolk;

Who hither come engaged by my oath,

¹ In Essex.

(Which, heaven defend, a knight should violate!)
Both to defend my loyalty and truth,
To God, my king, and my succeeding issue,
Against the duke of Hereford that appeals me:
And, by the grace of God, and this mine arm,
To prove him, in defending of myself,
A traitor to my God, my king, and me:
And, as I truly fight, defend me heaven!

[He takes his seat.]

*Trumpet sounds. Enter Bolingbroke, in armour;
preceded by a Herald.*

K. Rich. Marshal, ask yonder knight in arms,
Both who he is, and why he cometh hither
Thus plated in habiliments of war;
And formally according to our law
Depose him in the justice of his cause.

Mar. What is thy name? and wherefore com'st
thou hither,

Before king Richard, in his royal lists?
Against whom comest thou? and what's thy
quarrel?

Speak like a true knight, so defend thee heaven!

Bol. Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,
Am I; who ready here do stand in arms,
To prove by heaven's grace, and my body's valour,
In lists, on Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk,
That he's a traitor, foul and dangerous,
To God of heaven, King Richard, and to me:
And, as I truly fight, defend me heaven!

Mar. On pain of death, no person be so bold,
Or daring-hardy, as to touch the lists;
Except the marshal, and such officers,
Appointed to direct these fair designs.

Boling. Lord Marshal, let me kiss my sove-
reign's hand,

And bow my knee before his majesty:
For Mowbray, and myself, are like two men
That vow a long and weary pilgrimage;
Then let us take a ceremonious leave,
And loving farewell, of our several friends.

Mar. The appellant in all duty greets your
highness,

And craves to kiss your hand, and take his leave.

K. Rich. We will descend, and fold him in our
arms.

Cousin of Hereford, as thy cause is right,
So be thy fortune in this royal fight!
Farewell, my blood; which if to-day thou shed,
Lament we may, but not revenge thee dead.

Boling. O, let no noble eye profane a tear
For me, if I be gored with Mowbray's spear;
As confident, as is the falcon's flight
Against a bird, do I with Mowbray fight.—
My loving lord, [To Lord Marshal.] I take my
leave of you;—

Of you, my noble cousin, lord Aumerle;—
Not sick, although I have to do with death;
But lusty, young, and cheerly drawing breath.—
Lo, as at English feasts, so I regret
The daintiest last, to make the end most sweet:

[To Gaunt.] O thou, the earthly author of my
blood,—

Whose youthful spirit, in me regenerate,
Doth with a two-fold vigour lift me up
To reach at victory above my head,—
Add proof unto mine armour with thy prayers;
And with thy blessings steel my lance's point,

That it may enter Mowbray's waxen coat,
And furbish new the name of John of Gaunt,
Even in the lusty 'haviour of his son.

Gaunt. Heaven in thy good cause make thee
prosperous!

Be swift like lightning in the execution:
And let thy blows, doubly redoubled,
Fall like amazing thunder on the casque
Of thy adverse pernicious enemy:
Rouse up thy youthful blood, be valiant, and live.

Boling. Mine innocency, and Saint George to
thrive! [He takes his seat.]

Nor. [Rising.] However heaven, or fortune,
cast my lot,

There lives or dies, true to King Richard's
A loyal, just, and upright gentleman: [throne,
Never did captive with a freer heart

Cast off his chains of bondage, and embrace
His golden uncontroll'd enfranchisement,
More than my dancing soul doth celebrate
This feast of battle with mine adversary.—

Most mighty liege,—and my companion peers,—
Take from my mouth the wish of happy years:
As gentle and as jocund, as to jest,
Go I to fight; Truth hath a quiet breast.

K. Rich. Farewell, my lord: securely I espy
Virtue with valour couched in thine eye.—
Order the trial, marshal, and begin.

[The King and the Lords return to their seats.]

Mar. Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,
Receive thy lance; and God defend the right!

Boling. [Rising.] Strong as a tower in hope,
I cry—amen.

Mar. [To an Officer.] Go bear this lance to
Thomas duke of Norfolk. [Derby,

1 *Her.* Harry of Hereford, Lancaster, and
Stands here for God, his sovereign, and himself,
On pain to be found false and recreant,
To prove the duke of Norfolk, Thomas Mowbray,
A traitor to his God, his king, and him,
And dares him to set forward to the fight.

2 *Her.* Here standeth Thomas Mowbray, duke
of Norfolk,

On pain to be found false and recreant,
Both to defend himself, and to approve
Henry of Hereford, Lancaster, and Derby,
To God, his sovereign, and to him disloyal;
Courageously, and with a free desire,
Attending but the signal to begin.

Mar. Sound trumpets; and set forward, com-
batants. [A charge sounded.]

Stay, the king hath thrown his warden down.

K. Rich. Let them lay by their helmets and
their spears,

And both return back to their chairs again:—
Withdraw with us:—and let the trumpets sound,
While we return these dukes what we decree.—

[A long flourish.]

[To the Combatants.] Draw near,
And list, what with our council we have done,
For that our kingdom's earth should not besoil'd
With that dear blood which it hath fostered;
And for our eyes do hate the dire aspect [swords;
Of civil wounds plough'd up with neighbours'
(And for we think the eagle-wing'd pride
Of sky-aspiring and ambitious thoughts,
With rival-hating envy, set you on

1 Truncheon.

To wake our peace, which in our country's cradle
Draws the sweet infant breath of gentle sleep;)
Which so rous'd up, with 'boisterous untun'd
drums,

With harsh resounding trumpets' dreadful bray,
And grating shock of wrathful iron arms,
Might from our quiet confines fright fair peace,
And make us wade even in our kindred's blood;—
Therefore we banish you our territories:—
You, cousin Hereford, upon pain of death,
Till twice five summers have enrich'd our fields,
Shall not regret our fair dominions,
But tread the stranger paths of banishment.

Boling. Your will be done: This must my
comfort be,——

That sun that warms you here, shall shine on me;
And those his golden beams, to you here lent,
Shall point on me, and gild my banishment.

K. R. Norfolk, for thee remains a heavier doom,
Which I with some unwillingness pronounce:
The fly-hour hours shall not determinate
The dateless limit of thy dear exile;—
The hopeless word of—never to return
Breathe I against thee, upon pain of life.

Nor. A heavy sentence, my most sovereign liege,
And all unlook'd for from your highness' mouth:
A dearer merit, not so deep a main
As to be cast forth in the common air,
Have I deserved at your highness' hand.
The language I have learn'd these forty years,
My native English, now I must forego.
And now my tongue's use is to me no more,
Than an unstringed viol or a harp;
Or, like a cunning instrument cas'd up,
Or, being open, put into his hands
That knows no touch to tune the harmony.
Within my mouth you have engao'd my tongue,
Doubly portcullis'd, with my teeth, and lips;
And dull, unfeeling barren ignorance
Is made my gaoler to attend on me.
I am too old to fawn upon a nurse,
Too far in years to be a pupil now;
What is thy sentence, then, but speechless death,
Which robs my tongue from breathing native
breath?

K. Ric. It boots thee not to be compassionate;
After our sentence, plaining comes too late.

Nor. [*Retiring.*] Then thus, I turn me from my
country's light,

To dwell in solemn shades of endless night.

K. R. Return again, and take an oath with thee.
Lay on our royal sword your banish'd hands;
Swear by the duty that you owe to heaven
(Our part therein we banish with yourselves,)
To keep the oath that we administer:—
You never shall (so help you truth and heaven!)
Embrace each other's love in banishment;
Nor never look upon each other's face;
Nor never write, regret, nor reconcile
This lowering tempest of your home-bred hate;
Nor never by advised purpose meet,
To plot, contrive, or complot any ill,
'Gainst us, our state, our subjects, or our land.

Boling. I swear.

Nor. And I, to keep all this.

Boling. Norfolk, so far as to mine enemy;—
By this time, had the king permitted us,
One of our souls had wander'd in the air,

Banish'd this frail sepulchre of our flesh,
As now our flesh is banish'd from this land:
Confess thy treasons, ere thou fly the realm;
Since thou hast far to go, bear not along
The clogging burden of a guilty soul.

Nor. No, Bolingbroke; If ever I were a traitor,
My name be blotted from the book of life,
And I from heaven banish'd as from hence!
But what thou art, heaven, thou, and I do know;
And all too soon, I fear, the king shall rue.—
Farewell, my liege:—Now no way can I stray;
Save back to England, all the world's my way:

[*Exit.*]

K. Ric. Uncle, even in the glasses of thine eyes
I see thy grieved heart, thy sad aspect
Hath from the number of his banish'd years
Pluck'd four away;—Six frozen winters spent,
Return [*To Boling.*] with welcome home from
banishment.

Boling. How long a time lies in one little word!
Four lagging winters, and four wanton springs,
End in a word; such is the breath of kings.

Gaunt. I thank my liege, that in regard of me,
He shortens four years of my son's exile:
But little vantage shall I reap thereby;
For, ere the six years that he hath to spend,
Can change their moons, and bring their times
about,

My oil-dried lamp, and time bewasted light,
Shall be extinct with age, and endless night;
My inch of taper will be burnt and done,
And blindfold death not let me see my son.

K. R. Why, uncle, thou hast many years to live.

G. But not a minute, king, that thou canst give:
Shorten my days thou canst with sullen sorrow,
And pluck nights from me, but not lend a
morrow.

Thou canst help time to furrow me with age,
But stop no wrinkle in his pilgrimage;
Thy word, is current with him for my death;
But, dead, thy kingdom cannot buy my breath.

K. Ric. Thy son is banish'd upon good advice;
Whereto thy tongue a party¹ verdict gave;
Why at our justice seem'st thou then to lower?

Gaunt. Things sweet to taste, prove in diges-
tion sour.

You urg'd me as a judge; but I had rather,
You would have bid me argue like a father:—
O, had it been a stranger, not my child,
To smooth his fault, I should have been more
A partial² slanderer sought I to avoid, [mild;
And in the sentence my own life destroy'd.
Alas, I look'd, when some of you should say,
I was too strict, to make mine own away;
But you gave leave to my unwilling tongue,
Against my will to do myself this wrong.

K. R. Cousin, farewell:—and, uncle, bid him so,
Six years we banish him, and he shall go.

[*Flourish.* *Exeunt King Richard and Train.*]

Aum. Cousin, farewell: what presence must
not know,
From where you do remain let paper show.

Mar. My lord, no leave take I; for I will ride,
As far as land will let me, by your side. [words,
G. O, to what purpose dost thou hoard thy
That thou return'st no greeting to thy friends?

Bol. I have too few to take my leave of you,

When the tongue's office should be prodigal
To breathe the abundant dolour of the heart.
G. Thy grief is but thy absence for a time.
Bol. Joy absent, grief is present for that time.
G. What is six winters? they are quickly gone.
Boling. To men in joy: but grief makes one hour ten.

G. Call it a travel that thou tak'st for pleasure.
Bol. My heart will sigh when I miscall it so,
Which finds it an enforced pilgrimage.

Gaunt. The sullen passage of thy weary steps
Esteem a foil, wherein thou art to set
The precious jewel of thy home-return.

Bol. Nay, rather, every tedious stride I make
Will but remember me what a deal of world
I wander from the jewels that I love.
Must I not serve a long apprenticeship
To foreign passages, and in the end,
Having my freedom, boast of nothing else,
But that I was a journeyman to grief?

Gaunt. All places that the eye of heaven visits,
Are to a wise man ports and happy havens:
Teach thy necessity to reason thus;
There is no virtue like necessity.
Think not, the king did banish thee;
But thou the king: Woe doth the heavier sit,
Where it perceives it is but faintly borne.
Go, say—I sent thee forth to purchase honour,
And not—the king exil'd thee: or suppose,
Devouring pestilence hangs in our air,
And thou art flying to a fresher clime.
Look, what thy soul holds dear, imagine it
To lie that way thou go'st, not whence thou
com'st:

Suppose the singing birds, musicians; [strew'd;
The grass whereon thou tread'st, the presence¹
The flowers, fair ladies; and thy steps no more
Than a delightful measure or a dance:
For gnarling² sorrow hath less power to bite
The man that mocks at it, and sets it light.

Boling. O, who can hold a fire in his hand,
By thinking on the frosty Caucasus?
Or cloy the hungry edge of appetite,
By bare imagination of a feast?
Or wallow naked in December snow,
By thinking on fantastick summer's heat?
O, no, the apprehension of the good,
Gives but the greater feeling to the worse:
Fell sorrow's tooth doth never rankle more,
Than when it bites, but lanceth not the sore.

Gaunt. Come, come, my son, I'll bring thee
on thy way:

Had I thy youth, and cause, I would not stay.

Bol. Then, England's ground, farewell; sweet
soil, adieu;

My mother, and my nurse, that bears me yet!
Where-e'er I wander, boast of this I can,—
Though banished, yet a trueborn Englishman.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

THE SAME. A ROOM IN THE KING'S CASTLE.

Enter King Richard, Bagot, and Green;
Aumerle following.

K. Rich. We did observe.—Cousin Aumerle,
How far brought you high Hereford on his way?
A. I brought high Hereford, if you call him so,

¹ Presence chamber.

² Growling.

But to the next high way, and there I left him.
K. Rich. And, say, what store of parting tears
were shed? [wind,

A. Faith, none by me: except the north-east
Which then blew bitterly against our faces,
Awak'd the sleeping rheum; and so, by chance,
Did grace our hollow parting with a tear.

K. R. What said our cousin, when you parted
Aum. Farewell: [with him?

And, for my heart disdain'd that my tongue
Should so profane the word, that taught me craft
To counterfeit oppression of such grief,
That words seem'd buried in my sorrow's grave.
Marry, would the word farewell have lengthen'd
And added years to his short banishment, [hours,
He should have had a volume of farewells;
But, since it would not, he had none of me.

K. R. He is our cousin, cousin; but 'tis doubt,
When time shall call him home from banish-
ment,

Whether our kinsman come to see his friends.
Ourselves, and Bushy, Bagot here, and Green,
Observ'd his courtship to the common people:—
How he did seem to dive into their hearts,
With humble and familiar courtesy;
What reverence he did throw away on slaves;
 wooing poor craftsmen, with the craft of smiles,
And patient underbearing of his fortune,
As 'twere to banish their affects with him.
Off goes his bonnet to an oyster-wench;
A brace of draymen bid—God speed him well,
And had the tribute of his supple knee,
With—Thanks, my countrymen, my loving
As were our England in reversion his, [friends;
And he our subjects' next degree in hope.

Green. Well, he is gone; and with him go
these thoughts.

Now for the rebels, which stand out in Ireland;—
Expedient manage must be made, my liege;
Ere further leisure yield them further means,
For their advantage, and your highness' loss.

K. R. We will ourselves in person to this war.
And, for¹ our coffers—with too great a court,
And liberal largess—are grown somewhat light,
We are enforc'd to farm our royal realm;
The revenue whereof shall furnish us
For our affairs in hand: If that come short,
Our substitutes at home shall have blank
charters; [rich,

Whereto, when they shall know what men are
They shall subscribe them for largesums of gold,
And send them after to supply our wants;
For we will make for Ireland presently.

Enter Bushy.

Bushy, what news? [lord;
B. Old John of Gaunt is grievous sick, my
Suddenly taken; and hath sent post-haste,
To entreat your majesty to visit him.

K. Rich. Where lies he?

Bushy. At Ely house.

K. Rich. Now put it, heaven, in his physician's
To help him to his grave immediately! [mind,
The lining of his coffers shall make coats
To deck our soldiers for these Irish wars.—
Come, gentlemen, let's all go visit him:
Pray heaven, we may make haste, and come
too late! [*Exeunt.*

¹ Because.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A ROOM IN ELY HOUSE.

Gaunt on a Couch; the Duke of York, and others standing by him.

Gaunt. Will the king come? that I may breathe my last

In wholesome counsel to his unstayed youth.

Yor. Vex not yourself, nor strive not with your For all in vain comes counsel to his ear. [breath;

Gau. O, but they say, the tongues of dying men Enforce attention, like deep harmony: [vain: Where words are scarce, they are seldom spent in For they breathe truth, that breathe their words in pain.

He, that no more must say, is listen'd more

Than they whom youth and ease have taught to glose!;

More are men's ends mark'd, than their lives

The setting sun, and musick at the close,

As the last taste of sweets, is sweetest last;

Writ in remembrance, more than things long past:

Though Richard my life's counsel would not My death's sad tale may yet undeaf his ear.

Y. No; it is stopp'd with other flattering sounds,

As, praises of his state: then, there are found

Lascivious metres: to whose venom sound

The open ear of youth doth always listen:

Report of fashions in proud Italy;

Whose manners still our tardy apish nation

Limps after, in base imitation,

Where doth the world thrust forth a vanity,

(So it be new, there's no respect how vile)

That is not quickly buzz'd into his ears?

Then all too late comes counsel to be heard

Where will doth mutiny with wit's regard.

Direct not him, whose way himself will choose;

'Tis breath thou lack'st, and that breath wilt

thou lose.

Gaunt. Methinks I am a prophet new inspir'd;

And thus, expiring, do foretell of him:

His rash fierce blaze of riot cannot last:

For violent fires soon burn out themselves:

Small showers last long, but sudden storms are

short;

He tires betimes, that spurs too fast betimes;

With eager feeding, food doth choke the feeder:

Light vanity, insatiate cormorant,

Consuming means, soon preys upon itself.

This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,

This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,

This other Eden, demi-paradise;

This fortress, built by nature for herself,

Against infection, and the hand of war;

This happy breed of men, this little world;

This precious stone set in the silver sea,

Which serves it in the office of a wall,

Or as a moat defensive to a house,

Against the envy of less happier lands;

[land, This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this Eng-

This nurse, this teeming womb of royal kings,

Fear'd by their breed, and famous by their birth,

Renowned for their deeds as far from home,

(For Christian service, and true chivalry)

As is the sepulchre in stubborn Jewry,

1 Flatter.

Of the world's ransom, blessed Mary's son:
This land of such dear souls, this dear dear land,
Dear for her reputation through the world,
Is now leas'd out (I die pronouncing it),
Like to a tenement or pelting¹ farm:
England, bound in with the triumphant sea,
Whose rocky shore beats back the envious siege
Of watery Neptune, is now bound in with shame,
With inky blots, and rotten parchment bonds;
That England, that was wont to conquer others,
Hath made a shameful conquest of itself:
O, would the scandal vanish with my life,
How happy then were my ensuing death!

Enter King Richard, and Queen; Aumerle, Bushy, Green, Bagot, Ross, and Willoughby.

Yor. The king is come: deal mildly with his youth;

For young hot colts, being rag'd, do rage the more.

Queen. How fares our noble uncle, Lancaster?

K. Rich. What comfort, man? How is't with aged Gaunt?

Gau. O, how that name befits my composi-

Old Gaunt, indeed; and gaunt² in being old:

Within me grief hath kept a tedious fast;

And who abstains from meat, that is not gaunt?

For sleeping England long time have I watch'd;

Watching breeds leanness, leanness is all gaunt:

The pleasure that some fathers feed upon,

Is my strict fast, I mean—my children's looks;

And, therein fasting, hast thou made me gaunt:

Gaunt am I for the grave, gaunt as a grave,

Whose hollow womb inherits nought but bones.

K. Rich. Can sick men play so nicely with their

names?

Gaunt. No, misery makes sport to mock itself:

Since thou dost seek to kill my name in me,

I mock my name, great king, to flatter thee.

K. Rich. Should dying men flatter with those

that live?

Gau. No, no; men living flatter those that die.

K. Rich. Thou, now a dying, say'st—thou flat-

ter'st me.

Gau. Oh! no; thou diest, though I the sicker be.

K. Ri. I am in health, I breathe, and see thee ill.

Gau. Now, He that made me, knows I see thee

ill in myself to see, and in thee seeing ill, [ill:]

Thy death-bed is no lesser than the land,

Wherein thou liest in reputation sick:

And thou, too careless patient as thou art,

Commit'st thy anointed body to the cure

Of those physicians that first wounded thee:

A thousand flatterers sit within thy crown,

Whose compass is no bigger than thy head;

And yet, incaged in so small a verge,

The waste is no whit lesser than thy land.

O, had thy grandsire, with a prophet's eye,

Seen how his son's son should destroy his sons,

From forth thy reach he would have laid thy

shame;

Deposing thee before thou wert possess'd,

Which art possess'd now to depose thyself.

Why, cousin, wert thou regent of the world,

It were a shame to let this land by lease:

But, for thy world, enjoying but this land,

Is it not more than shame, to shame it so?

Landlord of England art thou now, not king:

1 Faltry.

2 Lean, thin.

Thy state of law is bond-slave to the law;
And thou——

K. Rich.——a lunatick lean-witted fool,
Presuming on an ague's privilege,
Dar'st with thy frozen admonition
Make pale our cheek; chasing the royal blood,
With fury, from his native residence.
Now by my seat's right royal majesty,
Wert thou not brother to great Edward's son,
This tongue that runs so roundly in thy head,
Should run thy head from thy unreverend
shoulders.

G. O. spare me not, my brother Edward's son,
For that I was his father Edward's son;
That blood already, like the pelican,
Hast thou tapp'd out, and drunkenly carous'd:
My brother Gloster, plain well-meaning soul,
(Whom fair befall in heaven 'mongst happy
May be a precedent and witness good, [souls!])
That thou respect'st not spilling Edward's blood:
Join with the present sickness that I have;
And thy unkindness be like crooked age,
To crop at once a too-long wither'd flower.
Live in thy shame, but die not shame with thee!—
These words hereafter thy tormentors be,—
Convey me to my bed, then to my grave:
Love they to live, that love and honour have.

[*Exit, borne out by his Attendants.*]

K. Rich. And let them die, that age and
sullens have;

For both hast thou, and both become the grave.

York. 'Beseech your majesty, impute his words
To wayward sickliness and age in him:

He loves you, on my life, and holds you dear
As Harry duke of Hereford, were he here.

K. Rich. Right; you say true; as Hereford's
love, so his:

As theirs, so mine; and all be as it is.

Enter Northumberland.

North. My liege, old Gaunt commends him
to your majesty.

K. Rich. What says he now?

North. Nay, nothing; all is said:
His tongue is now a stringless instrument;
Words, life, and all old Lancaster hath spent.

Y. Be York the next that must be bankrupt so!
Though death be poor, it ends a mortal woe.

K. Rich. The ripest fruit first falls, and so doth
His time is spent, our pilgrimage must be: [he;
So much for that.——Now for our Irish wars:
We must supplant those rough rug-headed
kerns!;

Which live like venom, where no venom else,
But only they, hath privilege to live.

And for these great affairs do ask some charge,
Towards our assistance, we do seize to us

The plate, coin, revenues, and moveables,
Whereof our uncle Gaunt did stand possess'd.

Y. How long shall I be patient? Ah, how long
Shall tender duty make me suffer wrong?
Not Gloster's death, nor Hereford's banishment,
Not Gaunt's rebukes, nor England's private
Nor the prevention of poor Bolingbroke [wrongs,
About his marriage, nor my own disgrace,
Have ever made me sour my patient cheek,
Or bend one wrinkle on my sovereign's face.—

1 Raw common soldiers.

I am the last of noble Edward's sons,
Of whom thy father, prince of Wales, was first;
In war, was never lion rag'd more fierce,
In peace was never gentle lamb more mild,
Than was that young and princely gentleman;
His face thou hast, for even so look'd he,
Accomplish'd with the number of thy hours;
But, when he frown'd, it was against the French,
And not against his friends; his noble hand
Did win what he did spend, and spent not that
Which his triumphant father's hand had won:
His hands were guilty of no kindred's blood,
But bloody with the enemies of his kin.
O, Richard! York is too far gone with grief,
Or else he never would compare between.

K. Rich. Why, uncle, what's the matter?
York. O, my liege,

Pardon me if you please; if not, I, pleas'd
Not to be pardon'd, am content withal.
Seek you to seize, and gripe into your hands,
The royalties and rights of banish'd Hereford?
Is not Gaunt dead? and doth not Hereford live?
Was not Gaunt just? and is not Harry true?
Did not the one deserve to have an heir?
Is not his heir a well-deserving son?
Take Hereford's rights away, and take from time
His charters, and his customary rights;
Let not to-morrow then ensue to-day;
Be not thyself, for how art thou a king,
But by fair sequence and succession?
If you do wrongfully seize Hereford's rights,
Call in the letters patent that he hath
By his attorneys-general to sue
His livery,¹ and deny his offer'd homage,
You pluck a thousand dangers on your head,
You lose a thousand well-disposed hearts,
And prick my tender patience to those thoughts
Which honour and allegiance cannot think.

K. Rich. Think what you will; we seize into
our hands

His plate, his goods, his money, and his lands.
York. I'll not be by, the while: My liege,
farewell:

What will ensue hereof, there's none can tell;
But by bad courses may be understood,
That their events can never fall out good. [*Exit.*]

K. Rich. Go, Bushy, to the earl of Wiltshire
Bid him repair to us to Ely House, [straight;
To see this business: To-morrow next
We will for Ireland; and 'tis time, I trow;
And we create, in absence of ourself,
Our uncle York lord governor of England,
For he is just and always lov'd us well.—
Come on, our queen: to-morrow must we part;
Bemerry, for our time of stay is short. [*Flourish.*]

[*Exeunt King, Queen, Bushy, Aumerle,
Green, and Bagot.*]

N. Well, lords, the duke of Lancaster is dead.
Ross. And living too; for now his son is duke.
Will. Barely in title, not in revenue.

North. Richly in both, if justice had her right.
Ross. M, heart is great; but it must break
with silence,

Ere't be disburden'd with a liberal tongue.

North. Nay, speak thy mind; and let him
ne'er speak more,

That speaks thy words again, to do thee harm!

1 Claim for possession.

Will. Tends that thou'dst speak to the duke of Hereford?

If it be so, out with it boldly, man;

Quick is mine ear to hear of good towards him.

Ross. No good at all, that I can do for him.

Unless you call it good to pity him,

Strip and bereft of all his patrimony.

North. Now, afore heaven, 'tis shame, such wrongs are borne,

In him a royal prince, and many more

Of noble blood in this declining land.

The king is not himself, but basely led

By flatterers; and what they will inform,

Merely in hate, 'gainst any of us all,

That will the king severely prosecute

'Gainst us, our lives, our children, and our heirs.

Ross. The commons hath he pill'd¹ with grievous taxes,

And lost their hearts: the nobles hath he fin'd² For ancient quarrels, and quite lost their hearts.

Will. And daily new exactions are devis'd;

As blanks, benevolences, and I wot not what:

But what, in heaven's name, doth become of this?

N. Wars have not wasted it, for warr'd he hath

But basely yielded upon compromise [not,

That which his ancestors achiev'd with blows:

More hath he spent in peace, than they in wars.

Ross. The earl of Wiltshire hath the realm in farm. [man.

Will. The king's gown bankrupt, like a broken

N. Reproach, and dissolution, hangeth over him.

Ross. He hath not money for these Irish wars, His burdensome taxations notwithstanding,

But by the robbing of the banish'd duke.

N. His noble kinsman: most degenerate king!

But, lords, we hear this fearful tempest sing,

Yet seek no shelter to avoid the storm:

We see the wind sit sore upon our sails,

And yet we strike not, but securely perish.

R. We see the very wreck that we must suf-

fer; And unavoids is the danger now, [fer;

For suffering so the causes of our wreck.

North. Notso; even through the hollow eyes of

I spy life peering; but I dare not say [death,

How near the tidings of our comfort is.

Will. Nay, let us share thy thoughts, as thou dost ours.

Ross. Be confident to speak, Northumberland: We three are but thyself; and, speaking so,

Thy words are but as thoughts; therefore be bold.

N. Then thus:—I have from Port le Blanc, a

In Brittany, receiv'd intelligence, [bay

That Harry Hereford, Reignold lord Cobham,

[The son of Richard earl of Arundel,]

That late broke from the duke of Exeter,

His brother, archbishop late of Canterbury,

Sir Thomas Erpingham, Sir John Ramston,

Sir John Norbery, Sir Robert Waterton, and

Francis Quint,—

All these well furnish'd by the duke of Bretagne,

With eight tall² ships, three thousand men of war,

Are making hither with all due expedition,³

And shortly mean to touch our northern shore:

Perhaps, they had ere this; but that they stay

The first departing of the king for Ireland.

If then, we shall shake off our slavish yoke,

1 Pillaged, 2 Stout, 3 Expedition.

Imp¹ out our drooping country's broken wing, Redeem from broking pawn the blemish'd crown,

Wipe off the dust that hides our sceptre's gilt,

And make high majesty look itself,

Away, with me, in post to Ravenspur:

But if you faint, as fearing to do so,

Stay, and be secret, and myself will go.

Ross. To horse, to horse! urge doubts to them that fear.

Will. Hold out my horse, and I will first be there. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

THE SAME. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Queen, Bushy, and Bagot.

Bushy. Madam, your majesty is too much sad:

You promis'd¹ me, when you parted with the king,

To lay aside life-harming heaviness,

And entertain a cheerful disposition.

Q. To please the king, I did; to please myself,

I cannot do it; yet I know no cause

Why I should welcome such a guest as grief,

Save bidding farewell to so sweet a guest

As my sweet Richard: Yet, again, methinks,

Some unborn sorrow, ripe in fortune's womb,

Is coming towards me; and my inward soul

With nothing trembles: at something it grieves,

More than with parting from my lord the king.

Bushy. Each substance of a grief hath twenty shadows,

Which show like grief itself, but are not so:

For sorrow's eye, glazed with blinding tears,

Divides one thing entire to many objects;

Like perspectives,² which, rightly gaz'd upon,

Show nothing but confusion; ey'd awry,

Distinguish form: so your sweet majesty,

Looking awry upon your lord's departure,

Finds shapes of grief, more than himself to wail:

Which, look'd on as it is, is nought but shadows

Of what it is not. Then, thrice-gracious queen,

More than your lord's departure weep not;

more's not seen:

Or if it be, 'tis with false sorrow's eye,

Which, for things true, weeps things imaginary.

Queen. It may be so; but yet my inward soul

Persuades me, it is otherwise: Howe'er it be,

I cannot but be sad; so heavy sad,

As, though, in thinking on no thought I think,—

Makes me with heavy nothing faint and shrink.

B. 'Tis nothing but conceit,³ my gracious lady.

Queen. 'Tis nothing less: conceit is still deriv'd

From some forefather grief; mine is not so;

For nothing hath begot my something grief;

Or something hath the nothing that I grieve:

'Tis in reversion that I do possess;

But what it is, that is not yet known; what

I cannot name; 'tis nameless woe, I wot.⁴

Enter Green.

Green. Heaven save your majesty!—and well met, gentlemen:—

I hope, the king is not yet shipp'd for Ireland.

Q. Why hop'st thou so? 'tis better hope, he is.

For his designs crave haste, his haste good hope;

Then wherefore dost thou hope, he is not shipp'd?

1 Supply with new feathers.
2 Pictures on an indented board, which only show the picture correctly when looked at obliquely.
3 Mere fancy.

4 Know.

Green. That he, our hope, might have retir'd
his power,
And driven into despair an enemy's hope,
Who strongly hath set footing in this land:
The banish'd Bolingbroke repeals himself,
And with uplifted arms is safe arriv'd
At Ravenspurg.

Queen. Now God in heaven forbid!

Green. O, madam, 'tis too true: and that is
worse,— [Percy,

The lord Northumberland, his youngson Henry
The lords of Ross, Beaumont, and Willoughby,
With all their powerful friends, are fled to him.

Bu. Why have you not proclaim'd Northumber-
And all the rest of the revolting faction [land,
Traitors?

Green. We have: whereon the earl of Worcester
Hath broke his staff, resign'd his stewardship,
And all the household servants fled with him
To Bolingbroke.

Q. So, Green, thou art the midwife to my woe,
And Bolingbroke my sorrow's dismal heir:
Now hath my soul brought forth her prodigy;
And I, a gasping new-deliver'd mother,
Have woe to woe, sorrow to sorrow join'd.

Bushy. Despair not, madam.

Queen. Who shall hinder me?

I will despair, and be at enmity
With cozening¹ hope: he is a flatterer,
A parasite, a keeper-back of death,
Who gently would dissolve the bands of life,
Which false hope lingers in extremity.

Enter York.

Green. Here comes the duke of York.

Queen. With signs of war about his aged neck;
O, full of careful business are his looks!—
Uncle,

For heaven's sake, speak comfortable words.

Y. Should I do so, I should belie my thoughts;
Comfort's in heaven; and we are on the earth,
Where nothing lives but crosses, care, and grief.
Your husband he is gone to save far off,
Whilst others come to make him lose at home:
Here am I left to underprop his land;
Who, weak with age, cannot support myself;—
Now comes the sick hour that his surfeit made;
Now shall he try his friends that flatter'd him.

Enter a Servant.

Ser. My lord, yourson was gone before I came.

York. He was?—Why, so!—go all which
way it will!—

The nobles they are fled, the commons cold,
And will, I fear, revolt on Hereford's side.—
Sirrah,
Get thee to Plashy, to my sister Gloster;
Bid her send me presently a thousand pound:—
Hold, take my ring.

Ser. My lord, I had forgot to tell your lordship:
To-day, as I came by, I called there;
But I shall grieve you to report the rest.

York. What is it, knave?

Serv. An hour before I came, the Duchess died.

York. God for his mercy! what a tide of woes
Comes rushing on this woful land at once!
I know not what to do:—I would to heaven,

¹ Cheating.

(So my untruth¹ had not provok'd him to it,)
The king had cut off my head with my brother's.—
What, are there posts despatch'd for Ireland?—
How shall we do for money for these wars?
Come, sister,—cousin, I would say, pray, par-
don me,—

Go, fellow, [To the Servant.] Get thee home,
provide some carts,
And bring away the armour that is there.—

[Exit Servant.]

Gentlemen, will you go muster men? if I know
How, or which way, to order these affairs,
Thus thrust disorderly into my hands,
Never believe me. Both are my kinsmen;
The one's my sovereign, whom both my oath
And duty bids defend; the other again,
Is my kinsman, whom the king hath wrong'd;
Whom conscience and my kindred bids to right.
Well, somewhat we must do.—Come, cousin, I'll
Dispose of you:—Go, muster up your men,
And meet me presently at Berkley Castle.
I should to Plashy too,—
But time will not permit:—All is uneven,
And every thing is left at six and seven.

[Exeunt York and Queen.]

Bu. The wind sits fair for news to go to Ireland,
But none returns. For us to levy power,
Proportionable to the enemy,
Is all impossible.

Green. Besides, our nearness to the king in love,
Is near the hate of those love not the king.

Bagot. And that's the wavering commons; for
their love

Lies in their purses; and whoso empties them,
By so much fills their hearts with deadly hate.

Bushy. Wherein the king stands generally
condemn'd.

Bagot. If judgment lie in them, then so do we,
Because we ever have been near the king.

G. Well, I'll for refuge straight to Bristol Castle;
The earl of Wiltshire is already there.

Bush. Thither will I with you: for little office
The hateful commons will perform for us;
Except like curs to tear us all to pieces.—
Will you go along with us?

Bagot. No; I'll to Ireland to his majesty.
Farewell: if heart's presages be not vain,
We three here part, that ne'er shall meet again.

Bushy. That's as York thrives to beat back
Bolingbroke.

G. Alas, poor duke! the task he undertakes
Is—numb'ring sands, and drinking oceans dry;
Where one on his side fights, thousands will fly.

Bu. Farewell at once; for once, for all, and
Green. Well, we may meet again. [Ever.

Bagot. I fear me, never. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

THE WILDS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

*Enter Bolingbroke and Northumberland,
with Forces.*

Bo. How far is it, my lord, to Berkley now?
Nol. Believe me, noble lord,
I am a stranger here in Glostershire.
These high wild hills, and rough uneven ways,
Draw out our miles and make them wearisome;

¹ Disloyalty.

And yet your fair discourse hath been as sugar,
 Making the hard way sweet and delectable.
 But, I bethink me, what a weary way
 From Ravenspurge to Cotswold will be found
 In Ross and Willoughby, wanting your company;
 Which, I protest, hath very much beguil'd
 The tediousness and process of my travel:
 But theirs is sweeten'd with the hope to have
 The present benefit which I possess:
 And hope to joy, is little less in joy,
 Than hope enjoy'd: by this the weary lords
 Shall make their way seem short; as mine hath
 . . . done

By sight of what I have, your noble company.

Boling. Of much less value is my company,
 Than your good words. But who comes here!

Enter Harry Percy.

North. It is my son, young Harry Percy,
 Sent from my brother Worcester, whence so
 Harry, how fares your uncle? [ever.—

Percy. I had thought, my lord, to have learn'd
 his health of you.

North. Why, is he not with the queen?
P. No, my good lord; he hath forsook the court,
 Broken his staff of office, and dispers'd
 The household of the king.

North. . . . What was his reason?
 He was not so resolv'd, when last we spake to-
 gether. [traitor.

Percy. Because your lordship was proclaimed
 But he, my lord, is gone to Ravenspurge,
 To offer service to the duke of Hereford;
 And sent me o'er by Berkley, to discover
 What power the duke of York had levied there;
 Then with direction to repair to Ravenspurge.

N. Have you forgot the duke of Hereford, boy!
Percy. No, my good lord; for that is not forgot,
 Which ne'er I did remember: to my knowledge,
 I never in my life did look on him.

N. Then learn to know him now; this is the duke.

P. My gracious lord, I tender you my service,
 Such as it is, being tender, raw, and young;
 Which elder days shall ripen and confirm
 To more approved service and desert.

Boling. I thank thee, gentle Percy; and besure,
 I count myself in nothing else so happy,
 As in a soul rememb'ring my good friends;
 And, as my fortune ripens with thy love,
 It shall be still thy true love's recompense:
 My heart this covenant makes, my hand thus
 seals it.

North. How far is it to Berkley? And what stir
 Keeps good old York there, with his men of war?

P. There stands the castle, by yon tuft of trees,
 Mann'd with three hundred men, as I have heard:
 And in it are the lords of York, Berkley, and Sey-
 None else of name, and noble estimate. [mour;

Enter Ross and Willoughby.

North. Here come the lords of Ross and Wil-
 loughby,
 Bloody with spurring, fiery-red with haste.

Boling. Welcome, my lords: I wot,¹ your love
 A banish'd traitor; all my treasury [pursues
 Is yet but unfelt thanks, which more enrich'd,
 Shall be your love and labour's recompense.

¹ Know.

Ross. Your presence makes us rich, most
 noble lord. [it.

Wil. And far surmounts our labour to attain
Boling. Evermore thanks, the exchequer of
 the poor;

Which till my infant fortune comes to years,
 Stands for my bounty. But who comes here?

Enter Berkley.

North. It is my lord of Berkley, as I guess.

Be. My lord of Hereford, my message is to you.

Boling. My lord, my answer is—to Lancaster;
 And I am come to seek that name in England:
 And I must find that title in your tongue,
 Before I make reply to aught you say.

Berk. Mistake me not, my lord; 'tis not my
 meaning,

To raise one title of your honour out:—
 To you, my lord, I come, (what lord you will,)
 From the most glorious regent of this land,
 The duke of York; to know, what pricks you on
 To take advantage of the absent time,¹
 And fright our native peace with self-born arms.

Enter York, attended.

Bo. I shall not needs transport my words by you.
 Here comes his grace in person.—My noble uncle!
 [kneels.

York. Show me thy humble heart, and not thy
 Whose duty is deceivable and false. [knee,

Boling. My gracious uncle!

York. Tut, tut!

Grace me no grace, nor uncle me no uncle;
 I am no traitor's uncle; and that word—grace,
 In an ungracious mouth, is but profane.
 Why have those banish'd and forbidden legs
 Dar'd once to touch a dust of England's ground?
 But then more why;—Why have they dar'd to
 march

So many miles upon her peaceful bosom;
 Frighting her pale-fac'd villages with war,
 And ostentation of despised arms?
 Com'st thou because the anointed king is hence?
 Why, foolish boy, the king is left behind,
 And in my loyal bosom lies his power.
 Were I but now the lord of such hot youth,
 As when brave Gaunt, thy father, and myself,
 Rescued the black prince, that young Mars of
 men,

From forth the ranks of many thousand French;
 O, then, how quickly should this arm of mine,
 Now prisoner to the palsy, chastise thee,
 And minister correction to thy fault.

Bo. My gracious uncle, let me know my fault;
 On what condition stands it, and wherein?

York. Even in condition of the worst degree,—
 In gross rebellion, and detested treason:
 Thou art a banish'd man, and here art come,
 Before the expiration of thy time,
 In braving arms against thy sovereign.

Bo. As I was banish'd, I was banish'd Hereford;
 But as I come, I come for Lancaster.

And, noble uncle, I beseech your grace,
 Look on my wrongs with an indifferent² eye:
 You are my father, for, methinks, in you
 I see old Gaunt alive; O, then, my father!
 Will you permit that I shall stand condemned
 A wandering vagabond; my rights and royalties

¹ The king's absence.

² Impartial.

Pluck'd from my arms perforce, and given away
To upstart unthrifths? Wherefore was I born?
If that my cousin king be king of England,
It must be granted, I am duke of Lancaster.
You have a son, Aumerle, my noble kinsman;
Had you first died, and he had been thus trod
down,

He should have found his uncle Gaunt a father,
To rouse his wrongs,¹ and chase them to the bay.
I am denied to sue my livery² here,
And yet my letters-patent give me leave;
My father's goods are all distraint'd and sold;
And these, and all, are all amiss employ'd.
What would you have me do? I am a subject,
And challenge law: Attornies are denied me;
And therefore personally I lay my claim
To my inheritance of free descent. [abus'd.

Nor. The noble duke hath been too much
R. It stands your grace upon, to do him right.
Willow. Base men by his endowments are made
great. [this,—

York. My lords of England, let me tell you
I have had feeling of my cousin's wrongs,
And labour'd all I could to do him right:
But in this kind to come, in braving arms,
Be his own carver, and cut out his way,
To find out right with wrong,—it may not be;
And you, that do abet him in this kind,
Cherish rebellion, and are rebels all.

Nor. The noble duke hath sworn, his coming is
But for his own: and, for the right of that,
We all have strongly sworn to give him aid;
And let him ne'er see joy, that breaks that oath.

Yor. Well, well, I see the issue of these arms;
I cannot mend it, I must needs confess,
Because my power is weak, and all ill left:
But, if I could, by him that gave me life,
I would attach you all, and make you stoop
Unto the sovereign mercy of the king;
But, since I cannot, be it known to you,
I do remain as neuter. So fare you well;—
Unless you please to enter in the castle,
And there repose you for this night.

Boling. An offer, uncle, that we will accept.
But we must win your grace, to go with us
To Bristol Castle; which, they say, is held
By Bushy, Bagot, and their complices,
The caterpillars of the commonwealth,
Which I have sworn to weed, and pluck away.

York. It may be, I will go with you:—but
yet I'll pause;

For I am loath to break our country's laws.
Nor friends, nor foes, to me welcome are;
Things past redress, are now with me past care.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—A CAMP IN WALES.

Enter Salisbury and a Captain.

C. My lord of Salisbury, we have staid ten days,
And hardly kept our countrymen together,
And yet we hear no tidings from the king:
Therefore we will disperse ourselves: farewell.

S. Stay yet another day, thou trusty Welsh-
The king reposeth all his confidence [man;
In thee. [stay.

Cap. 'Tis thought the king is dead: we will not
The bay-trees in our country are all wither'd,

1 Wrongs.

2 Claim for possessions.

And meteors fright the fixed stars of heaven;
The pale-fac'd moon looks bloody on the earth,
And lean-look'd prophets whisper fearful
change; [leap,—

Rich men look sad, and ruffians dance and
The one, in fear to lose what they enjoy,
The other, to enjoy by rage and war:

These signs forerun the death or fall of kings.—
Farewell: our countrymen are gone and fled,
As well assur'd, Richard their king is dead. [*Exit.*

Sal. Ah, Richard! with the eyes of heavy mind,
I see thy glory, like a shooting star,
Fall to the base earth from the firmament!
Thy sun sets weeping in the lowly west,
Witnessing storms to come, woe, and unrest:
Thy friends are fled, to wait upon thy foes;
And crossly to thy good all fortune goes. [*Exit.*

Act Third.

SCENE I.—BOLINGBROKE'S CAMP AT BRISTOL.

*Enter Bolingbroke, York, Northumberland,
Percy, Willoughby, Ross: Officers behind
with Bushy and Green, prisoners.*

Boling. Bring forth these men.—
Bushy, and Green, I will not vex your souls
(Since presently your souls must part your
bodies,)

With too much urging your pernicious lives,
For 'twere no charity: yet, to wash your blood
From off my hands, here in the view of men,
I will unfold some causes of your death.

You have misled a prince, a royal king,
A happy gentleman in blood and lineaments,
By you unhappied and disfigured clean.¹

You have, in manner, with your sinful hours,
Made a divorce betwixt his queen and him;
Broke the possession of a royal bed,
And stain'd the beauty of a fair queen's cheeks
With tears drawn from her eyes by your foul
wrong.

Myself—a prince, by fortune of my birth:
Near to the king in blood; and near in love,
Till you did make him misinterpret me,—
Have stoop'd my neck under your injuries,
And sigh'd my English breath in foreign clouds,
Eating the bitter bread of banishment:
Whilst you have fed upon my seignories,
Dispark'd my parks, and fell'd my forest woods;
From my own windows torn my household coat,
Raz'd out my impress, leaving me no sign,—
Save men's opinions, and my living blood,—
To show the world I am a gentleman. [this,
This, and much more, much more than twice all
Condemns you to the death:—See them deliver'd
To execution and the hand of death. [over
Bus. More welcome is the stroke of death to
Than Bolingbroke to England. [me,
Gr. My comfort is,—that heaven will take our
And plague injustice. [souls,

Boling. My lord Northumberland, see them
despatch'd.

[*Exeunt Northumberland and others,
with Prisoners.*

Uncle, you say, the queen is at your house;
1 Completely.

For heaven's sake, fairly let her be entreated :
Tell her, I send to her my kind commends ;
Take special care my greetings be deliver'd.

York. A gentleman of mine I have despatch'd
With letters of your love to her at large.

Bol. Thanks, gentle uncle.—Come, lords away ;
To fight with Glendower and his complices ;
Awhile to work, and, after, holiday. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

THE COAST OF WALES. A CASTLE IN VIEW.

Flourish: Drums and Trumpets. Enter King Richard, Bishop of Carlisle, Aumerle, and Soldiers.

K. Rich. Barkloughly Castle call you this at hand?

Aum. Yea, my lord : How brooks your grace
After late tossing on the breaking seas?

K. Rich. Needs must I like it well ; I weep
for joy,

To stand upon my kingdom once again.—
Dear earth, I do salute thee with my hand,
Though rebels wound thee with their horses'
As a long parted mother with her child [hoofs :
Plays fondly with her tears, and smiles in meeting ;
So, weeping, smiling, greet I thee, my earth,
And do thee favour with my royal hands.
Feed not thy sovereign's foe, my gentle earth,
Nor with thy sweets comfort his ravenous sense,
But let thy spiders that suck up thy venom,
And heavy gaited toads, lie in their way ;
Doing annoyance to the treacherous feet,
Which with usurping steps do trample thee.
Yield stinging nettles to mine enemies :
And when they from thy bosom pluck a flower,
Guard it, I pray thee, with a lurking adder ;
Whose double tongue may with a mortal touch
Throw death upon thy sovereign's enemies.—
Mock not, my senseless conjuration, lords ;
This earth shall have a feeling, and these stones
Proved armed soldiers, ere her native king
Shall falter under foul rebellious arms.

Car. Fear not, my lord ; that Power, that
made you king,
Hath power to keep you king, in spite of all.
The means that heaven yields must be embrac'd,
And not neglected ; else, if heaven would,
And we will not, heaven's offer we refuse ;
The proffer'd means of succour and redress.

A. He means, my lord, that we are too remiss ;
Whilst Bolingbroke, through our security,
Grows strong and great, in substance, and in
friends. [not,

K. Rich. Discomfortable cousin ! know'st thou
That when the searching eye of heaven is hid
Behind the globe, and lights the lower world,
Then thieves and robbers range abroad unseen,
In murders, and in outrage, bloody here ;
But when, from under this terrestrial ball,
He fires the proud tops of the eastern pines,
And darts his light through every guilty hole,
Then murders, treasons, and detested sins,
The cloak of night being pluck'd from off their
backs,

Stand bare and naked, trembling at themselves ?
So when this thief, this traitor, Bolingbroke,—
Who all this while hath revell'd in the night,

Whilst we were wandering with the antipodes,—
Shall see us rising in our throne the east,
His treasons will sit blushing in his face,
Not able to endure the sight of day,
But, self-affrighted, tremble at his sin.
Not all the water in the rough rude sea
Can wash the balm from an anointed king :
The breath of worldly men cannot depose
The deputy elected by the Lord :
For every man that Bolingbroke hath press'd,
To lift shrewd steel against our golden crown,
God for his Richard hath in heavenly pay
A glorious angel : then, if angels fight,
Weak men must fall ; for heaven still guards
the right.

Enter Salisbury.

Welcome, my lord ; How far off lies your power ?

Sal. Nor near, nor further off, my gracious lord,
Than this weak arm : Discomfort guides my
tongue,

And bids me speak of nothing but despair.
One day too late, I fear, my noble lord,
Hath clouded all thy happy days on earth :
O, call back yesterday, bid time return,
And thou shalt have twelve thousand fighting
To-day, to-day, unhappy day too late, [men !
O'erthrows thy joys, friends, fortune, and thy
state ;

For all the Welshmen, hearing thou wert dead,
Are gone to Bolingbroke, dispers'd, and fled.

Aum. Comfort, my liege : why looks your
grace so pale?

K. R. But now the blood of twenty thousand
Did triumph in my face, and they are fled ;
And till so much blood thither come again,
Have I not reason to look pale and dead ?
All souls that will be safe fly from my side ;
For time hath set a blot upon my pride.

A. Comfort, my liege ; remember who you are.

K. Rich. I had forgot myself : am I not king ?
Awake thou sluggard majesty ! thou sleep'st.
Is not the king's name forty thousand names ?
Arm, arm, my name, a puny subject strikes
At thy great glory.—Look not to the ground,
Ye favourites of a king : Are we not high ?
High be our thoughts ; I know my uncle York
Hath power enough to serve our turn. But who
Comes here ?

Enter Scroop.

Sc. More health and happiness betide my liege,
Than can my care-tun'd tongue deliver him.

K. R. Mine ear is open and my heart prepar'd ;
The worst is worldly loss, thou canst unfold.
Say, is my kingdom lost ? why, 'twas my care ;
And what loss is it, to be rid of care ?
Strives Bolingbroke to be as great as we ?
Greater he shall not be ; if he serve God,
We'll serve him too, and be his fellow so :
Revolt our subjects ; that we cannot mend ;
They break their faith to God, as well as us :
Cry, woe, destruction, ruin, loss, decay ;
The worst is—death, and death will have his day.

So. Glad am I, that your highness is so arm'd
To bear the tidings of calamity.
Like an unseasonable stormy day, [shores,
Which makes the silver rivers drown their
As if the world were all dissolv'd to tears ;

So high above his limits swells the rage
Of Bolingbroke, covering your fearful land
With hard bright steel, and hearts harder than
steel.

White beards have arm'd their thin and hairless
Against thy majesty; boys, with women's voices,
Strive to speak big, and clap their female joints
In stiff unwieldy arms against thy crown:
Thy very beadsmen¹ learn to bend their bows
Of double-fatal yew against thy state;
Yea, distaff-women manage rusty bills
Against thy seat: both young and old rebel,
And all goes worse than I have power to tell.

K. R. Too well, too well, thou tell'st a tale so ill.
Where is the earl of Wiltshire? where is Bagot?
What is become of Bushy? where is Green?
That they have let the dangerous enemy
Measure our confines with such peaceful steps?
If we prevail, their heads shall pay for it. [broke.
I warrant they have made peace with Boling-
Scroop. Peace have they made with him, in-
deed, my lord.

K. R. O villains, vipers, lost without redemp-
Dogs, easily won to fawn on any man! [heart!
Snakes, in my heart-blood warm'd, that sting my
Three Judases each one thrice worse than Judas,
Would they make peace?

Scro. Sweet love, I see changing his property,
Turns to the sourest and most deadly hate:—
Again curse their souls; their peace is made
With heads, and not with hands: those whom
you curse

Have felt the worst of death's destroying wound,
And lie full low, grav'd in the hollow ground.

Aum. Is Bushy, Green, and the earl of Wilt-
shire dead?

S. Yea, all of them at Bristol lost their heads.
A. Where is the duke my father with his
power?

K. R. No matter where; of comfort no man
Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs;
Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes
Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.
Let's choose executors, and talk of wills:
And yet not so,—for what can we bequeath,
Save our deposed bodies to the ground?
Our lands, our lives, and all are Bolingbroke's,
And nothing can we call our own, but death;
And that small model of the barren earth,
Which serves as paste and cover to our bones.
For heaven's sake, let us sit upon the ground,
And tell sad stories of the death of kings:—
How some have been depos'd, some slain in war;
Some haunted by the ghosts they have depos'd;
Some poison'd by their wives, some sleeping
kill'd;

All murder'd:—For within the hollow crown,
That rounds the mortal temples of a king,
Keeps death his court; and there the anticks sit,
Scoffing his state, and grinning at his pomp;
Allowing him a breath, a little scene
To monarchize, be fear'd, and kill with looks;
Infusing him with self and vain conceit,—
As if this flesh, which walls about our life,
Were brass impregnable; and humour'd thus,
Comes at the last, and with a little pin [king!
Bores through his castle wall, and—farewell

¹ Paupers on royal bounty.

Cover your heads, and mock not flesh and blood
With solemn reverence; throw away respect,
Tradition, form, and ceremonious duty,
For you have but mistook me all this while:
I live with bread like you, feel want, taste grief,
Need friends:—Subjected thus,
How can you say to me—I am a king?

Car. My lord, wise men ne'er wail their present
But presently prevent the ways to wail. [woes,
To fear the foe, since fear oppresses strength,
Gives, in your weakness, strength unto your foe,
And so your follies fight against yourself.
Fear, and beslain; no worse can come, to fight:
And fight and die, is death destroying death;
Where fearing dying, pays death servile breath.

Aum. My father hath a power, enquire of him;
And learn to make a body of a limb.

K. Rich. Thou chid'st me well:—Proud Bol-
ingbroke, I come

To change blows with thee for our day of doom.
This ague-fit of fear is overblown;

An easy task it is to win our own.——
Say, Scroop, where lies our uncle with his power?
Speak sweetly, man, although thy looks be sour.

Sero. Men judge by the complexion of the sky
The state and inclination of the day:
So may you by my dull and heavy eye,

My tongue hath but a heavier tale to say.
I play the torturer, by small and small,
To lengthen out the worst that must be spoken:—
Your uncle York hath join'd with Bolingbroke;
And all your northern castles yielded up,
And all your southern gentlemen in arms
Upon his party.

K. Rich. Thou hast said enough.——
Bespew thee, cousin, which did lead me forth.

[*To Aumerle.*
Of that sweet way I was in to despair!

What say you now? what comfort have we now?
By heaven, I'll hate him everlastingly,
That bids me be of comfort any more.
Go, to Flint Castle; there I'll pine away;
A king, woe's slave, shall kingly woe obey.
That power I have, discharge; and let them go
To ear¹ the land that hath some hope to grow,
For I have none:—Let no man speak again
To alter this, for counsel is but vain.

Aum. My liege, one word.

K. Rich. He does me double wrong
That wounds me with the flatteries of his tongue.
Discharge my followers, let them hence:—Away,
From Richard's night, to Bolingbroke's fair day.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—WALES. BEFORE FLINT CASTLE.

*Enter, with Drum and Colours, Bolingbroke and
Forces; York, Northumberland, and others.*

Boling. So that by this intelligence we learn,
The Welshmen are dispers'd; and Salisbury
Is gone to meet the king, who lately landed,
With some few private friends upon this coast.

Nor. The news is very fair and good, my lord:
Richard, not far from hence, hath hid his head.

Y. It would besem the lord Northumberland,
To say—king Richard:—Alack the heavy day,
When such a sacred king should hide his head!

¹ Plough.

Nor. Your grace mistakes me ; only to be brief,
Left I his title out.

York. The time hath been,
Would you have been so brief with him he would
Have been so brief with you, to shorten you,
For taking so the head, your whole head's length.

Boling. Mistake not, uncle, farther than you
should. [should,

York. Take not, good cousin, further than you
Lest you mistake: The heavens are o'er your head.

Boling. I know it, uncle ; and oppose not
Myself against their will.—But who comes here?

Enter Percy.

Well, Harry ; what, will not this castle yield?

Percy. The castle royally is mann'd, my lord,
Against thy entrance.

Boling. Royally?
Why, it contains no king?

Percy. Yes, my good lord,
It doth contain a king: King Richard lies
Within the limits of yon line and stone,
And with him are the lord Aumerle, lord Salis-
Sir Stephen Scroop : besides a clergyman [bury,
Of holy reverence, who, I cannot learn.

North. Belike it is the bishop of Carlisle.

Boling. [To *North.*] Noble lord,
Go to the rude ribs of that ancient castle ;
Through brazen trumpet send the breath of parle
Into his ruin'd ears, and thus deliver.

Harry Bolingbroke
On both his knees doth kiss King Richard's hand ;
And sends allegiance, and true faith of heart,
To his most royal person ; hither come
Even at his feet to lay my arms and power ;
Provided that, my banishment repeal'd,
And lands restor'd again, be freely granted :
If not, I'll use the advantage of my power,
And lay the summer's dust with showers of blood,
Rain'd from the wounds of slaughter'd English-
men : [broke

The which, how far off from the mind of Boling-
It is, such crimson tempest should bedrench
The fresh green lap of fair King Richard's land,
My stooping duty tenderly shall show.
Go, signify as much ; while here we march
Upon the grassy carpet of this plain.—

[*Northumberland advances to the
Castle with a trumpet.*

Let's march without the noise of threat'ning
drum,

That from the castle's totter'd battlements
Our fair appointments may be well perus'd.
Methinks, King Richard and myself should meet
With no less terror than the elements
Of fire and water, when their thund'ring shock
At meeting tears the cloudy cheeks of heaven.
Be he the fire, I'll be the yielding water :
The rage be his, while on the earth I rain
My waters ; on the earth, and not on him.
March on, and mark King Richard how he looks.

*A Parle sounded, and answered by another
Trumpet within. Flourish. Enter on the
Walls King Richard, the Bishop of Carlisle,
Aumerle, Scroop, and Salisbury.*

Y. See, see, King Richard doth himself appear,
As doth the blushing discontented sun
From out the fiery-portal of the east:

When he perceives the envious clouds are bent
To dim his glory, and to stain the track
Of his bright passage to the occident.

Yet looks he like a king ; behold, his eye,
As bright as is the eagle's, lightens forth,
Controlling majesty : Alack, alack, for woe,
That any harm should stain so fair a show !

K. Rich. [To *North.*] We are amaz'd : and thus
long have we stood

To watch the fearful bending of thy knee,
Because we thought ourself thy lawful king :
And if we be, how dare thy joints forget
To pay their awful duty to our presence?
If we be not, show us the hand of God
That hath dismiss'd us from our stewardship ;
For well we know, no hand of blood and bone
Can gripe the sacred handle of our scepter,
Unless he do profane, steal, or usurp.
And though you think, that all, as you have done,
Have torn their souls ; by turning them from us,
And we are barren, and bereft of friends ;—
Yet know,—my master, God omnipotent,
Is must'ring in his clouds, on our behalf,
Armies of pestilence : and they shall strike
Your children yet unborn, and unbegot,
That lift your vassal hands against my head,
And threaten the glory of my precious crown.
Tell Bolingbroke, (for yond', methinks, he is,)
That every stride he makes upon my land,
Is dangerous treason : He is come to ope
The purple testament of bleeding war ;
But ere the crown he looks for live in peace,
Ten thousand bloody crowns of mothers' sons
Shall ill become the flower of England's face ;
Change the complexion of her maid-pale peace
To scarlet indignation, and bedew
Her pasture's grass with faithful English blood.

N. The king of heaven forbid, our lord the king
Should so with civil and uncivil arms
Be rush'd upon ; Thy thrice noble cousin,
Harry Bolingbroke, doth humbly kiss thy hand ;
And by the honourable tomb he swears,
That stands upon thy royal grandsire's bones ;
And by the royalties of both your bloods,
Currents that spring from one most gracious head ;
And by the buried hand of warlike Gaunt ;
And by the worth and honour of himself,
Comprising all that may be sworn or said,—
His coming hither hath no further scope,
Than for his lineal royalties, and to beg
Enfranchisement immediate on his knees :
Which on thy royal party granted once,
His glittering arms he will commend to rust,
His barbed steeds to stables, and his heart
To faithful service of your majesty.
This swears he, as he is a prince, is just ;
And, as I am a gentleman, I credit him.

K. Rich. Northumberland, say,—thus the
king returns—

His noble cousin is right welcome hither ;
And all the number of his fair demands
Shall be accomplish'd without contradiction :
With all the gracious utterance thou hast,
Speak to his gentle hearing kind commends.—
[To *Aumerle.*] We do debase ourself, cousin, do
we not,

To look so poorly, and to speak so fair?

1 (The part of.)

Shall we call back Northumberland, and send
Defiance to the traitor, and so die?

Aum. No, my good lord; let's fight with
gentle words, [swords,

Till time lend friends, and friends their helpful
K. Rich. Merciful heaven, that e'er this
tongue of mine,

That laid the sentence of dread banishment
On yon proud man, should take it off again
With words of sooth!¹ O, that I were as great
As is my grief, or lesser than my name?
Or that I could forget what I have been!
Or not remember what I must be now! [to beat,
Swell'st thou, proud heart? I'll give thee scope
Since foes have scope to beat both thee and me.

Aum. Northumberland comes back from Bol-
lingbroke. [submit?

K. Rich. What must the king do now? Must he
The king shall do it. Must he be depos'd?
The king shall be contented: must he lose
The name of king? o' God's name, let it go:

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads;
My gorgeous palace, for a hermitage;
My gay apparel, for an alms-man's gown;
My figur'd goblets for a dish of wood;
My scepter, for a palmer's walking-staff;
My subjects, for a pair of carved saints;
And my large kingdom, for a little grave,
A little, little grave, an obscure grave:—
Or, I'll be buried in the king's highway,
Some way of common trade where subjects' feet
May hourly trample on their sovereign's head:
For on my heart they tread, now whilst I live;
And, buried once, why not upon my head?—
Aumerle, thou weep'st; My tender-hearted
cousin!—

We'll make foul weather with despised tears;
Oursighs, and they, shall lodge the summer corn,
And make a death in this revolting land.
Or shall we play the wantons with our woes,
And make some pretty march with shedding
tears;

As thus:—To drop them still upon one place,
Till they have fretted us a pair of graves
Within the earth; and therein laid,—*There lies*
Two kinsmen, digg'd their graves with weeping
eyes!

Would not this ill do well?—Well, well, I see
I talk but idly, and you mock at me.—
Most mighty prince, my lord Northumberland,
What says king Bolingbroke? will his majesty
Give Richard leave to live till Richard die?
You make a leg,² and Bolingbroke says—ay.

Nor. My lord, in the base³ court he doth attend,
To speak with you; may't please you to come
down?

[*ing Phaeton,*
K. Rich. Down, down, I come; like glister-
Wanting the manage of unruly jades.

[*North. retires to Boling.*
In the base court? Base court, where kings
grow base,

To come at traitors' calls, and do them grace.
In the base court? Come down! Down, court?
down, king!

For night-owls shriek, where mounting larks
should sing. [*Exeunt, from above.*

Boling. What says his majesty?

1 Gentleness. 2 A bow. 3 Lower.

North. Sorrow and grief of heart
Makes him speak fondly,¹ like a frantick man:
Yet he is come.

Enter King Richard, and his Attendants, below.

Boling. Stand all apart,
And shew fair duty to his majesty,——
My gracious lord,— [Kneeling.

K. Rich. Fair cousin, you debase your princely
knee,

To make the base earth proud with kissing it:
Me rather had, my heart might feel your love,
Than my unpleas'd eye see your courtesy.
Up, cousin, up: your heart is up, I know,
Thus high at least, [*Touching his own head.*] al-
though your knee be low. [own,

Bol. My gracious lord, I come but for mine
K. Rich. Your own is yours, and I am yours,
and all.

Bol. So far be mine, my most redoubted lord,
As my true service shall deserve your love.

K. Rich. Well you deserve:—They well de-
serve to have,

That know the strong'st and surest way to get.—
Uncle, give me your hand: nay, dry your eyes;
Tearshow their love, but want their remedies.—
Cousin, I am too young to be your father,
Though you are old enough to be my heir.
What you will have, I'll give, and willing too;
For do we must, what force will have us do.—
Set on towards London: Cousin, is it so?

Boling. Yea, my good lord.
K. Rich. Then I must not say, no.

[*Flourish. Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

LANGLEY. THE DUKE OF YORK'S GARDEN.

Enter the Queen and two Ladies.

Queen. What sport shall we devise here in this
garden,

To drive away the heavy thought of care?

1 *Lady.* Madam, we'll play at bowls.
Queen. 'Twill make me think,
The world is full of rubs, and that my fortune
Runs 'gainst the bias.

1 *Lady.* Madam, we will dance.
Queen. My legs can keep no measure in delight,
When my poor heart no measure keeps in grief:
Therefore, no dancing, girl; some other sport.

1 *Lady.* Madam, we'll tell tales.
Queen. Of sorrow, or of joy?

1 *Lady.* Of either, madam.
Queen. Of neither, girl:
For if of joy, being altogether wanting,
It doth remember me the more of sorrow;
Or if, of grief, being altogether had,
It adds more sorrow to my want of joy:
For what I have, I need not to repeat;
And what I want, it boots not to complain.

1 *Lady.* Madam, I'll sing.
Queen. 'Tis well that thou hast cause:
But thou shouldst please me better, would'st
thou weep. [good,

1 *Lady.* I could weep, madam, would it do you
Que. And I could weep, would weeping do me
And never borrow any tear of thee. [good,

1 Foolishly.

But stay, here come the gardeners:
Let's step into the shadow of these trees.—

Enter a Gardener and Two Servants.

My wretchedness unto a row of pines,
They'll talk of state; for every one doth so
Against a change; Woe is forerun with woe.

[Queen and Ladies retire.]

Gar. Go, bind thou up yon' dangling apricocks,
Which, like unruly children, make their sire
Stoop with oppression of their prodigal weight:
Give some supportance to the bending twigs.—
Go thou, and like an executioner,
Cut off the heads of too-fast-growing sprays,
That look too lofty in our commonwealth:
All must be even in our government,——
You thus employ'd, I will go root away
The noisome weeds, that without profit suck
The soil's fertility from wholesome flowers.

1 Ser. Why should we, in the compass of a pale,
Keep law, and form, and due proportion,
Showing, as in a model, our firm estate?
When our sea-walled garden, the whole land,
Is full of weeds; her fairest flowers choked up,
Her fruit trees all unprun'd, her hedges ruin'd,
Her knots¹ disorder'd, and her wholesome herbs
Swarming with caterpillars?

Gard. Hold thy peace:—
He that hath suffer'd this disorder'd spring,
Hath now himself met with the fall of leaf:
The weeds, that his broad-spreading leaves did
shelter,

That seem'd in eating him to hold him up,
Are pluck'd up, root and all, by Bolingbroke;
I mean the earl of Wiltshire, Bushy, Green.

1 Serv. What, are they dead?

Gard. They are; and Bolingbroke
Hath seiz'd the wasteful king.—Oh! What pity
is it,

That he had not so trimm'd and dress'd his land,
As we this garden! We at time of year
Do wound the bark, the skin of our fruit-trees;
Lest being over-proud with sap and blood,
With too much riches it confound itself:

Had he done so to great and growing men,
They might have liv'd to bear, and he to taste
Their fruits of duty. All superfluous branches
We lop away, that bearing boughs may live:
Had he done so, himself had born the crown,
Which waste of idle hours hath quite thrown
down. *[He depos'd?]*

1 Serv. What, think you then, the king shall

Gard. Depress'd he is already; and depos'd,
'Tis doubt, he will be: Letters came last night
To a dear friend of the good duke of York's,
That tell black tidings.

Queen. O, I am press'd to death,
Through want of speaking!—Thou, old Adam's
likeness, *[Coming from her concealment.]*

Set to dress this garden, how darest thou *[news?]*
Thy harsh-rude tongue sound this displeasing
What Eve, what serpent hath suggested thee,
To make a second fall of cursed man?

Why dost thou say, King Richard is depos'd?
Darest thou, thou little better thing than earth,
Divine his downfall? Say, where, when and how,
Cam'st thou by these ill tidings? speak, thou
wretch.

1 [Of flowers.]

Gard. Pardon me, madam: little joy have I,
To breathe this news; yet, what I say is true,
King Richard, he is in the mighty hold
Of Bolingbroke; their fortunes both are weigh'd:
In your lord's scale is nothing but himself,
And some few vanities that make him light;
But in the balance of great Bolingbroke,
Besides himself, are all the English peers,
And with that odds he weighs King Richard
down.

Post you to London, and you'll find it so;
I speak no more than every man doth know.

Q. Nimble mischance, that art so light of foot,
Doth not thy embassy belong to me,
And am I last that knows it? O, thou think'st
To serve me last, that I may longest keep
Thy sorrow in my breast.—Come, ladies, go,
To meet at London London's king in woe.—
What, was I born to this! that my sad look
Should grace the triumph of great Bolingbroke?
Gardener, for telling me this news of woe,
I would the plants thou graft'st may never grow.

[Exeunt Queen and Ladies.]

Gard. Poor queen! so that thy state might
be no worse,

I would, my skill were subject to thy curse.—
Here did she drop a tear; here in this place,
I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of grace:
Rue, even for ruth, here shortly shall be seen,
In the remembrance of a weeping queen.

[Exeunt.]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—LONDON. WESTMINSTER HALL.

*The Lords Spiritual on the right side of the
Throne; the Lords Temporal on the left; the
Commons below. Enter Bolingbroke, Aumerle,
Surrey, Northumberland, Percy, Fitzwater,
another Lord, Bishop of Carlisle, Abbot of
Westminster, and Attendants. Officers be-
hind, with Bagot.*

Boling. Call forth Bagot:—

Now, Bagot, freely speak thy mind;
What thou dost know of noble Gloster's death;
Who wrought it with the king, and who per-
The bloody office of his timeless end? *[form'd]*

Bag. Then set before my face the lord Aumerle.

Boling. Cousin, stand forth and look upon
that man. *[He is dead.]* *[tongue]*

Bagot. My lord Aumerle, I know your daring
Scorns to unsay what once it hath deliver'd.
In that dead time when Gloster's death was
plotted,

I heard you say,—*Is not my arm of length,
That reacheth from the restful English court
As far as Calais, to my uncle's head?*

Amongst much other talk, that very time,
I heard you say, that you had rather refuse
The offer of an hundred thousand crowns,
Than Bolingbroke's return to England;
Adding withal, how blest this land would be,
In this your cousin's death.

Aum. Princes, and noble lords,
What answer shall I make to this base man?
Shall I so much dishonour my fair stars,
On equal terms to give him chastisement?

Either I must, or have mine honour soil'd
With the attainer of his slanderous lips. —
There is my gage, the manual seal of death,
That marks thee out. I say, thou liest,
And will maintain, what thou hast said, is false,
In thy heart-blood, though being all too base
To stain the temper of my knightly sword.

Bol. Bagot, forbear, thou shalt not take it up.

Aum. Excepting one, I would he were the best
In all this presence, that hath mov'd me so.

Fitz. If that thy valour stand on sympathies,
There is my gage, Aumerle, in gage to thine :
By that fair sun that shows me where thou
stand'st,

I heard thee say, and vauntingly thou spak'st it,
That thou wert cause of noble Gloucester's death.
If thou deny'st it, twenty times thou liest ;
And I will turn thy falsehood to thy heart,
Where it was forged, with my rapier's point.

Aum. Thou dar'st not, coward, live to see
that day.

Fitz. Now, by soul, I would it were this hour.

A. Fitzwater, thou art doom'd to hell for this.

Per. Aumerle, thou liest ; his honour is as true,
In this appeal, as thou art all unjust :

And, that thou art so, there I throw my gage,
To prove it on thee to the extremest point
Of mortal breathing ; seize it, if thou dar'st.

Aum. And if I do not, may my hands rot off,
And never brandish more revengeful steel
Over the glittering helmet of my foe !

Lord. I take the earth to the like, forsworn Aum-
And spur thee on with full as many lies [merle ;
As may be holla'd in thy treacherous ear
From sun to sun : there is my honour's pawn ;
Engage it to the trial, if thou dar'st.

Aum. Who sets me else ? by heaven, I'll throw
I have a thousand spirits in one breast, [at all :
To answer twenty thousand such as you.

Sur. My lord Fitzwater, I do remember well
The very time Aumerle and you did talk.

Fitz. My lord, 'tis true : you were in presence
And you can witness with me, this is true. [then ;

Sur. As false, by heaven, as heaven itself is
Fitz. Surrey, thou liest. [true.

Surrey. Dishonourable boy !

That lie shall lie so heavy on my sword,
That it shall render vengeance and revenge,
Till thou the lie-giver, and that lie, do lie
In earth as quiet as thy father's skull.
In proof whereof, there is my honour's pawn ;
Engage it to the trial, if thou dar'st.

F. How fondly dost thou spur a forward horse !
If I dare eat, or drink, or breathe, or live,
I dare meet Surrey in a wilderness,
And spit upon him, whilst I say, he lies,
And lies, and lies : there is my bond of faith,
To tie thee to my strong correction. —
As I intend to thrive in this new world,
Aumerle is guilty of my true appeal :
Besides, I heard the banish'd Norfolk say,
That thou, Aumerle, didst send two of thy men
To execute the noble duke at Calais.

A. Some honest Christian trust me with a gage,
That Norfolk lies : here do I throw down this,
If he may be repeal'd to try his honour.

Bol. These differences shall all rest under gage,
Till Norfolk be repeal'd, repeal'd he shall be,

And, though mine enemy, restor'd again
To all his land and signories ; when he's return'd,
Against Aumerle we will enforce his trial.

Car. That honourable day shall ne'er be seen. —
Many a time hath banish'd Norfolk fought
For Jesu Christ ; in glorious Christian field
Streaming the ensign of the Christian cross,
Against black Pagans, Turks, and Saracens :
And, toil'd with works of war, retir'd himself
To Italy ; and there at Venice, gave
His body to that pleasant country's earth,
And his pure soul unto his captain Christ,
Under whose colours he had fought so long.

Boling. Why, bishop, is Norfolk dead ?

Car. As sure as I live, my lord.

Boling. Sweet peace conduct his sweet soul
to the bosom

Of good old Abraham ! — Lords appellants,
Your differences shall all rest under gage,
Till we assign you to your days of trial.

Enter York, attended.

York. Great duke of Lancaster, I come to thee
From plume-pluck'd Richard ; who with willing
Adopts thee heir, and his high scepter yields [soul
To the possession of thy royal hand :
Ascend his throne, descending now from him. —
And long live Henry, of that name the fourth !

Boling. In God's name, I'll ascend the regal

Car. Marry, God forbid ! — [throne.

Worst in this royal presence may I speak,
Yet best beseeching me to speak the truth.
Would God, that any in this noble presence
Were enough noble to be upright judge
Of noble Richard ; then true nobless would
Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong,
What subject can give sentence on his king ?
And who sits here, that is not Richard's subject ?
Thieves are not judg'd, but they are by to hear,
Although apparent guilt be seen in them ;
And shall the figure of God's majesty,
His captain, steward, deputy elect,
Anointed, crowned, planted many years,
Be judg'd by subject and inferior breath,
And he himself not present ? O, forbid it, God,
That, in a Christian climate, souls refin'd
Should show so heinous, black, obscene a deed !
I speak to subjects, and a subject speaks,
Stirr'd up by heaven thus boldly for his king,
My lord of Hereford here, whom you call king.
Is a foul traitor to proud Hereford's king :
And if you crown him, let me prophesy, —
The blood of English shall manure the ground,
And future ages groan for this foul act ;
Peace shall go sleep with Turks and Infidels,
And, in this seat of peace, tumultuous wars
Shall kin with kin, and kind with kind confound ;
Disorder, horror, fear, and mutiny,
Shall here inhabit, and this land be call'd
The field of Golgotha, and dead men's skulls.
O, if thou rear this house against this house,
It will the woofullest division prove,
That ever fell upon this cursed earth :
Prevent, resist it, let it not be so, [woe !
Lest child, child's children, cry, against you —
North. Well have you argu'd, sir ; and, for your
Of capital treason we arrest you here : [pains,
My lord of Westminster, be it your charge

To keep him safely till his day of trial.—[suit. May't please you, lords, to grant the commons' *Boling.* Fetch hither Richard, that in common He may surrender; so we shall proceed [view Without suspicion.

York. I will be his conduct. [Exit.

Bol. Lords, you that are here under our arrest, Procure your sureties for your days of answer:—[*To Carlisle.*] Little are we beholden to your love, And little look'd for at your helping hands.

Re-enter York, with King Richard, and Officers bearing the Crown, &c.

K. Rich. Alack, why am I sent for to a king, Before I have shook off the regal thoughts Wherewith I reign'd? I hardly yet have learn'd To insinuate, flatter, bow, and bend my knee:— Give sorrow leave a while to tutor me To this submission. Yet I well remember The favours¹ of these men: Were they not mine? Did they not sometime cry, all hail! to me?— So Judas did to Christ: but he, in twelve, Found truth in all but one; I, in twelve thousand, none.

God save the king!—Will no man say, amen? Am I both priest and clerk? well then, amen. God save the king! although I be not he: And yet, amen, if heaven do think him me.— To do what service am I sent for hither?

York. To do that office, of thine own good will. Which tired majesty did make thee offer,—— The resignation of thy state and crown To Henry Bolingbroke.

K. Rich. Give me the crown:—Here, cousin, seize the crown;

Here, on this side, my hand; on that side, thine. Now is this golden crown like a deep well, That owes² two buckets filling one another; The emptier ever dancing in the air, The other down, unseen, and full of water: That bucket down, and full of tears, am I, Drinking my griefs, whilst you mount up on high.

Bol. I thought you had been willing to resign.

K. Rich. My crown, I am; but still my griefs are mine:

You may my glories and my state depose, But not my grief; still am I king of those.

Boling. Part of your cares you give me with your crown. [cares down.

K. Rich. Your cares set up do not pluck my My care is—loss of care, by old care done; Your care is—gain of care, by new care won: The cares I give, I have, though given away; They tend the crown, yet still with me they stay.

Bol. Are you contented to resign the crown?

K. R. Ay, no;—no, ay;—For I must nothing be; Therefore no no, for I resign to thee.

Now mark me how I will undo myself:— I give this heavy weight from off my head, And this unwieldy scepter from my hand, The pride of kingly sway from out my heart; With mine own tears I wash away my balm,³ With mine own hands I give away my crown, With mine own tongue deny my sacred state, With mine own breath release all duteous oaths: All pomp and majesty I do forswear; My manors, rents, revenues, I forego;

My acts, decrees, and statutes, I deny: God pardon all oaths, that are broke to me! God keep all vows unbroke, are made to thee! Make me, that nothing have, with nothing griev'd;

And thou with all pleas'd, that hast all achiev'd! Long mayst thou live in Richard's seat to sit, And soon lie Richard in an earthy pit!— God save king Henry, unking'd Richard says, And send him many years of sunshine days!— What more remains?

North. No more, but that you read

[Offering a paper.

These accusations, and these grievous crimes, Committed by your person, and your followers, Against the state and profit of this land:

That, by confessing them, the souls of men May deem that you are worthily depos'd.

K. Rich. Must I do so? and must I ravel out My wear'd up follies? Gentle Northumberland, If thy offences were upon record, Would it not shame thee in so fair a troop, To read a lecture of them? If thou wouldst, There shouldst thou find one heinous article,— Containing the deposing of a king, And cracking the strong warrant of an oath,— Mark'd with a blot, mark'd in the book of heaven:—

Nay, all of you, that stand and look upon me, Whilst that my wretchedness doth bait myself,— Though some of you, with Pilate, wash your hands,

Showing an outward pity; yet you Pilates

Have here deliver'd me to my sour cross,

And water cannot wash away your sin.

N. My lord, despatch: read o'er these articles.

K. R. Mine eyes are full of tears, I cannot see: And yet salt water blinds them not so much, But they can see a sort¹ of traitors here.

Nay, if I turn mine eyes upon myself, I find myself a traitor with the rest: For I have given here my soul's consent, To undo the pompous body of a king; Make glory base; and sovereignty, a slave; Proud majesty, a subject; state, a peasant.

North. My lord,—— [man,

K. R. No lord of thine, thou haught, insulting Nor no man's lord; I have no name, no title,— No, not that name was given me at the font,— But 'tis usurp'd:—Alack the heavy day, That I have worn so many winters out, And know not now what name to call myself! O, that I were a mockery king of snow, Standing before the sun of Bolingbroke, To melt myself away in water-drops!— Good king,—great king,—(and yet not greatly An if my word be sterling yet in England, [good,]) Let it command a mirror hither straight; That it may show me what a face I have, Since it is bankrupt of his majesty.

Boling. Go, some of you, and fetch a looking-glass. [Exit an Attendant.

N. Read o'er this paper, while the glass doth

K. Rich. Fiend! thou torment'st me, [come.

B. Urge it no more, my lord Northumberland.

N. The commons will not then be satisfied.

K. R. They shall be satisfied: I'll read enough,

When I do see the very book indeed
Where all my sins are writ, and that's myself.—

Re-enter Attendant, with a Glass.

Give me that glass, and therein will I read.—
No deeper wrinkles yet? Hath sorrow struck
So many blows upon this face of mine,
And made no deeper wounds?—O, flattering
Like to my followers in prosperity, [glass,
Thou dost beguile me? Was this face the face,
That every day under his household roof
Did keep ten thousand men? Was this the face,
That, like the sun, did make beholders wink?
Was this the face, that fac'd so many follies,
And was at last outfac'd by Bolingbroke?
A brittle glory shineth in this face:
As brittle as the glory is the face;

[Dasheth the Glass against the ground.]

For there it is, crack'd in a hundred shivers.—
Mark, silent king, the moral of this sport,—
How soon my sorrow hath destroy'd my face.

Bol. The shadow of your sorrow hath destroy'd
The shadow of your face.

K. Rich. Say that again.
The shadow of my sorrow? Ha! let's see:—
'Tis very true, my grief lies all within;
And these external manners of lament
Are merely shadows to the unseen grief,
That swells with silence in the torur'd soul;
There lies the substance: and I thank thee, king,
For thy great bounty, that not only giv'st
Me cause to wail, but teachest me the way
How to lament the cause. I'll beg one boon
And then be gone, and trouble you no more.
Shall I obtain it?

Boling. Name it, fair cousin.

K. Rich. Fair cousin? Why, I am greater
than a king:

For, when I was a king, my flatterers
Were then but subjects; being now a subject,
I have a king here to my flatterer.
Being so great, I have no need to beg.

Boling. Yet ask.

K. Rich. And shall I have?

Boling. You shall.

K. Rich. Then give me leave to go.

Boling. Whither? *[sights.]*

K. Rich. Whither you will, so I were from your

Bol. Go, some of you, convey him to the Tower.

*K. R. O, good! Convey?—Conveyers² are you all,
That rise thus nimbly by a true king's fall.*

[Exeunt King Richard, some Lords, and a Guard.]

Bol. On Wednesday next, we solemnly set down
Our coronation: lords, prepare yourselves.

[Exeunt all but the Abbot, Bishop of Carlisle, and Aumerle.]

Abbot. A woeful pageant have we here beheld.

Car. The woe's to come; the children yet unborn
Shall feel this day as sharp to them as thorn.

Aum. You holy clergymen, is there no plot
To rid the realm of this pernicious blot?

Abbot. Before I freely speak my mind herein,
You shall not only take the sacrament
To bury mine intents, but to effect
Whatever I shall happen to devise:—
I see your brows are full of discontent,

1 Jugglers.

Your hearts of sorrow, and your eyes of tears;
Come home with me to supper; I will lay
A plot, shall show us all a merry day. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

LONDON. A STREET LEADING TO THE TOWER.

Enter Queen, and Ladies.

Q. This way the king will come; this is the way
To Julius Caesar's ill-erected tower,¹
To whose flint bosom my condemned lord
Is doom'd a prisoner, by proud Bolingbroke:
Here let us rest, if this rebellious earth
Have any resting for her true king's queen.

Enter King Richard, and Guards.

But soft, but see, or rather do not see,
My fair rose wither: Yet look up; behold;
That you in pity may dissolve to dew,
And wash him fresh again with true-love tears.—
Ah, thou, the model where old Troy did stand;
Thou map of honour; thou King Richard's tomb,
And not King Richard; thou most beauteous inn,
Why should hard-favour'd grief be lodg'd in thee,
When triumph is become an ale-house guest?

K. R. Join not with grief, fair woman, do not so,
To make my end too sudden: learn, good soul,
To think our former state a happy dream;
From which awak'd, the truth of what we are
Shows us but this: I am sworn brother, sweet,
To grim necessity; and he and I
Will keep a league till death. Hie thee to France,
And cloister thee in some religious house:
Our holy lives must win a new world's crown,
Which our profane hours here have stricken
down. *[mind]*

Q. What, is my Richard both in shape and
Transform'd, and weaken'd? Hath Bolingbroke
Depos'd² thine intellect? hath he been in thy heart?
The lion, dying, thrusteth forth his paw,
And wounds the earth, if nothing else, with rage,
To be o'erpower'd; and wilt thou, pupil-like,
Take thy correction mildly? kiss the rod,
And fawn on rage with base humility,
Which art a lion, and a king of beasts? *[beasts,*

K. R. A king of beasts, indeed? if aught but
I had been still a happy king of men. *[France:]*
Good sometime queen, prepare thee hence for
Think, I am dead; and that even here thou tak'st,
As from my death-bed, my last living leave.
In winter's tedious nights, sit by the fire,
With good old folks; and let them tell thee tales
Of woeful ages, long ago betid²

And, ere thou bid good night, to quit³ their grief,
Tell thou the lamentable fall of me,
And send the hearers weeping to their beds.
For why, the senseless brands will sympathise
The heavy accent of thy moving tongue,
And, in compassion, weep the fire out:
And some will mourn in ashes, some coal-black,
For the depositing of a rightful king.

Enter Northumberland, attended.

North. My lord, the mind of Bolingbroke is
chang'd:

1 Tower of London. 2 Happened. 3 Requite.

You must to Pomfret, not unto the Tower.—
And, madam, there is order ta'en for you;
With all swift speed you must away to France.

K. Rich. Northumberland, thou ladder where-
withal

The mounting Bolingbroke ascends my throne.—
The time shall not be many hours of age
More than it is, ere foul sin, gathering head,
Shall break into corruption: thou shalt think,
Though he divide the realm, and give thee half,
It is too little, helping him to all;
And he shall think, that thou, which know'st the
To plant unrightful kings, wilt know again, [way
Being ne'er so little urg'd, another way
To pluck him headlong from the usurped throne.
The love of wicked friends converts to fear;
That fear, to hate; and hate turns one, or both,
To worthy danger, and deserved death.

Nor. My guilt be on my head, and there an end.
Take leave, and part; for you must part forthwith.

K. R. Doubly divorc'd?—Bad men, ye violate
A two-fold marriage; 'twixt my crown and me;
And then, betwixt me and my married wife.—
Let me unkiss the oath 'twixt thee and me;
And yet not so, for with a kiss 'twas made.—
Part us, Northumberland; I towards the north,
Where shivering cold and sickness pines the
clime;

[pomp,
My wife to France; from whence, set forth in
She came adorned hither like sweet May,
Sent back like Hallowmas,¹ or short'st of day.

Queen. And must we be divided? must we part?

K. Rich. Ay, hand from hand, my love, and
heart from heart.

Q. Banish us both, and send the king with me.
North. That were some love, but little policy.

Queen. Then whither he goes, thither let me go.

K. R. So too, together weeping, make one woe.
Weep thou for me in France, I for thee here;
Better far off, than—near, be ne'er the near.
Go, count thy way with sighs: I mine with groans.

Queen. So longest way shall have the longest
moans. *[being short,*

K. Rich. Twice for one step I'll groan, the way
And piece the way out with a heavy heart.

Come, come, in wooing sorrow, let's be brief,
Since, wedding it, there is such length in grief.
One kiss shall stop our mouths, and dumbly part;
Thus give I mine, and thus I take thy heart.

[They kiss.

Q. Give me mine own again; 'twere no good part,
To take on me to keep and kill thy heart.

[Kiss again.

So, now I have mine own again, begone,
That I may strive to kill it with a groan.

K. R. We make woewanton with this fond delay:
Once more adieu; the rest let sorrow say.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II.—THE SAME. A ROOM IN THE
DUKE OF YORK'S PALACE.

Enter York, and his Duchess.

D. My lord, you told me you would tell the rest,
When weeping made you break the story off,
Of our two cousins coming into London.

York. Where did I leave?

Duch. At that sad stop, my lord,

1 Allhallows, i. e. All-saints.

Where rude misgovern'd hands, from windows'
tops,

Threw dust and rubbish on King Richard's head.

York. Then, as I said, the duke, great Boling-
Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed, [broke,—
Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,—
With slow, but stately pace, kept on his course,
While all tongues cried—God save thee, Boling-
broke!

[spake,
You would have thought the very windows
So many greedy looks of young and old
Through casements darted their desiring eyes
Upon his visage; and that all the walls,
With painted imag'ry, had said at once,—
Jesu preserve thee! welcome, Bolingbroke!
Whilst he, from one side to the other turning,
Bareheaded, lower than his proud steed's neck,
Bespoke them thus,—I thank you, countrymen:
And thus still doing, thus he pass'd along.

Duch. Alas, poor Richard! where rides he the
while!

York. As, in a theatre, the eyes of men,
After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,
Are idly bent on him that enters next,
Thinking his prattle to be tedious:
Even so, or with much more contempt, men's eyes
Did scowl on Richard; no man cried, God save
him!

No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home:
But dust was thrown upon his sacred head;
Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off,—
His face still combating with tears and smiles,
The badges of his grief and patience,— [steal'd
That, had not God, for some strong purpose,
The hearts of men, they most perforce have
And barbarism itself have pitied him. [melted.
But heaven hath a hand in these events;
To whose high will we bound our calm contents.
To Bolingbroke are we sworn subjects now,
Whose state and honour I for aye allow.

Enter Aumerle.

Duch. Here comes my son Aumerle.

York. Aumerle that was;
But that is lost, for being Richard's friend,
And, madam, you must call him Rutland now:
I am in parliament pledge for his truth,
And lasting fealty to the new-made king.

D. Welcome, my son: Who are the violets now,
That strew the green lap of the new-come spring?

A. Madam, I know not, nor I greatly care not:
Heaven knows, I had as lief be none, as one.

Y. Well, bear you well in this new spring of
time,

Lest you be cropp'd before you come to prime.
What news from Oxford? hold those justs¹ and
triumphs?

Aum. For aught I know, my lord, they do.
York. You will be there, I know.

Aum. I purpose so: *[bosom?*
York. What seals it that, that hangs without thy
Yea, look'st thou pale? let me see the writing.

Aum. My lord, 'tis nothing.

York. No matter then who sees it:
I will be satisfied, let me see the writing.

Aum. I do beseech your grace to pardon me;
It is a matter of small consequence,
Which for some reasons I would not have seen.

1 Tilts. 2 Shows.

Y. Which for some reasons, sir, I mean to see.
I fear, I fear,——

Duch. What should you fear?
'Tis nothing but some bond that he is entered into
For gay apparel, 'gainst the triumph day.

Y. Bound to himself? what doth he with a bond
That he is bound to? Wife, thou art a fool.—
Boy, let me see the writing. [show it.]

Aum. I do beseech you, pardon me; I may not

York. I will be satisfied; let me see it, I say.

[Snatches it, and reads.]

Treason! foul treason! villain! traitor! slave!

Duch. What is the matter, my lord?

Y. Ho! who is within there? [Enter a Servant.]

Saddle my horse:——

Heaven for his mercy! what treachery is here!

Duch. Why, what is it, my lord?

York. Give me my boots, I say; saddle my
horse:——

Now by mine honour, by my life, my troth,
I will appeach the villain. [Exit Servant.]

Duch. What's the matter?

York. Peace, foolish woman.

D. I will not peace:—What is the matter, son?

Aum. Good mother, be content; it is no more
Than my poor life must answer.

Duch. Thy life answer!

Re-enter Servant, with Boots.

Y. Bring me my boots, I will unto the king.

Duch. Strike him, Aumerle.—Poor boy, thou
art amaz'd:

Hence, villain; never more come in my sight.—

[To the Servant.]

York. Give me my boots, I say.

Duch. Why, York, what wilt thou do?

Wilt thou not hide the trespass of thine own?
Have we more sons? or are we like to have?

And wilt thou pluck my fair son from mine age,
And rob me of a happy mother's name?

Is he not like thee? is he not thine own?

York. Thou fond mad woman,

Wilt thou conceal this dark conspiracy?

A dozen of them here have ta'en the sacrament,
And interchangeably set down their hands,
To kill the king at Oxford.

Duch. He shall be none;

We'll keep him here: Then what is that to him?

York. Away,

Fond woman! were he twenty times my son,
I would appeach him.

Duch. Hadst thou groan'd for him,
As I have done, thou'dst be more pitiful.

York. Make way, unruly woman. [Exit.]

D. After, Aumerle; mount thee upon his horse;
Spur, post; and get before him to the king,
And beg thy pardon ere he do accuse thee.
I'll not be long behind; though I be old,
I doubt not but to ride as fast as York:
And never will I rise up from the ground,
Till Bolingbroke have pardon'd thee: Away:
Begone. [Exit.]

SCENE III.

WINDSOR. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Bolingbroke, as King; Percy, and other
Lords.

Boling. Can no man tell of my unthrifty son?
'Tis full three months since I did see him last:—

If any plague hang over us, 'tis he.

I would to heaven, my lords, he might be found;
Inquire at London, 'mongst the taverns there,
For there, they say, he daily doth frequent,
With unrestrained loose companions;
Even such, they say, as stand in narrow lanes,
And beat our watch, and rob our passengers;
While he, young, wanton, and effeminate boy,
Takes on the point of honour, to support
So dissolute a crew. [prince:]

Percy. My lord, some two days since I saw the
And told him of these triumphs held at Oxford.

Boling. And what said the gallant?

P. His answer was,—he would unto the stewes;
And from the common'st creature pluck a glove,
And wear it as a favour; and with that
He would unhorse the lustiest challenger.

B. As dissolute, as desperate! yet through both
I see some sparkles of a better hope,
Which elder days may happily bring forth.
But who comes here?

Enter Aumerle hastily.

Aum. Where is the king?

Boling. What means
Our cousin, that he stares and looks so wildly?

Aum. God save your grace. I do beseech your
majesty,

To have some conference with your grace alone.

Boling. Withdraw yourselves, and leave us
here alone.— [Exit Percy and Lords.]

What is the matter with our cousin now?

A. For ever may my knees grow to the earth,
[Kneels.]

My tongue cleave to my roof within my mouth,
Unless a pardon, ere I rise, or speak.

Boling. Intended, or committed, was this fault
If but the first, how heinous e'er it be,
To win thy after-love, I pardon thee.

A. Then give me leave that I may turn the key,
That no man enter till my tale be done.

Bol. Have thy desire. [Aumerle locks the door.]

York. [Within.] My liege, beware; look to thy-
self;

Thou hast a traitor in thy presence there.

Boling. Villain, I'll make thee safe. [Drawing.]

Aum. Stay thy revengeful hand;
Thou hast no cause to fear. [king:]

Y. [Within.] Open the door, secure, fool-hardy
Shall I, for love, speak treason in thy face?
Open the door, or I will break it open.

[Bolingbroke opens the door.]

Enter York.

Boling. What is the matter, uncle? speak?
Recover breath; tell us how near is danger,
That we may arm us to encounter it. [know]

Y. Peruse this writing here, and thou shalt
The treason that my haste forbids me show.

A. Remember, as thou read'st, thy promise past:
I do repent me; read not my name there,

My heart is not confederate with my hand.

Y. 'Twas, villain, ere thy hand did set it down.—
I tore it from the traitor's bosom, king:

Fear, and not love, begets his penitence:
Forget to pity him, lest thy pity prove
A serpent that will sting thee to the heart.

Bol. O heinous, strong, and bold conspiracy!—
O loyal father of a treacherous son!

Thou sheer,¹ immaculate, and silver fountain,
From whence this stream through muddy pas-
th-hath held his current, and defil'd himself! [sages,
Thy overflow of good converts to bad,
And thy abundant goodness shall excuse
This deadly plot in thy digressing son. [shame,

Y. So shall he spend mine honour with his
As thrifless sons their scraping fathers' gold.
Mine honour lives when his dishonour dies,
Or my sham'd life in his dishonour lies;
Thou kill'st me in his life; giving him breath,
The traitor lives, the true man's put to death.

Duch. [Within.] What ho, my liege! for hea-
ven's sake let me in. [eager cry?

E. What shrill-voic'd suppliant makes this
D. A woman, and thine aunt, great king; 'tis I.
Speak with me, pity me, open the door;

A beggar begs, that never begg'd before.

Bol. Our scene is altered,—from a serious thing,
And now changed to the *Beggar and the King*.

My dangerous cousin, let your mother in;
I know she's come to pray for your foul sin.

York. If thou do pardon, whosoever pray,
More sins, for this forgiveness, prosper may;
This fester'd joint cut off, the rest rests sound;
This, let alone, will all the rest confound.

Enter Duchess.

Duch. O king, believe not this hard-hearted
Love loving not itself, none other can. [man.

York. Thou frantic woman, what dost thou
make here?

Shalt thou once more a traitor rear?

Duch. Sweet York, be patient; Hear me,
gentle liege. [Kneels.

Boling. Rise up, good aunt.

Duch. Not yet, I thee beseech:
For ever will I kneel upon my knees,

And never see day that the happy sees,
Till thou give joy; until thou bid me joy,

By pardoning Rutland, my transgressing boy.

Aum. Unto my mother's prayers, I bend my
knee. [Kneels.

York. Against them both, my true joints
bended be. [Kneels.

Ill mayst thou thrive, if thou grant any grace!

Duch. Pleads he in earnest, look upon his face;
His eyes do drop no tears, his prayers are in jest;
His words come from his mouth, ours from our
breast:

He prays but faintly, and would be denied;
We pray with heart and soul, and all beside:

His weary joints would gladly rise, I know;
Our knees shall kneel till to the ground they
His prayers are full of false hypocrisy; [grow:

Ours, of true zeal and deep integrity.
Our prayers do out-pray his; then let them have
That mercy which true prayers ought to have.

Boling. Good aunt, stand up.

Duch. Nay, do not say—stand up;
But, pardon, first; and afterwards stand up.

And if I were thy nurse, thy tongue to teach,
Pardon—should be the first word of thy speech.

I never long'd to hear a word till now;
Say—pardon, king; let pity teach thee how:

The word is short, but not so short as sweet;
No word like pardon, for kings' mouths so meet.—

¹ Transparent.

York. Speak it in French, king; say, *pardonnez
moy.*¹

D. Dost thou teach pardon pardon to destroy?

Ah, my sour husband, my hard-hearted lord,
That sett'st the word itself against the word!—

Speak, pardon, as 'tis current in our land:
The chopping French we do not understand.

Thine eye begins to speak, set thy tongue there;
Or, in thy piteous heart plant thou thine ear;

That, hearing how our plaints and prayers do
Pity may move thee, pardon to rehearse. [pierce,

Boling. Good aunt, stand up.

Duch. I do not sue to stand,
Pardon is all the suit I have in hand.

Boling. I pardon him, as God shall pardon me.

Duch. O happy vantage of a kneeling knee!
Yet am I sick for fear: speak it again;

Twice saying pardon, doth not pardon twain,
But makes one pardon strong.

Boling. With all my heart
I pardon him.

Duch. A god on earth thou art.

Boling. But for our trusty brother-in-law,—
and the abbot,

With all the rest of that consorted crew,—
Destruction straight shall dog them at the heels,—

Good uncle, help to order several powers
To Oxford, or where'er these traitors are:

They shall not live within this world, I swear,
But I will have them, if I once know where.

Uncle, farewell,—and cousin, too, adieu; [true.
Your mother well hath pray'd, and prove you

Duch. Come, my old son;—I pray heaven make
thee new. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.

Enter Exton and a Servant.

Exton. Didst thou not mark the king, what
words he spake?

Have I no friend will rid me of this living fear?
Was it not so?

Serv. Those were his very words.

Exton. *Have I no friend?* quoth he: he spake
it twice,

And urg'd it twice together; did he not?

Serv. He did. [me;

Ex. And, speaking it, he wistfully look'd on
As whoshould say,—I would, thou wert the man
That would divorce this terror from my heart;

Meaning, the king at Pomfret. Come, let's go;
I am the king's friend, and will rid his foe.
[Exeunt.

SCENE V.—POMFRET. THE CASTLE.

Enter King Richard.

K. R. I have been studying how I may compare
This prison, where I live, unto the world;

And, for because the world is populous,
And here is not a creature but myself,

I cannot do it;—Yet I'll hammer it out.
My brain I'll prove the female to my soul;

My soul, the father: and these two beget
A generation of still-breeding thoughts,

And these same thoughts people this little world;
In humours, like the people of this world;

For no thought is contented. The better sort,—
As thoughts of things divine,—are intermix'd

¹ Excuse me.

With scruples, and do set the word itself
Against the word:
As thus,—*Come, little ones!* and then again,—
*It is as hard to come, as for a camel
To thread the postern of a needle's eye.*
Thoughts tending to ambition, they do plot
Unlikely wonders; how these vain weak nails
May tear a passage through the flinty ribs
Of this hard world, my ragged prison walls;
And, for they cannot, die in their own pride.
Thoughts tending to content, flatter themselves,
That they are not the first of fortune's slaves,
Nor shall not be the last: like silly beggars,
Who, sitting in the stocks, refuse their shame,
That many have, and others must sit there:
And in this thought they find a kind of ease,
Bearing their own misfortune on the back
Of such as have before endured the like.
Thus play I, in one person, many people,
And none contented: Sometimes am I king;
Then treason makes me wish myself a beggar;
And so I am: Then crushing penury
Persuades me I was better when a king;
Then am I king'd again: and by-and-by,
Think that I am unking'd by Bolingbroke,
And straight am nothing:—but whate'er I am,
Nor I, nor any man, but that but man is,
With nothing shall be pleas'd till he be eas'd
With being nothing.—*Musick do I hear?*

[*Musick.*
Ha, ha! keep time:—How sour sweet musick is,
When time is broke, and no proportion kept!
So is it in the musick of men's lives.
And here have I the daintiness of ear,
To check time broke in a disorder'd string;
But, for the concord of my state and time,
Had not an ear to hear my true time broke.
I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.
For now hath time made me his numbring clock:
My thoughts are minutes; and, with sighs,
they jar
Their watches on unto mine eyes, the outward
Whereto my finger, like a dial's point,
Is pointing still, in cleansing them from tears.
Now, sir, the sounds that tell what hour it is,
Are clamorous groans, that strike upon my heart,
Which is the bell: So sighs, and tears, and groans,
Show minutes, times, and hours:—but my time
Runs posting on in Bolingbroke's proud joy,
While I stand fooling here, his Jack o' the clock.¹
This musick mads me, let it sound no more;
For, though it have holpe madmen to their wits,
In me, it seems it will make wise men mad.
Yet blessing on his heart that gives it me!
For 'tis a sign of love; and love to Richard
Is a strange brooch in this all-hating world.

Enter Groom.

Groom. Hail, royal prince!

K. Rich. Thanks, noble peer;
The cheapest of us is ten groats too dear.
What art thou? and how comest thou hither,
Where no man never comes, but that sad dog
That brings me food, to make misfortune live?
Groom. I was a poor groom of thy stable, king,
When thou wert king; who, travelling towards
York,

¹ An automaton, striking the quarters.

With much ado, at length have gotten leave
To look upon my sometime master's face.
O, how it yearn'd my heart, when I beheld,
In London streets, that coronation day,
When Bolingbroke rode on roan Barbary!
That horse, that thou so often hast bestrid;
That horse, that I so carefully have dress'd!
K. Ri. Rode he on Barbary? Tell me, gentle
How went he under him? [friend,
Gr. So proudly, as if he disdain'd the ground.
K. Rich. So proud that Bolingbroke was on
his back!
That jade hath eat bread from my royal hand;
This hand hath made him proud with clapping
him.
Would he not stumble? Would he not fall down,
(Since pride must have a fall,) and break the neck
Of that proud man that did usurp his back?
Forgiveness, horse! why do I rail on thee,
Since thou, created to be aw'd by man,
Wast born to bear? I was not made a horse;
And yet I bear a burden like an ass,
Spur-gall'd, and tir'd, by jauncing Bolingbroke.

Enter Keeper, with a Dish.

Keep. [To the Groom.] Fellow, give place; here
is no longer stay. [away.]

K. Rich. If thou love me, 'tis time thou wert
Groom. What my tongue dares not, that my
heart shall say. [Exit.]

Keep. My lord, will't please you to fall to?
K. Rich. Taste of it first, as thou art wont to do.
K. My lord, I dare not; Sir Pierce of Exton, who
Lately came from the king, commands the contrary. [thee!]

K. Ri. The devil take Henry of Lancaster, and
Patience is stale, and I am weary of it.

[*Beats the Keeper.*

Keep. Help, help, help!

Enter Exton, and Servants armed.

K. Rich. How now? what means death in
this rude assault? [ment.
Villain, thy own hand yields thy death's instru-
[Snatching a weapon, and killing one.
Go thou, and fill another room in hell.

[*He kills another, then Exton
strikes him down.*

That hand shall burn in never-quenching fire,
That staggers thus my person.—Exton, thy
fierce hand [land.
Hath with the king's blood stain'd the king's own
Mount, mount, my soul! thy seat is up on high;
Whilst my gross flesh sinks downward, here to
die. [Dies.]

Eaton. As full of valour, as of royal blood:
Both have I spilt: O, would the deed were good!
For now the devil, that told me—I did well,
Says that this deed is chronicled in hell.
This dead king to the living king I'll bear;—
Take hence the rest, and give them burial here.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE VI.

WINDSOR. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Flourish. *Enter Bolingbroke, and York, with
Lords, and Attendants.*

Bol. Kind uncle York, the latest news we hear
Is—that the rebels have consum'd with fire

Our town of Cicester in Glostershire ;
But whether they be ta'en, or slain, we hear not.

Enter Northumberland.

Welcome, my lord : What is the news ?

N. First, to thy sacred state wish I all happiness,
The next news is,—I have to London sent
The heads of Salisbury, Spencer, Blunt, and
The manner of their taking may appear [Kent :
At large discoursed in this paper here.

[*Presenting a paper.*

B. We thank thee, gentle Percy, for thy pains;
And to thy worth will add right worthy gains.

Enter Fitzwater.

F. Mylord, I have from Oxford sent to London
The heads of Brocas, and Sir Bennet Seely ;
Two of the dangerous consorted traitors,
That sought at Oxford thy dire overthrow.

Bol. Thy pains, Fitzwater, shall not be forgot ;
Right noble is thy merit, well I wot.

Enter Percy, with the Bishop of Carlisle.

Percy. The grand conspirator, abbot of Westminster,

With clog of conscience, and sour melancholy,
Hath yielded up his body to the grave ;

But here is Carlisle living to abide
Thy kingly doom, and sentence of his pride.

Boling. Carlisle, this is your doom :— [room,
Choose out some secret place, some reverend

More than thou hast, and with it joy thy life ;
So, as thou liv'st in peace, die free from strife :
For though mine enemy thou hast ever been,
High sparks of honour in thee have I seen.

Enter Exton, with Attendants bearing a Coffin.

Exton. Great king, within this coffin I present
Thy buried fear : herein all breathless lies
The mightiest of thy greatest enemies,
Richard of Bourdeaux, by me hither brought.

Boling. Exton, I thank thee not ; for thou
hast wrought

A deed of slander, with thy fatal hand,
Upon my head, and all this famous land.

Exton. From your own mouth, my lord, did
I this deed.

Bol. They love not poison that do poison need,
Nor do I thee ; though I did wish him dead,
I hate the murderer, love him murdered.

The guilt of conscience take thou for thy labour,
But neither my good word, nor princely favour :
With Cain go wander through the shade of night,
And never show thy head by day nor light.——

Lords, I protest my soul is full of woe,
That blood should sprinkle me, to make me grow :
Come, mourn with me for what I do lament,
And put on sullen black incontinent¹ ;

I'll make a voyage to the Holy Land,
To wash this blood off from my guilty hand :—
March sadly after ; grace my mournings here,
In weeping after this untimely bier. [*Exeunt.*

First Part of King Henry IV.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE FOURTH.
HENRY, *Prince of Wales,* } *Sons to the King.*
PRINCE JOHN of Lancaster, }
EARL OF WESTMORELAND, } *Friends to the*
SIR WALTER BLUNT, } *King.*
THOMAS PERCY, *Earl of Worcester.*
HENRY PERCY, *Earl of Northumberland.*
HENRY PERCY, *surnamed HOTSPUR, his Son.*
EDWARD MORTIMER, *Earl of March.*
SCROOP, *Archbishop of York.*
ARCHIBALD, *Earl of Douglas.*
OWEN GLENDOWER.
SIR RICHARD VERNON.

SIR JOHN FALSTAFF.

POINS.

GADSHILL.

PETO. BARDOLPH.

LADY PERCY, *Wife to Hotspur, and Sister to Mortimer.*

LADY MORTIMER, *Daughter to Glendower, and Wife to Mortimer.*

MRS QUICKLY, *Hostess of a Tavern in Eastcheap*

Lords, Officers, Sheriff, Vintner, Chamberlain, Drawers, two Carriers, Travellers, and Attendants.

SCENE.—*England.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, Westmoreland, Sir Walter Blunt, and others.

K. Hen. So shaken as we are, so wan with care,
Find we a time for frightened peace to pant,
And breathe short-winded accents of new broils
To be commenc'd in stronds¹ afar remote.

¹ Strands, banks of the sea.

No more the thirsty Erinnyes² of this soil
Shall daub her lips with her own children's blood ;
No more shall trenching war channel her fields,
Nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hoofs
Of hostile paces : those opposed eyes,
Which,—like the meteors of a troubled heaven,
All of one nature, of one substance bred,——
Did lately meet in the intestine shock
And furious close of civil butchery,

¹ Immediately.

² One of the furies.

Shall now, in mutual, well beseeeming ranks,
March all one way; and be no more oppos'd
Against acquaintance, kindred, and allies:
The edge of war, like an ill-sheathed knife,
No more shall cut his master. Therefore, friends,
As far as to the sepulchre of Christ,
(Whose soldier now, under whose blessed cross
We are impressed and engag'd to fight,) ¹
Forthwith a power of English shall we levy;
Whose arms were moulded in their mother's
womb

To chase these pagans, in those holy fields,
Over whose acres walk'd those blessed feet,
Which, fourteen hundred years ago, were nail'd
For our advantage, on the bitter cross.
But this our purpose is a twelvemonth old,
And bootless 'tis to tell you—we will go;
Therefore we meet not now:—Then let me hear
Of you, my gentle cousin Westmoreland,
What yesternight our council did decree
In forwarding this dear expedience.¹

West. My liege, this haste was hot in question,
And many limits² of the charge set down
But yesternight: when, all athwart, there came
A post from Wales, loaden with heavy news;
Whose worst was,—that the noble Mortimer,
Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight
Against the irregular and wild Glendower,
Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken,
And a thousand of his people butchered.
Upon whose dead corpse there was such misuse,
Such beastly, shameless transformation,
By those Welshwomen done, as may not be,
Without much shame, re-told or spoken of.

K. Hen. It seems, then, that the tidings of
this broil

Brake off our business for the Holy Land.

West. This, match'd with other, did, my
gracious lord;

For more uneven and unwelcome news
Came from the north, and thus it did import.
On Holyrood day, the gallant Hotspur there,
Young Harry Percy, and brave Archibald,
That ever-valiant and approved Scot,
At Holmedon met,
Where they did spend a sad and bloody hour;
As by discharge of their artillery,
And shape of likelihood, the news was told;
For he that brought them, in the very heat
And pride of their contention did take horse,
Uncertain of the issue any way.

K. Hen. Here is a dear and true industrious
friend,

Sir Walter Blunt, new lighted from his horse,
Stain'd with the variation of each soil
Betwixt that Holmedon and this seat of ours;
And he hath brought us smooth and welcome
news.

The earl of Douglas is discomfited;
Ten thousand bold Scots, two-and-twenty
knights,

Balk'd³ in their own blood, did Sir Walter see
On Holmedon's plains: Of prisoners, Hotspur
took

Mordake the earl of Fife, and eldest son
To beateen Douglas; and the earls of Athol,
Of Murray, Angus, and Menteith.

1 Expedition. 2 Estimates. 3 Piled up.

And is not this an honourable spoil?

A gallant prize? ha, cousin, is it not?

West. It is a conquest for a prince to boast of.

K. Hen. Yea, there thou mak'st me sad, and
mak'st me sin

In envy that my lord Northumberland
Should be the father of so blest a son:
A son, who is the theme of honour's tongue;
Amongst a grove, the very straightest plant;
Who is sweet fortune's minion, and her pride:
Whilst I, by looking on the praise of him,
See riot and dishonour stain the brow
Of my young Harry. O, that it could be prov'd,
That some night-tripping fairy had exchang'd
In cradle-clothes our children where they lay,
And call'd mine, Percy—his, Plantagenet!
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine.
But let him from my thoughts:—What think
you, coz,

Of this young Percy's pride? the prisoners,
Which he in this adventure hath surpris'd,
To his own use he keeps: and sends me word,
I shall have none but Mordake earl of Fife.

West. This is his uncle's teaching, this is
Worcester,

Malevolent to you in all aspects;
Which makes him prune¹ himself, and bristle up
The crest of youth against your dignity.

K. H. But I have sent for him to answer this;
And, for this cause, a while we must neglect
Our holy purpose to Jerusalem.
Cousin, on Wednesday next our council we
Will hold at Windsor, so inform the lords:
But come yourself with speed to us again;
For more is to be said, and to be done,
Than out of anger can be utter'd.

West. I will, my liege. [Exit.

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Henry, Prince of Wales, and Falstaff.

Fal. Now, Hal, what time of day is it, lad?

P. Hen. Thou art so fat-witted, with drinking
of old sack, and unbuttoning thee after supper,
and sleeping upon benches after noon, that thou
hast forgotten to demand that truly which thou
wouldest truly know. What hast thou to do
with the time of the day? Unless hours were
cups of sack, and minutes capons, I see no
reason, why thou shouldst be so superfluous to
demand the time of the day.

Fal. Indeed, you come near me, now, Hal:
for we that take purses, go by the moon and
seven stars; and not by Phoebus,—he, that
wandering knight so fair. And, I pray thee,
sweet wag, when thou art king,—as, save thy
grace, (majesty, I should say; for grace thou
wilt have none,)—

P. Hen. What, none?

Fal. No, by my troth; not so much as will
serve to be prologue to an egg and butter.

P. Hen. Well, how then? come, roundly,
roundly.

Fal. Marry, then, sweet wag, when thou art
king, let not us, that are squires of the night's
body, be called thieves of the day's beauty; let
us be—Diana's foresters, gentlemen of the shade,

1 Trim.

minions of the moon: And let men say, we be men of good government; being governed as the sea is, by our noble and chaste mistress the moon, under whose countenance we—steal.

P. Hen. Thou say'st well; and it holds well too: for the fortune of us, that are the moon's men, doth ebb and flow like the sea; being governed as the sea is, by the moon. As, for proof, now: A purse of gold most resolutely snatched on Monday night, and most dissolutely spent on Tuesday morning; got with swearing—lay by¹; and spent with crying—bring in²; now, in as low an ebb as the foot of the ladder; and, by and by, in as high a flow as the ridge of the gallows.

Fal. Thou say'st true, lad. And is not my hostess of the tavern a most sweet girl?

P. Hen. As the honey of Hybla, my old lad of the castle. And is not a buff jerkin³ a most sweet robe of durance?

Fal. How now, how now, mad wag? what, in thy quips, and thy quiddities⁴? what have I to do with a buff jerkin?

P. Hen. Why, what have I to do with my hostess of the tavern?

Fal. Well, thou hast called her to a reckoning, many a time and oft.

P. H. Did I ever call for thee to pay thy part?
Fal. No; I'll give thee thy due, thou hast paid all there.

P. Hen. Yea, and elsewhere, so far as my coin would stretch; and, where it would not, I have used my credit.

Fal. Yea, and so used it, that were it not here apparent that thou art heir apparent,—But, I pr'ythee, sweet wag, shall there be gallows standing in England when thou art king? and resolution thus fobbed⁵ as it is, with the rusty curb of old father Antick the law? Do not thou, when thou art king, hang a thief.

P. Hen. No; thou shalt.

Fal. Shall I? O rare! I'll be a brave judge.

P. Hen. Thou judgest false already; I mean, thou shalt have the hanging of the thieves, and so become a rare hangman.

Fal. Well, Hal, well; and in some sort it jumps with my humour, as well as waiting in the court, I can tell you.

P. Hen. For obtaining of suits?

Fal. Yea, for obtaining of suits: whereof the hangman hath no lean wardrobe. I am as melancholy as a lugged⁶ bear.

P. Hen. Or an old lion; or a lover's lute.

Fal. Yea, or the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe.⁷

P. Hen. What sayest thou to a hare, or the melancholy of Moor-ditch?

Fal. Thou hast the most unsavoury similes; and art, indeed, the most comparative, rascalliest,—sweet young prince,—But, Hal, I pr'ythee, trouble me no more with vanity. I wish thou and I knew where a commodity of good names were to be bought: An old lord of the council rated me the other day in the street about you,

sir; but I marked him not: and yet he talked very wisely; but I regarded him not: and yet he talked wisely, and in the street too.

P. Hen. Thou didst well; for wisdom cries out in the streets, and no man regards it.

Fal. O thou art, indeed, able to corrupt a saint. Thou hast done much harm upon me, Hal,—Heaven forgive thee for it! Before I knew thee, Hal, I knew nothing; and now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked. I must give over this life, and I will give it over; an I do not, I am a villain.

P. Hen. Where shall we take a purse to-morrow, Jack?

Fal. Where thou wilt, lad, I'll make one; an I do not, call me villain, and baffle¹ me.

P. Hen. I see a good amendment of life in thee; from praying, to purse-taking.

Enter Poins, at a distance.

Fal. Why, Hal, 'tis my vocation, Hal; 'tis no sin for a man to labour in his vocation. Poins!—Now shall we know if Gadshill have set a match.² This is the most omnipotent villain, that ever cried, Stand, to a true man.

P. Hen. Good morrow, Ned.

Poins. Good morrow, sweet Hal.—What says monsieur Remorse? What says Sir John Sack-and-Sugar?—My lads, my lads, to-morrow morning, by four o'clock, early at Gadshill: There are pilgrims going to Canterbury with rich offerings, and traders riding to London with fat purses: I have visors for you all, you have horses for yourselves: Gadshill lies to-night in Rochester: I have bespoke supper to-morrow night in Eastcheap; we may do it as secure as sleep: If you will go, I will stuff your purses full of crowns; if you will not, tarry at home, and be hanged.

Fal. Hear me, Yedward; if I tarry at home, and go not, I'll hang you for going.

Poins. You will, chops?

Fal. Hal, wilt thou make one? [faith.

P. Hen. Who, I rob? I a thief? not I, by my

Fal. There's neither honesty, manhood, nor good fellowship in thee, nor thou camest not of the blood royal, if thou dar'st not stand for ten shillings.³

P. Hen. Well, then, once in my days I'll be a madcap.

Fal. Why, that's well said. [home.

P. Hen. Well, come what will, I'll tarry at

Fal. I'll be a traitor then, when thou art king.

P. Hen. I care not.

Poins. Sir John, I pr'ythee, leave the prince and me alone; I will lay him down such reasons for this adventure, that he shall go.

Fal. Well, mayst thou have the spirit of persuasion, and he the ears of profiting, that what thou speakest may move, and what he hears may be believed, that the true prince may (for recreation sake) prove a false thief; for the poor abuses of the time want countenance. Farewell: You shall find me in Eastcheap.

1 Stand.

2 More wine.

3 The dress of sheriffs' officers.

4 Subtilties.

5 Cheated.

6 Dragged about.

7 Croak of a frog.

1 Disgrace.

2 Made an appointment.

3 A real or royal, value ten shillings.

P. Hen. Farewell, thou latterspring! Farewell,
All-hallown summer!¹ [*Exit Falstaff.*]

Poins. Now, my good sweet honey lord, ride
with us to-morrow; I have a jest to execute, that
I cannot manage alone. Falstaff, Bardolph,
Peto, and Gadshill, shall rob those men that we
have already waylaid; yourself, and I, will not
be there: and when they have the booty, if you
and I do not rob them, cut this head from my
shoulders.

P. Hen. But how shall we part with them in
setting forth?

Poins. Why, we will set forth before or after
them, and appoint them a place of meeting,
wherein it is at our pleasure to fail; and then
will they adventure upon the exploit themselves;
which they shall have no sooner achieved, but
we'll set upon them.

P. Hen. Ay, but, 'tis like, that they will
know us, by our horses, by our habits, and by
every other appointment, to be ourselves.

Poins. Tut! our horses they shall not see, I'll
tie them in the wood; our visors we will change,
after we leave them; and, sirrah, I have cases
of buckram for the nonce,² to immask our
noted outward garments.

P. Hen. But, I doubt, they will be too hard
for us.

Poins. Well, for two of them I know them to
be as true-bred cowards as ever turned back;
and for the third, if he fight longer than he sees
reason, I'll forswear arms. The virtue of this
jest will be, the incomprehensible lies that this
same fat rogue will tell us, when we meet at
supper: how thirty, at least, he fought with;
what wards, what blows, what extremities he
endur'd; and, in the reproof of this, lies the jest.

P. Hen. Well, I'll go with thee; provide us
all things necessary, and meet me to-morrow
night in Eastcheap; there I'll sup. Farewell.

Poins. Farewell, my lord. [*Exit Poins.*]

P. Hen. I know you all, and will a while uphold
The unyok'd humour of your idleness:
Yet herein will I imitate the sun;
Who doth permit the base contagious clouds
To smother up his beauty from the world,
That, when he please again to be himself,
Being wanted, he may be more wonder'd at,
By breaking through the foul and ugly mists
Of vapours, that did deem to strangle him.
If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work;
But, when they seldom come, they wish'd-for
come,

And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents.
So, when this loose behaviour I throw off,
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;
And, like bright metal on a sullen ground,
My reformation, glittering o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly, and attract more eyes,
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.
I'll not offend, to make offence a skill;
Redeeming time, when men think least I will.

[*Exit.*]

¹ 1st Nov.; ridiculing an old man with youthful pas-
² 2 Occasion. sions.

SCENE III.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE PALACE.

*Enter King Henry, Northumberland, Worcester,
Hotspur, Sir Walter Blunt, and others.*

K. Hen. My blood hath been too cold and
temperate,

Unapt to stir at these indignities,
And you have found me; for, accordingly,
You tread upon my patience; but, be sure,
I will from henceforth rather be myself,
Mighty, and to be fear'd, than my condition;
Which hath been smooth as oil, soft as young
down,

And therefore lost that title of respect,
Which the proud soul ne'er pays but to the
proud.

Wor. Our house, my sovereign liege, little
deserves,

The scourge of greatness to be us'd on it;
And that same greatness to which our own hands
Have help to make so portly.

North. My lord, —

K. H. Worcester, get thee gone, for I see danger
And disobedience in thine eye; O, sir,
Your presence is too bold and peremptory,
And majesty might never yet endure
The moody frontier¹ of a servant brow.

You have good leave to leave us; when we need
Your use and counsel, we shall send for you. —

Exit Worcester.

[*To North.*] You were about to speak.

North. Yea, my good lord.

Those prisoners in your highness' name de-
manded,

Which Harry Percy here at Holmedon took,
Were, as he says, not with such strength denied
As is deliver'd to your majesty:
Either envy, therefore, or misprision,
Is guilty of this fault, and not my son.

Hot. My liege, I did deny no prisoners.

But, I remember, when the fight was done,
When I was dry with rage, and extreme toil,
Breathless and faint, leaning upon my sword,
Came there a certain lord, neat, trimly dress'd,
Fresh as a bridegroom; and his chin, new-reap'd,
Show'd like a stubble-land at harvest-home;
He was perfum'd like a milliner;

And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he held
A pouncet-box,² which ever and anon

He gave his nose, and took't away again: —
Who, therewith angry, when it next came there,
Took it in snuff: — and still he smil'd and talk'd:

And, as the soldiers bore dead bodies by,
He call'd them — untaught knaves, unmannerly,

To bring a slovenly unhandsome corse
Betwixt the wind and his nobility.

With many holiday and lady terms
He question'd me; among the rest demanded
My prisoners, in your majesty's behalf.

I then, all smarting, with my wounds being cold,
To be so pester'd with a popinjay,

Out of my grief and my impatience,
Answer'd neglectingly, I know not what;

He should, or he should not; — for he made me
mad,

To see him shine so brisk, and smell so sweet,
And talk so like a waiting-gentlewoman,

¹ Forehead. ² Perfume box.

Of guns, and drums, and wounds, (heaven save the mark !)

And telling me, the sovereign'st thing on earth
Was parmaceti, for an inward bruise ;
And that it was great pity, so it was,
That villainous saltpetre should be digg'd
Out of the bowels of the harmeless earth,
Which many a good tall fellow had destroy'd
So cowardly ; and but for these vile guns,
He would himself have been a soldier.
This bald unjointed chat of his, my lord,
I answer'd indirectly, as I said ;
And, I beseech you, let not his report
Come current for an accusation,
Betwixt my love and your high majesty.

B. The circumstance consider'd, good my lord,
Whatever Harry Percy then had said,
To such a person, and in such a place,
At such a time, with all the rest re-told,
May reasonably die, and never rise
To do him wrong, or any way impeach
What then he said, so he unsay it now.

K. Hen. Why, yet he doth deny his prisoners ;
But with proviso, and exception,—
That we, at our own charge, shall ransom
straight

His brother-in-law, the foolish Mortimer ;
Who on my soul, hath wilfully betray'd
The lives of those that he did lead to fight
Against the great magician, vile Glendower ;
Whose daughter, as we hear, the earl of March
Hath lately married. Shall our coffers then
Be emptied, to redeem a traitor home ?
Shall we buy treason ! and indent² with fears,
When they have lost and forfeited themselves ?
No, on the barren mountains let him starve ;
For I shall never hold that man my friend,
Whose tongue shall ask me for one penny cost
To ransom home revolted Mortimer.

Hot. Revolted Mortimer !
He never did fall off, my sovereign liege,
But by the chance of war :—To prove that true,
Needs no more but one tongue for all those
wounds,

Those mouthed wounds, which valiantly he took,
When on the gentle Severn's sedgy bank,
In single opposition, hand to hand,
He did confound the best part of an hour
In changing hardiment with great Glendower :
Three times they breath'd, and three times did
they drink,

Upon agreement, of swift Severn's flood ;
Who then, affrighted with their bloody looks,
Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds,
And hid his crisp¹ head in the hollow bank
Blood-stained with these valiant combatants.
Never did bare and rotten policy
Colour her working with such deadly wounds ;
Nor never could the noble Mortimer
Receive so many, and all willingly ;
Then let him not be slander'd with revolt.

K. Hen. Thou dost belie him, Percy, thou
dost belie him ;

He never did encounter with Glendower ;
I tell thee,

He durst as well have met the devil alone,
As Owen Glendower for an enemy.

1 Brave. 2 Bargain. 3 Curled.

Art not ashamed ? But, sirrah, henceforth
Let me not hear you speak of Mortimer ;
Send me your prisoners with the speediest means,
Or you shall hear in such a kind from me
As will displease you.—My lord Northumberland,
We license your departure with your son :—
Send us your prisoners, or you'll hear of it.

[*Exeunt King Henry, Blunt, and Train.*]

Hot. And if the devil come and roar for them,
I will not send them :—I will after straight,
And tell him so : for I will ease my heart,
Although it be with hazard of my head.

N. What, drunk with choler ? stay, and pause
Here comes your uncle. [a while ;]

Re-enter Worcester.

Hot. Speak of Mortimer ?
Yes I will speak of him ; and let my soul
Want mercy, if I do not join with him :
Yea, on his part, I'll empty all these veins,
And shed my dear blood drop by drop i' the dust,
But I will lift the down-trod Mortimer
As high i' the air as this unthankful king,
As this ingrate and canker'd Bolingbroke.

North. [To Wor.] Brother, the king hath made
your nephew mad.

W. Who struck this heat up, after I was gone ?

Hot. He will, forsooth, have all my prisoners ;
And when I urg'd the ransom once again
Of my wife's brother, then his cheek look'd pale ;
And on my face he turn'd an eye of death,
Trembling even at the name of Mortimer.

W. I cannot blame him : Was he not proclaim'd,
By Richard that dead is, the next of blood ?

North. He was ; I heard the proclamation :
And then it was, when the unhappy king
(Whose wrongs in us God pardon !) did set forth
Upon his Irish expedition ;

From whence he, intercepted, did return
To be depos'd, and shortly, murdered.

Wor. And for whose death, we in the world's
wide mouth

Live scandaliz'd, and foully spoken of.

Hot. But, soft, I pray you ; Did King Richard
then

Proclaim my brother Edmund Mortimer
Heir to the crown ?

North. He did ; myself did hear it.

Hot. Nay, then I cannot blame his cousin king.
That wish'd him on the barren mountains starv'd.
But shall it be, that you,—that set the crown
Upon the head of this forgetful man ;

And, for his sake, wear the detested blot
Of murd'rous subornation,—shall it be,
That you a world of curses undergo ;
Being the agents, or base second means,
The cords, the ladder, or the hangman rather ?

O, pardon me, that I descend so low ;
To show the line, and the predicament,

Wherein you range under this subtle king.—
Shall it, for shame, be spoken in these days,

Or fill up chronicles in time to come,
That men of your nobility and power,

Did gage them both in an unjust behalf,—
As both of you, Heaven pardon it ! have done,—

To put down Richard, that sweet lovely rose,
And plant this thorn, this canker, Bolingbroke ?

And shall it in more shame, be further spoken,

That you are fool'd, discarded, and shook off
By him, for whom these shames ye underwent?
No; yet time serves wherein you may redeem
Your banish'd honours, and restore yourselves
Into the good thoughts of the world again:
Revenge the jeering, and disdain'd contempt,
Of this proud king; who studies day and night,
To answer all the debt he owes to you,
Even with the bloody payment of your deaths.
Therefore, I say,——

Wor. Peace, cousin, say no more:

And now I will unclasp a secret book,
And to your quick-conceiving discontents
I'll read you matter deep and dangerous;
As full of peril, and advent'rous spirit,
As to o'er-walk a current, roaring loud,
On the unsteadfast footing of a spear.

H. If he fall in, good night:—or sink or swim:
Send danger from the east unto the west,
So honour cross it from the north to south,
And let them grapple;—O! the blood more stirs,
To rouse a lion, than to start a hare.

North. Imagination of some great exploit
Drives him beyond the bounds of patience.

H. By heaven, methinks, it were an easy leap,
To pluck bright honour from the pale-fac'd
moon;

Or dive into the bottom of the deep,
Where fathom-line could never touch the
ground,

And pluck up drowned honour by the locks;
So he, that doth redeem her thence, might wear,
Without corrival,¹ all her dignities:
But out upon this half-fac'd fellowship!

Wor. He apprehends a world of figures here,
But not the form of what he should attend.—
Good cousin, give me audience for a while.

Hot. I cry you mercy.

Wor. Those same noble Scots,
That are your prisoners,——

Hot. I'll keep them all;
By heaven, he shall not have a Scot of them:
No, if a Scot would save his soul, he shall not:
I'll keep them, by this hand.

Wor. You start away,
And lend no ear unto my purposes.—
These prisoners you shall keep.

Hot. Nay, I will; that's flat:—
He said he would not ransom Mortimer;
Forbade my tongue to speak of Mortimer;
But I will find him when he lies asleep,
And in his ear I'll holla—Mortimer!

Nay,
I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak
Nothing but Mortimer, and give it him,
To keep his anger still in motion.

Wor. Hear you,
Cousin; a word.

Hot. All studies here I solemnly defy,
Save how to gall and pinch this Bolingbroke:
And that same sword-and-buckler prince of
Wales,——

But that I think his father loves him not,
And would be glad he met with some mischance,
I'd have him poison'd with a pot of ale.

Wor. Farewell, kinsman! I will talk to you,
When you are better temper'd to attend.

¹ Competitor.

Nor. Why, what a wasp-stung and impatient
Art thou to break into this woman's mood; [fool
Tying thine ear to no tongue but thine own!

Hot. Why, look you, I am whipp'd and scourg'd
with rods,

Nettled, and stung with pismires, when I hear
Of this vile politician, Bolingbroke.

In Richard's time,—What do you call the place?—
A plague upon 't!—It is in Glostershire;—
'Twas where the mad-cap duke his uncle kept;
His uncle York;—where I first bow'd my knee
Unto this king of smiles, this Bolingbroke,
When you and he came back from Ravensburg.
North. At Berkley Castle.

Hot. You say true:——
Why, what a candy deal of courtesy
This fawning greyhound then did proffer me!
Look,—when his infant fortune came to age,
And,—gentle Harry Percy,—and, kind cousin,—
The devil take such cozeners!—Heaven forgive
me!——

Good uncle, tell your tale, for I have done.

Wor. Nay, if you have not, to't again;
We'll stay your leisure.

Hot. I have done, i' faith.

W. Then once more to your Scottish prisoners,
Deliver them up without their ransom straight,
And make the Douglas' son your only mean
For powers in Scotland; which,—for divers
reasons,

Which I shall send you written,—be assur'd,
Will easily be granted.—[*To North.*] You, my
lord,—

Your son in Scotland being thus employ'd,—
Shall secretly into the bosom creep
Of that same noble prelate, well belov'd,
The archbishop.

Hot. Of York, is't not?

Wor. True; who bears hard
His brother's death at Bristol, the lord Scroop.
I speak not this in estimation,
As what I think might be, but what I know
Is ruminated, plotted, and set down;
And only stays but to behold the face
Of that occasion that shall bring it on.

Hot. I smell it; upon my life, it will do well.

N. Before the game's afoot, thou still let'st slip.

H. Why, it cannot choose but be a noble plot:—
And then the power of Scotland, and of York,—
To join with Mortimer, ha?

Wor. And so they shall.

Hot. In faith, it is exceedingly well aim'd.

Wor. And 'tis no little reason bids us speed,
To save our heads by raising of a head:¹
For, bear ourselves as even as we can,
The king will always think him in our debt;
And think we think ourselves unsatisfied,
Till he hath found a time to pay us home.
And see already, how he doth begin
To make us strangers to his looks of love.

H. He does, he does: we'll be reveng'd on him.

W. Cousin, farewell:—No further go in this,
Than I by letters shall direct your course.
When time is ripe (which will be suddenly,)
I'll steal to Glendower and lord Mortimer;
Where you and Douglas, and our powers at once,
(As I will fashion it), shall happily meet,

¹ A body of forces.

To bear our fortunes in our own strong arms,
Which now we hold at much uncertainty.

North. Farewell, good brother; we shall thrive, I trust.

Hot. Uncle, adieu!—O, let the hours be short,
Till fields, and blows, and groans applaud our sport!
[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—ROCHESTER. AN INN YARD.

Enter a Carrier, with a Lantern in his hand.

1 Car. Heigh ho! An't be not four by the day,
I'll be hanged: Charles' wain¹ is over the new chimney, and yet our horse not packed. What, ostler!

Ost. [Within.] Anon, anon.

1 Car. I prythee, Tom, beat Cut's saddle, put a few flocks in the point; the poor jade is wrung in the withers out of all cess.²

Enter another Carrier.

2 Car. Pease and beans are as dank³ here as a dog, and that is the next way to give poor jades the bots: this house is turned upside down, since Robin ostler died.

1 Car. Poor fellow! never joyed since the price of oats rose; it was the death of him.

2 Car. I think this be the most villainous house in all London road for fleas: I am stung⁴ like a tench.

1 Car. Like a tench? by the mass, there is ne'er a king in Christendom could be better bit than I have been since the first cock.

2 Car. What, ostler! come away and be hanged, come away. I have a gammon of bacon, and two razes⁵ of ginger, to be delivered as far as Charing Cross.

1 Car. The turkeys in my panner are quite starved.—What, ostler!—A plague on thee! hast thou never an eye in thy head? canst not hear? An 'twere not as good a deed as drink, to break the pate of thee, I am a very villain.—Come, and be hanged:—Hast no faith in thee!

Enter Gadshill.

Gads. Good morrow, carriers. What's o'clock?

1 Car. I think it be two o'clock.

Gads. I prythee, lend me thy lantern, to see my gelding in the stable.

1 Car. Nay, soft, I pray ye; I know a trick worth two of that.

Gads. I prythee lend me thine.

2 Car. Ay, when? canst tell?—Lend me thy lantern, quoth a?—marry, I'll see thee hanged first.

Gads. Sirrah, carrier, what time do you mean to come to London?

2 Car. Time enough to go to bed with a candle, I warrant thee.—Come, neighbour Mugs, we'll call up the gentlemen; they will along with company, for they have great charge.

[*Exeunt Carriers.*]

Gads. What, ho! chamberlain!

Cham. [Within.] At hand, quoth pick-purse.¹

Gads. That's even as fair as—at hand, quoth the chamberlain: for thou variest no more from picking of purses, than giving direction doth from labouring; thou lay'st the plot how.

Enter Chamberlain.

Ch. Good morrow, master Gadshill. It holds current, that I told you yesternight: There's a franklin² in the wild of Kent, hath brought three hundred marks with him in gold: I heard him tell it to one of his company, last night at supper; a kind of auditor; one that hath abundance of charge too, heaven knows what. They are up already, and call for eggs and butter: They will away presently.

Gads. Sirrah, if they meet not with Saint Nicholas' clerks,³ I'll give thee this neck.

Cham. No, I'll none of it: I prythee keep that for the hangman; for I know thou worship'st Saint Nicholas as truly as a man of falsehood may.

Gads. What talkest thou to me of the hangman? if I hang, I'll make a fat pair of gallows: for, if I hang, old Sir John hangs with me; and, thou knowest, he's no starveling. Tut: there are other Trojans that thou dreamest not of, the which, for sport sake, are content to do the profession some grace; that would, if matters should be looked into, for their own credit sake, make all whole. I am joined with no foot land-rakers,⁴ no long-staff, sixpenny strikers; none of these mad, mustachio, purple-hued malt-worms; but with nobility, and tranquillity; burgomasters, and great oneyers⁵; such as can hold in; such as will strike sooner than speak, and speak sooner than drink, and drink sooner than pray: And yet I lie; for they pray continually to their saint, the commonwealth; or, rather, not pray to her, but prey on her; for they ride up and down on her, and make her their boots.⁶

Cham. What, the commonwealth their boots? will she hold out water in wet weather?

Gads. She will, she will; justice hath liquored⁷ her. Westeal as in a castle, cock-sure; we have the receipt of fern-seed, we walk invisible.

Cham. Nay, by my faith! I think you are more beholden to the night than to fern-seed, for your walking invisible.

Gads. Give me thy hand: thou shalt have a share in our purchase, as I am a true man.

Cham. Nay, rather let me have it as you are a false thief.

Gads. Go to; *Homo* is a common name to all men. Bid the ostler bring my gelding out of the stable. Farewell, you muddy knave. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE ROAD BY GADSHILL.

Enter Prince Henry and Poins; Bardolph and Peto, at some distance.

Poins. Come, shelter, shelter; I have removed Falstaff's horse, and he frets like a gummed

P. Hen. Stand close. [velvet.]

1 Constellation the Bear. 4 Spotted like a tench.
2 Measure. 5 Public treasurers.
3 Wet. 6 Boots.
7 Oiled.

1 The pick-purse is always ready.
2 Freeholder.
3 Highwaymen.

4 Footpads.
5 Public treasurers.
6 Boots.
7 Oiled.

Enter Falstaff.

Fal. Poin's! Poin's! and be hanged! Poin's!

P. Hen. Peace, ye fat-kidney'd rascal; what a brawling dost thou keep!

Fal. Where's Poin's, Hal!

P. Hen. He is walked up to the top of the hill; I'll go seek him. *(Pretends to seek Poin's.)*

Fal. I am accursed to rob in that thief's company: the rascal hath removed my horse, and dead him I know not where. If I travel but four foot by the squire¹ further afoot, I shall break my wind. Well, I doubt not but to die a fair death for all this, if I 'scape hanging for killing that rogue. I have forsworn his company hourly any time these two-and-twenty years, and yet I am bewitched with the rogue's company. If the rascal have not given me medicines to make me love him, I'll be hanged; it could not be else; I have drunk medicines.—Poin's!—Hal! a plague upon you both!—Bardolph!—Peto:—I'll starve ere I'll rob a foot further. An't were not as good a deed as drink, to turn true man, and leave these rogues, I am the veriest varlet that ever chewed with a tooth. Eight yards of uneven ground is threescore and ten miles afoot with me; and the stony-hearted villains know it well enough: A plague upon't, when thieves cannot be true to one another! *[They whistle.]* Whew!—A plague upon you all! Give me my horse, you rogues: give me my horse, and be hanged.

P. Hen. Peace, lie, down; lay thine ear close to the ground, and list if thou canst hear the tread of travellers.

Fal. Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down? I'll not bear mine own flesh so far afoot again, for all the coin in thy father's exchequer. What a plague mean ye to colt² me thus?

P. Hen. Thou liest, thou art not colted, thou art uncolted.

Fal. I pr'ythee, good prince Hal, help me to my horse: good king's son.

P. Hen. Out, you rogue! shall I be your ostler!

Fal. Go, hang thyself in thy own heir-apparent garters! If I be ta'en, I'll peach for this. An I have not ballads made on you all, let a cup of sack be my poison: When a jest is so forward, and afoot too—I hate it.

Enter Gadshill.

Gads. Stand.

Fal. So I do, against my will.

Poin's. O, 'tis our setter: I know his voice.

Enter Bardolph.

Bard. What news?

Gads. Case ye, case ye: on with your visors: there's money of the king's coming down the hill; 'tis going to the king's exchequer.

Fal. You lie, you rogue; 'tis going to the king's tavern.

Gads. There's enough to make us all—

Fal. To be hanged.

P. Hen. Sirs, you four shall front them in the narrow lane; Ned Poin's, and I will walk

1 Measure.

2 Befool

lower; if they 'scape from your encounter, then they light on us.

Peto. How many be there of them?

Gads. Some eight or ten.

Fal. Will they not rob us?

P. Hen. What, a coward, Sir John Paunch?

Fal. Indeed, I am not John of Gaunt, your grandfather; but yet no coward, Hal.

P. Hen. Well, we leave that to the proof.

Poin's. Sirrah Jack, thy horse stands behind the hedge; when thou needest him, there thou shalt find him. Farewell, and stand fast.

Fal. Now cannot I strike him, if I should be hanged.

P. Hen. Ned, where are our disguises?

Poin's. Here, hand by; stand close.

[Exeunt P. Henry and Poin's.]

Fal. Now, my masters, happy man be his dole, say I; every man to his business.

Enter Travellers.

1 Trav. Come, neighbour; the boy shall lead our horses down the hill: we'll walk afoot awhile, and ease our legs.

Thieves. Stand.

Trav. Heaven bless us!

Fal. Strike; down with them; cut the villains' throats: Ah! caterpillars! bacon-fed knaves! they hate us youth: down with them; fleece them.

1 Tra. O, we are undone, both we and ours, for ever.

Fal. Hang ye knaves; Are ye undone? No, ye fat chuffs! I would, your store were here! On, bacons, on! What, ye knaves? young men must live; You are grand-jurors are ye? We'll jure ye, i' faith.

[Exeunt Fals., &c., driving the Travellers out.]

Re-enter Prince Henry and Poin's.

P. Hen. The thieves have bound the true men; Now, could thou and I rob the thieves, and go merrily to London, it would be argument for a week, laughter for a month, and a good jest for ever.

Poin's. Stand close, I hear them coming.

Re-enter Thieves.

Fal. Come, my masters, let us share, and then to horse before day. An the prince and Poin's be not two arrant cowards, there's no equity stirring; there's no more valour in that Poin's, than in a wild duck.

P. Hen. Your money. *[Rushing out upon]*

Poin's. Villains. *[them.]*

[As they are sharing, the Prince and Poin's set upon them. Falstaff, after a blow or two, and the rest, run away, leaving their booty behind them.]

P. Hen. Got with much ease. Now merrily to horse:

The thieves are scatter'd, and possess'd with fear So strongly, that they dare not meet each other; Each takes his fellow for an officer.

Away, good Ned. Falstaff sweats to death,

And lards the lean earth as he walks along;

Were't not for laughing, I should pity him.

Poin's. How the rogue roar'd! *[Exeunt.]*

1 Clowns.

SCENE III.

WARKWORTH. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Hotspur, reading a Letter.

—But, for mine own part, my lord, I could be well contented to be there, in respect of the love I bear your house.—He could be contented.—Why is he not then? In respect of the love he bears our house—he shows in this, he loves his own barn better than he loves our house. Let me see some more. *The purpose you undertake is dangerous:—Why, that's certain; 'tis dangerous to take a cold, to sleep, to drink: but I tell you, my lord fool, out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety. The purpose you undertake is dangerous; the friends you have named, uncertain; the time itself unsorted; and your whole plot too light, for the counterpoise of so great an opposition.*—Say you so, say you so? I say unto you again, you are a shallow, cowardly hind, and you lie. What a lack-brain is this? Our plot is a good plot as ever was laid; our friends true and constant: a good plot, good friends, and full of expectation: an excellent plot, very good friends. What a frosty-spirited rogue is this? Why, my lord of York commends the plot, and the general course of the action. By this hand, an I were now by this rascal, I could brain him with his lady's fan. Is there not my father, my uncle, and myself? lord Edmund Mortimer, my lord of York, and Owen Glendower? Is there not, besides, the Douglas? Have I not all their letters, to meet me in arms by the ninth of the next month? and are they not, some of them, set forward already? What a pagan rascal is this? an infidel? Ha! you shall see now, in very sincerity of fear and cold heart, will he to the king, and lay open all our proceedings. O, I could divide myself, and go to buffets, for moving such a dish of skimmed milk with so honourable an action! Hang him! let him tell the king: We are prepared: I will set forward to-night.

Enter Lady Percy.

How now, Kate? I must leave you within these two hours. [alone?]

Lady. O my good lord, why are you thus? For what offence have I, this fortnight, been A banish'd woman from my Harry's bed? Tell me, sweet lord, what is't that takes from thee

Thy stomach, pleasure, and thy golden sleep? Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the earth; And start so often when thou sit'st alone? Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy cheeks;

And given my treasures, and my rights of thee, To thick-ey'd musing, and curs'd melancholy? In thy faint slumbers, I by thee have watch'd, And heard thee murmur tales of iron wars: Speak terms of manage to thy bounding steed; Cry, *Courage!—to the field!* And thou hast talk'd Of sallies, and retire; of trenches, tents, Of palisadoes, frontiers, parapets; Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin; Of prisoners' ransome, and of soldiers slain,

And all the 'currents of a heady fight. Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war, And thus hath so bestir'd thee in thy sleep, That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow, Like bubbles in a late disturbed stream: And in thy face strange motions have appear'd, Such as we see when men restrain their breath On some great sudden haste. O, what portents are these?

Some heavy business hath my lord in hand, And I must know it, else he loves me not.

Hot. What, ho! is Gilliams with the packet gone?

Enter Servant.

Serv. He is, my lord, an hour ago.

Hot. Hath Butler brought those horses from the sheriff?

Ser. One horse, my lord, he brought even now.

Hot. What horse? a roan, a crop-ear, is it not?

Serv. It is, my lord.

Hot. That roan shall be my throne. Well, I will back him straight: O *esperance!*—Bid Butler lead him forth into the park.

[*Exit Servant.*]

Lady. But hear you, my lord.

Hot. What say'st, my lady?

Lady. What is it carries you away?

Hot. My horse,

My love, my horse.

Lady. Out, you mad-headed ape!

A weasel hath not such a deal of spleen, As you are toss'd with. In faith, I'll know your business, Harry, that I will. I fear, my brother Mortimer doth stir About his title; and hath sent for you, To line² his enterprize: But if you go—

Hot. So far afoot, I shall be weary, love.

Lady. Come, come, you parquoit, answer me Directly to this question that I ask.

In faith, I'll break thy little finger, Harry, An if thou wilt not tell me all things true.

Hot. Away.

Away, you trifler!—Love!—I love thee not, I care not for thee, Kate: this is no world To play with mammetts,³ and to tilt with lips: We must have bloody noses, and crack'd crowns, And pass them current too.—My horse, my horse!—

What say'st thou, Kate? what wouldst thou have with me?

Lady. Do you not love me? do you not, indeed? Well, do not then; for, since you love me not, I will not love myself. Do you not love me? Nay, tell me, if you speak in jest or no.

Hot. Come, wilt thou see me ride?

And when I am o' horseback, I will swear I love thee infinitely. But hark you, Kate; I must not have you henceforth question me Whither I go, nor reason whereabouts: Whither I must, I must; and, to conclude, This evening must I leave you, gentle Kate. I know you wise; but yet no farther wise, Than Harry Percy's wife: constant you are; But yet a woman: and for secrecy, No lady closer; for I well believe, Thou wilt not utter what thou dost not know; And so far will I trust thee, gentle Kate!

1 The Percy motto. 2 Strengthen. 3 Puppets.

Lady. How! so far?

Hot. Not an inch farther. But hark you, Kate! Whither I go, thither shall you go too;

To-day will I set forth, to-morrow you.—

Will this content you, Kate?

Lady. It must, of force. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV.—EASTCHEAP. A ROOM IN THE BOAR'S HEAD TAVERN.

Enter Prince Henry and Poins.

P. Hen. Ned, pr'ythee come out of that fat room, and lend me thy hand to laugh a little.

Poins. Where hast been, Hal?

P. Hen. With three or four loggerheads, amongst three or four score hogsheads. I have sounded the very base string of humility. Sirrah, I am sworn brother to a leash of drawers; and can call them all by their Christian names, as—Tom, Dick, and Francis. They take it already upon their salvation, that, though I be but Prince of Wales, yet I am the king of courtesy; and tell me flatly I am no proud Jack, like Falstaff; but a lad of mettle, a good boy, so they call me; and when I am king of England, I shall command all the good lads in Eastcheap.—To conclude, I am so good a proficient in one quarter of an hour, that I can drink with any tinker in his own language during my life. I tell thee, Ned, thou hast lost much honour, that thou wert not with me in this action. But, sweet Ned,—to sweeten which name of Ned, I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapped even now in my hand by an under-skinker¹; one that never spake other English in his life, than—*Eight shillings and sixpence*, and—*You are welcome*; with this shrill addition,—*Anon, anon, sir! Score a pint of bastard in the Half-moon, or so.* But, Ned, to drive away the time till Falstaff come, I pr'ythee, do thou stand in some by-room, while I question my puny drawer, to what end he gave me the sugar; and do thou never leave calling—Francis, that his tale to me may be nothing but—anon. Step aside, and I'll show thee a precedent.

Poins. Francis!

P. Hen. Thou art perfect.

Poins. Francis!

[Exit Poins.]

Enter Francis.

Fran. Anon, anon, sir.—Look down into the Pomegranate, Ralph.

P. Hen. Come hither, Francis.

Fran. My lord.

P. Hen. How long hast thou to serve, Francis?

Fran. Forsooth, five year, and as much as to—

Poins. *[Within.]* Francis!

Fran. Anon, anon, sir.

P. Hen. Five years! by'r lady, a long lease for the clinking of pewter. But, Francis, darest thou be so valiant, as to play the coward with thy indenture, and to show it a fair pair of heels, and run from it?

Fran. O, sir! I'll be sworn upon all the books in England, I could find it in my heart—

Poins. *[Within.]* Francis!

Fran. Anon, anon, sir.

¹ Tapster.

P. Hen. How old art thou, Francis?

Fran. Let me see,—About Michaelmas next I shall be—

Poins. *[Within.]* Francis!

F. Anon, sir.—Pray you, stay a little, my lord.

P. Hen. Nay, but hark you, Francis: For the sugar thou gavest me,—'twas a pennyworth, was't not?

Fran. O, sir! I would it had been two.

P. H. I will give thee for it a thousand pound: ask me when thou wilt, and thou shalt have it.

Poins. *[Within.]* Francis!

Fran. Anon, anon.

P. Hen. Anon, Francis? No, Francis: but to-morrow, Francis; or Francis, on Thursday; or, indeed, Francis, when thou wilt. But, Francis,—

Fran. My lord?

P. Hen. Wilt thou rob this leathern-jerkin, crystal-button, nodd-pated, agate-ring, puke-stocking, caddis-garter, smooth-tongue, Spanish-pouch,—

Fran. O sir, who do you mean?

P. Hen. Why then, your brown bastard¹ is your only drink: for, look you, Francis, your white canvas doublet will sully: in Barbary, sir, it cannot come to so much.

Fran. What, sir?

Poins. *[Within.]* Francis!

P. Hen. Away, you rogue: Dost thou not hear them call?

[Here they both call him; the Drawer stands amazed, not knowing which way to go.]

Enter Vintner.

Vint. What! stand'st thou still, and hear'st such a calling? Look to the guests within. *[Exit Fran.]* My lord, old Sir John, with half a dozen more, are at the door; Shall I let them in?

P. Hen. Let them alone awhile, and then open the door. *[Exit Vintner.]* Poins!

Re-enter Poins.

Poins. Anon, anon, sir.

P. Hen. Sirrah, Falstaff and the rest of the thieves are at the door; Shall we be merry?

Poins. As merry as crickets, my lad. But hark ye; What cunning match have you made with this jest of the drawer? come, what's the issue?

P. Hen. I am now of all humours, that have show'd themselves humours, since the old days of Goodman Adam, to the pupil age of this present twelve o'clock at midnight. *[Re-enter Francis, with wine.]* What's o'clock, Francis?

Fran. Anon, anon, sir.

P. H. That ever this fellow should have fewer words than a parrot, and yet the son of a woman!—His industry is—up stairs, and down stairs;—His eloquence, the parcel of a reckoning. I am not yet of Percy's mind, the Hotspur of the north; he that kills me some six or seven dozen of Scots at a breakfast, washes his hands, and says to his wife,—*Fye upon this quiet life! I want work.* O my sweet Harry, says she, how many hast thou killed to-day? Give my roan horse a drench, says he; and answers, *Some fourteen, an hour after; a trifle, a trifle.* I pr'ythee,

¹ A sweet wine.

call in Falstaff: I'll play Percy, and he shall play dame Mortimer his wife. *Rivo*, says the drunkard. Call in ribs, call in tallow.

Enter Falstaff, Gadshill, Bardolph, and Peto.

Poins. Welcome, Jack. Where hast thou been?

Fal. A plague of all cowards, I say, and a vengeance too! marry, and amen!—Give me a cup of sack, boy.—Ere I lead this life long, I'll sew nether-stocks,¹ and mend then, and foot them too. A plague of all cowards!—Give me a cup of sack, rogue.—Is there no virtue extant?

[He drinks.]

P. Hen. Didst thou never see Titan kiss a dish of butter? pitiful-hearted Titan, that melted at the sweet tale of the son! if thou didst, then behold that compound.

Fal. You rogue, here's lime in this sack too: There is nothing but roguery to be found in villainous man: Yet a coward is worse than a cup of sack with lime in it; a villainous coward.—Go thy ways, old Jack; die when thou wilt, if manhood, good manhood, be not forgotten upon the face of the earth, then am I a shotten²-herring. There live not three good men unhang'd in England; and one of them is fat, and grows old: Heaven help the while! a bad world, I say! I would, I were a weaver; I could sing psalms or any thing: A plague of all cowards, I say still.

P. H. How now, wool-sack! what mutter you?

Fal. A king's son! If I do not beat thee out of thy kingdom with a dagger of lath, and drive all thy subjects afore thee like a flock of wild geese, I'll never wear hair on my face more. You prince of Wales?

P. H. Why, you round man! what's the matter?

Fal. Are you not a coward? answer me to that; and *Poins* there?

Poins. Ye fat paunch, an ye call me coward; I'll stab thee.

Fal. I call thee coward! I'll see thee hang'd ere I call thee coward: but I would give a thousand pound I could run as fast as thou canst. You are straight enough in the shoulders, you care not who sees your back: Call you that backing of your friends? A plague upon such backing! give me them that will face me.—Give me a cup of sack!—I am a rogue, if I drunk to-day.

P. Hen. O villain! thy lips are scarce wiped since thou drunk'st last.

Fal. All's one for that. A plague of all cowards, still say I. *[He drinks.]*

P. Hen. What's the matter?

Fal. What's the matter? there be four of us here have ta'en a thousand pound this morning.

P. Hen. Where is it, Jack? where is it?

Fal. Where is it? taken from us it is: a hundred upon poor four of us.

P. Hen. What, a hundred, man?

Fal. I am a rogue, if I were not at half-sword with a dozen of them two hours together. I have 'scap'd by miracle. I am eight times thrust through the doublet; four through the hose; my buckler cut through and through; my sword hacked like a hand-saw, *ecce signum*. I never dealt better since I was a man; all would not

1 Stockings.

2 Out of season.

do. A plague of all cowards!—Let them speak if they speak more or less than truth, they are villains, and the sons of darkness.

P. Hen. Speak, sirs; how was it?

Gads. We four set upon some dozen,——

Fal. Sixteen, at least, my lord.

Gads. And bound them.

Peto. No, no, they were not bound.

Fal. You rogue, they were bound, every man of them; or I am a Jew else, an Ebrew Jew.

Gods. As we were sharing, some six or seven fresh men set upon us,——

Fal. And unbound the rest, and then come in the other.

P. Hen. What, fought you with them all?

Fal. All? I know not what you call, all; but if I fought not with fifty of them, I am a bunch of radish: if there were not two or three and fifty upon poor old Jack, then I am no two-legged creature.

Poins. Pray heaven you have not murdered some of them.

Fal. Nay, that's past praying for: for I have peppered two of them: two, I am sure, I have paid; two rogues in buckram suits. I tell thee what, Hal,—if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face, call me horse. Thou knowest my old ward;—here I lay, and thus I bore my point. Four rogues in buckram let drive at me,——

P. H. What, four? thou saidst but two, even now.

Fal. Four, Hal; I told thee four.

Poins. Ay, ay, he said four.

Fal. These four came all a-front, and mainly thrust at me. I made me no more ado, but took all their seven points in my target, thus.

P. Hen. Seven? why, there were but four, even now.

Fal. In buckram.

Poins. Ay, four, in buckram suits.

Fal. Seven by these hilts, or I am a villain else.

P. Hen. Prythee, let him alone; we shall have more anon.

Fal. Dost thou hear me, Hal?

P. Hen. Ay, and mark thee too, Jack.

Fal. Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These nine in buckram, that I told thee of,——

P. Hen. So, two more already.

Fal. Their points being broken,——

Poins. Down fell their hose.

Fal. Began to give me ground: But I followed me close, came in foot and hand; and with a thought, seven of the eleven I paid.

P. Hen. O monstrous! eleven buckram men grown out of two?

Fal. But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten knaves, in Kendal green, came at my back, and let drive at me;—for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand.

P. Hen. These lies are like the father that begets them; gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why thou knotty-pated fool,——

Fal. What, art thou mad? art thou mad? is not the truth, the truth?

P. Hen. Why, how couldst thou know these men in Kendal green, when it was so dark thou couldst not see thy hand? come tell us your reason; What sayest thou to this?

Poins. Come, your reason, Jack, your reason.

Fal. What, upon compulsion? No; were I at the strappado,¹ or all the racks in the world, I would not tell you on compulsion. Give you a reason on compulsion! if reasons were as plenty as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon compulsion, I.

P. Hen. I'll be no longer guilty of this sin; this sanguine coward, this horse-back-breaker, this huge hill of flesh; —

Fal. Away, you starveling, you elf-skin, you dried neat's tongue, you stock-fish,—O, for breath to utter what is like thee?—you tailor's yard, you sheath, you bow-case,—

P. Hen. Well, breathe awhile, and then to it again: and when thou hast tired thyself in base comparisons, hear me speak but this.

Poins. Mark, Jack.

P. Hen. We two saw you four set on four; you bound them, and were masters of their wealth.—Mark now, how a plain tale shall put you down.—Then did we two set on you four; and, with a word, out-faced you from your prize, and have it; yea, and can show it you here in the house:—and Falstaff, you ran away as nimbly, with as quick dexterity, and roared for mercy, and still ran and roared, as ever I heard a bull-calf. What a slave art thou, to hack thy sword as thou hast done; and then say, it was in fight! What trick, what device, what starting-hole, canst thou now find out, to hide thee from this open and apparent shame?

Poins. Come, let's hear, Jack; What trick hast thou now?

Fal. Ah, my lord, I knew ye, as well as he that made ye. Why, hear ye, my masters: Was it for me to kill the heir-apparent? Should I turn upon the true prince? Why, thou knowest, I am as valiant as Hercules: but beware instinct; the lion will not touch the true prince. Instinct is a great matter; I was a coward on instinct. I shall think the better of myself and thee, during my life: I for a valiant lion, and thou for a true prince. But, lads, I am glad you have the money.—Hostess, clap to the doors; watch to-night, pray to-morrow.—Gallants, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the titles of good fellowship come to you! What, shall we be merry? shall we have a play extempore?

P. Hen. Content;—and the argument shall be thy running away.

F. Ah! no more of that, Hal, an thou lov'st me.

Enter Hostess.

Host. My lord, the prince, —

P. Hen. How now, my lady the hostess? what sayst thou to me?

Host. Marry, my lord, there is a nobleman of the court at door, would speak with you: he says, he comes from your father.

P. Hen. Give him as much as will make him a royal man, and send him back again to my

Fal. What manner of man is he? [mother.

Host. An old man.

Fal. What doth gravity out of his bed at midnight?—Shall I give him his answer?

P. Hen. Frythee, do, Jack.

1 Torture.

Fal. Faith, and I'll send him packing. [*Exit.*

P. Hen. Now, sirs; by'r lady, you fought fair;—so did you, Peto; so did you, Bardolph: you are lions too, you ran away upon instinct, you will not touch the true prince; no,—fie!

Bard. Faith, I ran when I saw others run.

P. Hen. Tell me now in earnest, how came Falstaff's sword so hacked?

Peto. Why, he hacked it with his dagger; and said, he should swear truth out of England, but he would make you believe it was done in fight; and persuaded us to do the like.

Bard. Yea, and to tickle our noses with spear-grass to make them bleed: and then to beslobber our garments with it, and to swear it was the blood of true men. I did that I did not this seven year before,—I blushed to hear his monstrous devices.

F. Hen. O villain, thou stolest a cup of sack eighteen years ago, and wert taken with the manner,¹ and ever since thou hast blushed extempore: Thou hadst fire and sword on thy side, and yet thou ran'st away; What instinct hast thou for it?

Bard. My lord, do you see these meteors? do you behold these exhalations!

P. Hen. I do.

Bard. What think you they portend?

P. Hen. Hot livers and cold purses.²

Bard. Choler, my lord, if rightly taken.

P. Hen. No, if rightly taken, halter.

Re-enter Falstaff.

Here comes lean Jack, here comes bare-bone. How now, my sweet creature of bombast³! How long is't ago, Jack, since thou sawest thine own knee?

Fal. My own knee? when I was about thy years, Hal, I was not an eagle's talon in the waist; I could have crept into any alderman's thumb-ring: A plague of sighing and grief! it blows a man up like a bladder. There's villainous news abroad: here was Sir John Bracy from your father: you must to the court in the morning. That same mad fellow of the north, Percy; and he of Wales, that gave Amaimon the bastinado, —What, a plague, call you him?—

Poins. O, Glendower.

Fal. Owen, Owen; the same;—and his son-in-law, Mortimer; and old Northumberland; and that sprightly Scot of Scots, Douglas, that runs o'horseback up a hill perpendicular.

P. Hen. He that rides at high speed, and with his pistol kills a sparrow flying.

Fal. You have hit it.

P. Hen. So did he never the sparrow.

Fal. Well, that rascal hath good metal in him; he will not run.

P. Hen. Why, what a rascal art thou then, to praise him so for running?

Fal. O'horseback, ye cuckoo! but afoot, he will not budge a foot.

P. Hen. Yes, Jack, upon instinct.

Fal. I grant ye, upon instinct. Well, he is there too, and one Mordake, and a thousand blue-caps⁴ more: Worcester is stolen away to-

1 In the fact.

2 Stuffed.

3 Drunkenness and poverty. 4 Scots in blue bonnets.

night; thy father's beard is turned white with the news; you may buy land now as cheap as stinking mackarel.—But tell me, Hal, art thou not horribly afraid? thou being heir-apparent, couldst the world pick thee out three such enemies again, as that fiend Douglas, that spirit Percy, and that devil Glendower? Art thou not horribly afraid? doth not thy blood thrill at it?

P. Hen. Not a whit, i' faith; I lack some of thy instinct.

Fal. Well, thou wilt be horribly chid to-morrow, when thou comest to thy father: if thou love me, practise an answer.

P. Hen. Do thou stand for my father, and examine me upon the particulars of my life.

Fal. Shall I? content: This chair shall be my state, this dagger my scepter, and this cushion my crown.

P. Hen. Thy state is taken for a joint-stool, thy golden scepter for a leaden dagger, and thy precious rich crown, for a pitiful bald crown.

Fal. Well, an the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou be moved.—Give me a cup of sack, to make mine eyes look red, that it may be thought I have wept; for I must speak in passion, and I will do it in king Cambyse's¹ vein.

P. Hen. Well, here is my leg.²

Fal. And here is my speech:—Stand aside, nobility.

Host. This is excellent sport, i' faith.

Fal. Weep not, sweet queen, for trickling tears are vain.

Host. O, the father, how he holds his countenance!

Fal. For heaven's sake, lords, convey my tristful queen,

For tears do stop the flood-gates of her eyes.

Host. O rare! he doth it as like one of these players, as I ever see.

Fal. Peace, good pint-pot; peace, good tickle-brain.³—Harry, I do not only marvel where thou spendest thy time, but also how thou art accompanied: for though the camomile, the more it is trodden on, the faster it grows, yet youth, the more it is wasted, the sooner it wears. That thou art my son, I have partly thy mother's word, partly my own opinion; but chiefly a villainous trick of thine eye, and a foolish hanging of thy nether lip, that doth warrant me. If then thou be son to me, here lies the point:—Why, being son to me, art thou so pointed at? Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a micher,⁴ and eat blackberries? a question not to be asked. Shall the son of England prove a thief, and take purses? a question to be asked. There is a thing, Harry, which thou hast often heard of, and it is known to many in our land by the name of pitch: this pitch, as ancient writers do report, doth defile; so doth the company thou keep'st: for, Harry, now, I do not speak to thee in drink, but in tears: not in pleasure, but in passion; not in words only, but in woes also:—And yet there is a virtuous man, whom I have often noted in thy company, but I know not his name.

P. Hen. What manner of man, an it like your majesty?

Fal. A good portly man, and a corpulent: of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage; and, as I think, his age some fifty, or, by'r-lady, inclining to threescore; and now I remember me, his name is Falstaff: if that man should be wantonly given, he deceiveth me; for, Harry, I see virtue in his looks. If then the tree may be known by the fruit, as the fruit by the tree, then peremptorily I speak it, there is virtue in that Falstaff; him keep with, the rest banish. And tell me now, thou naughty varlet, tell me, where hast thou been this month?

P. Hen. Dost thou speak like a king? Do thou stand for me, and I'll play my father.

Fal. Depose me? if thou dost it half so gravely, so majestically, both in word and matter, hang me up by the heels for a rabbit-sucker, or a poultier's hare.

P. Hen. Well, here I am set.

Fal. And here I stand:—judge, my masters.

P. Hen. Now, Harry? whence come you?

Fal. My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

P. Hen. The complaints I hear of thee are grievous.

Fal. 'Sblood, my lord, they are false:—nay, I'll tickle ye for a young prince, i' faith.

P. Hen. Swearst thou, ungracious boy? henceforth ne'er look on me. Thou art violently carried away from grace: there is a devil haunts thee, in the likeness of a fat old man: a tun of man is thy companion. Why dost thou converse with that trunk of humours, that huge bombard¹ of sack, that roasted Manningtree ox,² that reverend vice, that grey iniquity, that father ruffian, that vanity in years? Wherein is he good, but to taste sack and drink it? wherein neat and cleanly, but to carve a capon and eat it? wherein cunning, but in craft? wherein crafty, but in villainy? wherein villainous, but in all things? wherein worthy, but in nothing?

Fal. I would, your grace would take me with you; whom means your grace?

P. Hen. That villainous abominable misleader of youth, Falstaff, that old white-bearded Satan.

Fal. My lord, the man I know.

P. Hen. I know, thou dost.

Fal. But to say, I know more harm in him than in myself, were to say more than I know. That he is old (the more the pity), his white hairs do witness it: but that he is villainous, that I utterly deny. If sack and sugar be a fault, if to be old and merry be a sin, then many an old host that I know, is lost: if to be fat be to be hated, then Pharaoh's lean kine are to be loved. No, my good lord; banish Peto, banish Bardolph, banish Poins: but for sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and therefore more valiant, being as he is, old Jack Falstaff, banish not him thy Harry's company; banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

P. Hen. I do, I will. [A knocking heard.]

[Exeunt Hostess, Francis, and Bardolph.]

Re-enter Bardolph, running.

Bard. O, my lord, my lord; the sheriff, with almost monstrous watch, is at the door.

¹ A leather black-jack to hold beer. ² Roasted whole.

1 A character in a tragedy.

2 Obeisance.

3 Name of a strong drink.

4 A truant.

Fal. Out, you rogue! play out the play: I have much to say in the behalf of that Falstaff.

Re-enter Hostess, hastily.

Host. O, my lord, my lord!—

Fal. Heigh! heigh! the devil rides upon a fiddlestick: What's the matter?

Host. The sheriff and all the watch are at the door: they are come to search the house? Shall I let them in?

Fal. Dost thou hear, Hal? never call a true piece of gold, a counterfeit: thou art essentially mad, without seeming so.

P. Hen. And thou a natural coward, without instinct.

Fal. I deny your *major*: if you will deny the sheriff, so; if not, let him enter: if I become not a cart as well as another man, a plague on my bringing up! I hope, I shall as soon be strangled with a halter, as another.

P. Hen. Go, hide thee behind the arras;—the rest walk up above. Now, my masters, for a true face, and good conscience.

Fal. Both which I have had: but their date is out, and therefore I'll hide me.

[*Exeunt all but the Prince and Poins.*]

P. Hen. Call in the sheriff.—

Enter Sheriff and Carrier.

Now, master sheriff: what's your will with me?

Sher. First pardon me, my lord. A hue and cry hath follow'd certain men unto this house.

P. Hen. What men?

S. One of them is well known, my gracious lord, A gross fat man.

Car. As fat as butter.

P. Hen. The man, I do assure you, is no there; For I myself at this time have employ'd him. And, sheriff, I will engage my word to thee, That I will, by to-morrow dinner-time, Send him to answer thee, or any man, For anything he shall be charg'd withal: And so let me entreat you leave the house.

S. I will, my lord: There are two gentlemen Have in this robbery lost three hundred marks.

P. Hen. It may be so: if he have robb'd these men,

He shall be answerable; and so, farewell.

Sher. Good night, my noble lord.

P. Hen. I think it is good morrow; is it not?

S. Indeed, my lord, I think it be two o'clock.

[*Exeunt Sheriff and Carrier.*]

P. Hen. This oily rascal is known as well as Paul's. Go, call him forth.

Poins. Falstaff!—fast asleep behind the arras, and snorting like a horse.

P. Hen. Hark, how hard he fetches breath: Search his pockets. [*Poins searches.*] What hast thou found?

Poins. Nothing but papers, my lord.

P. Hen. Let's see what they be: read them.

Poins. Item, A capon, 2s. 2d.

Item, Sack, 4d.

Item, Sauce, two gallons, 5s. 8d.

Item, Anchovies, and sack after supper, 2s. 6d.

Item, Bread, a half-penny.

P. Hen. O monstrous! but one half-pennyworth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack!—What

there is else, keep close; we'll read it at more advantage: there let him sleep till day. I'll to the court in the morning: we must all to the wars, and thy place shall be honourable. I'll procure this fat rogue a charge of foot; and, I know, his death will be a march of twelve-score. The money shall be paid back again with advantage. Be with me betimes in the morning; and so good-morrow, Poins.

Poins. Good morrow, good my lord. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—BANGOR. A ROOM IN THE ARCHDEACON'S HOUSE.

Enter Hotspur, Worcester, Mortimer, and Glendower.

Mort. These promises are fair, the parties sure, And our induction full of prosperous hope.

Hot. Lord Mortimer—and cousin Glendower—Will you sit down?—

And, uncle Worcester—A plague upon it! I have forgot the map.

Glend. No, here it is.

Sit, cousin Percy; sit, good cousin Hotspur: For by that name as oft as Lancaster

Doth speak of you, his cheek looks pale; and, with

A rising sigh, he wisheth you in heaven.

Hot. And you in hell, as often as he hears Owen Glendower spoke of.

Glend. I cannot blame him: at my nativity The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes, Of burning cressets¹: and at my birth, The frame and huge foundation of the earth Shak'd like a coward.

Hot. Why, so it would have done At the same season, if your mother's cat had But kitten'd, though yourself had ne'er been born.

G. I say, the earth did shake when I was born.

Hot. And I say, the earth was not of my mind, If you suppose, as fearing you it shook.

Glend. The heavens were all on fire, the earth did tremble.

H. O. then the earth shook to see the heavens And not in fear of your nativity. [On fire, Diseased nature oftentimes breaks forth In strange eruptions: oft the teeming earth Is with a kind of colick pinch'd and vex'd By the imprisoning of unruly wind Within her womb; which, for enlargement striving,

Shakes the old beldame earth, and topples down Steeples, and moss-grown towers. At your birth, Our grandam earth, having this distemperature, In passion shook.

Glend. Cousin, of many men

I do not bear these crossings. Give me leave To tell you once again,—that at my birth, The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes; The goats ran from the mountains, and the herds Were strangely clamorous to the frighted fields.

¹ Beacon lights set cross-ways.

These signs have mark'd me extraordinary ;
And all the courses of my life do show,
I am not in the roll of common men.
Where is he living,—clipp'd in with the sea
That chides the banks of England, Scotland,
Wales,—

Which calls me pupil, or hath read to me?
And bring him out, that is but woman's son,
Can trace me in the tedious ways of art,
And hold me pace in deep experiments.

Hot. I think there is no man speaks better
Welsh :—

I will to dinner. [mad.]

M. Peace, cousin Percy ; you will make him

Glend. I can call spirits from the vasty deep.

Hot. Why, so can I ; or so can any man :

But will they come, when you do call for them?

Gl. Why, I can teach you, cousin, to command
the devil.

Hot. And I can teach thee, coz, to shame the
devil,

By telling truth ; Tell truth, and shame the
devil.—

If thou have power to raise him, bring him
hither,

And I'll be sworn, I have power to shame him
hence.

O, while you live, tell truth and shame the devil.

Mort. Come, come.

No more of this unprofitable chat.

Glend. Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke
made head

Against my power : thrice from the banks of
Wye,

And sandy-bottom'd Severn, have I sent him,
Bootless home, and weather-beaten back.

H. Home without boots, and in foul weather too !
How 'scapes he agues, in the devil's name?

Gle. Come, here's the map ; Shall we divide
our right,

According to our three-fold order ta'en?

Mort. The archdeacon hath divided it

Into three limits, very equally :

England, from Trent and Severn hitherto,

By south and east, is to my part assign'd :

All westward, Wales beyond the Severn shore,

And all the fertile land within that bound,

To Owen Glendower :—and, dear coz, to you

The remnant northward, lying off from Trent.

And our indentures tripartite are drawn :

Which being sealed interchangeably,

(A business that this night may execute,)

To-morrow, cousin Percy, you, and I,

And my good lord of Worcester, will set forth,

To meet your father, and the Scottish power,

As is appointed us, at Shrewsbury.

My father Glendower is not ready yet,

Nor shall we need his help these fourteen days :—

Within that space, [To *Glend.*] you may have

drawn together [men.]

Your tenants, friends, and neighbouring gentle-

Gle. A shorter time shall send me to you, lords,

And in my conduct shall your ladies come :

From whom you now must steal, and take no

For there will be a world of water shed, [leave ;]

Upon the partings of your wives and you.

Hot. Methinks, my moiety, north from Burton

In quantity equals not one of yours : [here,

See, how this river comes me cranking¹ in,
And cuts me, from the best of all my land,
A huge half moon, a monstrous cantle² out.
I'll have the current in this place damm'd up ;
And here the smug and silver Trent shall run,
In a new channel, fair and evenly :
It shall not wind with such a deep indent,
To rob me of so rich a bottom here.

G. Not wind ? it shall, it must ; you see, it doth.

Mort. Yea.

But mark, how he bears his course, and runs me
With like advantage on the other side : [up
Robbing the opposed continent as much,
As on the other side it takes from you.

W. Yea, but a little charge will trench him here,
And on this north side win this cape of land ;
And then he runs straight and even.

Hot. I'll have it so ; a little charge will do it.

Glend. I will not have it alter'd.

Hot. Will not you ?

Glend. No, nor you shall not.

Hot. Who shall say me nay ?

Glend. Why that will I.

Hot. Let me not understand you then,
Speak it in Welsh.

Glen. I can speak English, lord, as well as you ;
For I was train'd up in the English court :
Where, being but young, I framed to the harp
Many an English ditty, lovely well,
And gave the tongue a helpful ornament ;
A virtue that was never seen in you.

Hot. Marry, and I'm glad of it with all my heart :
I had rather be a kitten, and cry—mew,

Than one of these same metre ballad-mongers :
I had rather hear a brazen canstick³ turn'd,

Or a dry wheel grate on an axle-tree ;

And that would set my teeth nothing on edge,

Nothing so much as mincing poetry ;

'Tis like the forced gate of a shuffling nag.

Glend. Come, you shall have Trent turn'd.

Hot. I do not care : I'll give thrice so much
land

To any well-deserving friend ;

But, in the way of bargain, mark ye me,

I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair.

Are the indentures drawn ? shall we be gone?

Glend. The moon shines fair, you may away
by night :

I'll haste the writer, and, withal,

Break with your wives of your departure hence :

I am afraid, my daughter will run mad,

So much she doteth on her Mortimer. [Exit.]

Mort. Fie, cousin Percy ! how you cross my
father !

Hot. I cannot choose : sometimes he angers me,
With telling me of the moldwarp⁴ and the ant,

Of the dreamer Merlin and his prophecies ;

And of a dragon and a finless fish,

A clip-wing'd griffin, and a moulten raven,

A couching lion, and a rampant cat,

And such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff

As puts me from my faith. I tell you what,—

He held me, but last night, at least nine hours,

In reckoning up the several devils' names,

That were his lacqueys : I cried, humph,—and
well,—go to,—

1 Bending.

2 Corner.

3 Candlestick.

4 Mole.

But mark'd him not a word. O, he's as tedious
As is a tired horse, a railing wife;
Worse than a smoky house:—I had rather live
With cheese and garlick, in a windmill, far,
Than feed on cates, and have him talk to me,
In any summer-house in Christendom.

Mort. In faith, he is a worthy gentleman;
Exceedingly well read, and profited
In strange concealments; valiant as a lion,
And wondrous affable: and as bountiful
As mines of India. Shall I tell you, cousin?
He holds your temper in a high respect,
And curbs himself even of his natural scope,
When you do cross his humour; faith, he does:
I warrant you, that man is not alive,
Might so have tempted him as you have done,
Without the taste of danger and reproof;
But do not use it oft, let me entreat you.

W. In faith, my lord, you are too wilful-blame;
And since your coming hither have done enough
To put him quite beside his patience,
You must needs learn, lord, to amend this fault:
Though sometimes it show greatness, courage,
blood,

(And that's the dearest grace it renders you,
Yet oftentimes it doth present harsh rage,
Defect of manners, want of government,
Pride, haughtiness, opinion, and disdain:
The least of which, haunting a nobleman,
Loseth men's hearts; and leaves behind a stain
Upon the beauty of all parts besides,
Beguiling them of commendation.)

Hot. Well, I am school'd; good manners be
your speed!

Here come our wives, and let us take our leave.

Re-enter Glendower, with the Ladies.

Mort. This is the deadly spite that angers me,—
My wife can speak no English, I no Welsh.

Gl. My daughter weeps; she will not part with
She'll be a soldier too, she'll to the wars. [you,

Mort. Good father, tell her,—that she, and my
aunt Percy,

Shall follow in your conduct speedily.

[*Glendower speaks to his daughter in Welsh,
and she answers him in the same.*

Glen. She's desperate here; a peevish self-will'd
One no persuasion can do good upon. [woman,

[*Lady M. speaks to Mortimer in Welsh.*

Mor. I understand thy looks; that pretty Welsh
Which thou pourest down from these swelling
heavens,

I am too perfect in; and, but for shame,

In such a parley would I answer thee.

[*Lady Mortimer speaks.*

I understand thy kisses, and thou mine,
And that's a feeling disputation:
But I will never be a truant, love,
Till I have learn'd thy language; for thy tongue
Makes Welsh as sweet as ditties highly penn'd,
Sung by a fair queen in a summer bower,
With ravishing division, to her lute.

Glend. Nay, if you melt, then will she run mad.

[*Lady Mortimer speaks again.*

Mort. O, I am ignorance itself in this.

Glend. She bids you

Upon the wanton rushes lay you down,
And rest your gentle head upon her lap,
And she will sing the song that pleaseth you,

And on your eye-lids crown the god of sleep,
Charming your blood with pleasing heaviness;
Making such difference 'twixt wake and sleep,
As is the difference betwixt day and night,
The hour before the heavenly harness'd team
Begins his golden progress in the east. [sing:

Mort. With all my heart I'll sit, and hear her
By that time will our book, I think, be drawn.

Glend. Do so;

And those musicians that shall play to you,
Hang in the air a thousand leagues from hence;
Yet straight they shall be here: sit, and attend.

*Glendower speaks some Welsh words, and then
the Musick plays.*

H. Now I perceive the devil understands
And 'tis no marvel, he's so humorous. [Welsh;
By'r lady, he's a good musician.

Lady P. Then should you be nothing but musical;
for you are altogether governed by humours.
Lie still, ye thief, and hear the lady sing in Welsh.

Hot. I had rather hear *Lady*, my brach,¹ howl
in Irish.

Lady P. Wouldst thou have thy head broken?

Hot. No.

Lady P. Then be still.

Hot. Peace? she sings.

A Welsh Song, sung by Lady Mortimer.

Hot. Come, Kate, I'll have your song too.

Lady P. Not mine, in good sooth.

H. Not yours, in good sooth! 'Heart, you swear

Like a comfit-maker's wife! Not you, in good sooth;

And, as true as I live; and, as sure as day;

And giv'st such sарcenet surety for thy oaths,

As if thou never walk'dst further than Finsbury.

Swear me, Kate, like a lady as thou art,

A good mouth-filling oath; and leave in sooth,²

And such protest of pepper-gingerbread,

To velvet guards,³ and Sunday citizens.

Come, sing.

Lady P. I will not sing.

Hot. 'Tis the next way to turn tailor, or be
red-breast teacher. An the indentures be drawn,
I'll away within these two hours; and so come
in when ye will. [Exit.

G. Come, come, lord Mortimer; you are asslow,
As hot lord Percy is on fire to go.

By this our book's drawn; we'll but seal, and then
To horse immediately.

Mort. With all my heart. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, Prince of Wales, and Lords.

K. Hen. Lords, give us leave; the prince of
Wales, and I,

Must have some conference: But be near at hand,
For we shall presently have need of you.

[Exeunt Lords.

I know not whether heaven will have it so,
For some displeasing service I have done,
That in his secret doom out of my blood
He'll breed revenge and a scourge for me;
But thou dost, in thy passages of life,
Make me believe,—that thou art only mark'd

¹ Hound.

² To feed.

³ Laced velvet Cockneys.

For the hot vengeance and the rod of heaven
To punish my mis-treadings. Tell me else,
Could such inordinate and low desires,
Such poor, such bare, such lewd, such mean at-
tempts,

Such barren pleasures, rude society,
As thou art match'd withal, and grafted to,
Accompany the greatness of thy blood,
And hold their level with thy princely heart?

P. Hen. So please your majesty, I would I could
Quit all offences with such clear excuse,
As well as, I am doubtless, I can purge
Myself of many I am charged withal:
Yet such extenuation let me beg,
As, in reproof of many tales devis'd,—
Which oft the ear of greatness needs must hear,
By smiling pick-thanks¹ and base newsmongers,
I may, for some things true, wherein my youth
Hath faulty wander'd and irregular,
Find pardon on my true submission.

K. Hen. God pardon thee!—yet let me wonder,
Harry,

At thy affections, which do hold a wing
Quite from the flight of all thy ancestors.
Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost,²
Which by thy younger brother is supplied;
And art almost an alien to the hearts
Of all the court and princes of my blood:
The hope and expectation of thy time
Is ruin'd; and the soul of every man
Prophetically does fore-think thy fall.
Had I so lavish of my presence been,
So common-hackney'd in the eyes of men,
So stale and cheap to vulgar company;
Opinion, that did help me to the crown,
Had still kept loyal to possession;
And left me in reputeless banishment,
A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.
By being seldom seen, I could not stir,
But, like a comet, I was wonder'd at:
That men would tell their children, *This is he*;
Others would say, *-Where? Which is Bolingbroke?*

And then I stole all courtesy from heaven,
And dress'd myself in such humility,
That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts,
Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths,
Even in the presence of the crowned king.
Thus did I keep my person fresh and new;
My presence, like a robe pontifical,
Ne'er seen, but wonder'd at: and so my state,
Seldom, but sumptuous, showed like a feast;
And won, by rareness, such solemnity.
The skipping king, he ambled up and down
With shallow jesters, and rash bavin³ wits,
Soon kindled, and soon burn'd: carded his state;
Mingled his royalty with capering fools;
Had his great name profaned with their scorn;
And gave his countenance, against his name,
To laugh at gibing boys, and stand the push
Of every beardless vain comparative:—
Grew a companion to the common streets,
Enfeoff'd⁴ himself to popularity:
That being daily swallow'd by men's eyes,
They surfeited with honey; and began
To loathe the taste of sweetness, whereof a little

More than a little is by much too much.
So, when he had occasion to be seen,
He was but as the cuckoo is in June,
Heard, not regarded; seen, but with such eyes,
As, sick and blunted with community,
Afford no extraordinary gaze,
Such as is bent on sun-like majesty
When it shines seldom in admiring eyes:
But rather drowz'd, and hung their eyelids down,
Slept in his face, and rendered such aspect
As cloudy men use to their adversaries;
Being with his presence glutted, gorg'd, and full.
And in that very line, Harry, stand'st thou;
For thou hast lost thy princely privilege,
With vile participation; not an eye
But is a-weary of thy common sight,
Save mine, which hath desir'd to see thee more;
Which now doth that I would not have it do,
Make blind itself with foolish tenderness.

P. Hen. I shall hereafter, my thrice-gracious
Be more myself. [lord,

K. Hen. For all the world,
As thou art to this hour, was Richard then
When I from France set foot at Ravenspurge;
And even as I was then, is Percy now.
Now by my sceptre, and my soul to boot,
He hath more worthy interest to the state,
Than thou, the shadow of succession:
For, of no right, nor colour like to right,
He doth fill fields with harness¹ in the realm;
Turns head against the lion's armed jaws;
And, being no more in debt to years than thou,
Leads ancient lords and reverend bishops on,
To bloody battles, and to bruising arms.
What never-dying honour hath he got
Against renowned Douglas; whose high deeds,
Whose hot incursions, and great name in arms,
Holds, from all soldiers chief majority,
And military title capital, [Christ?
Through all the kingdoms that acknowledge
Thrice hath this Hotspur Mars in swathing
clothes,

This infant warrior in his enterprizes
Discomfited great Douglas: ta'en him once,
Enlarged him, and made a friend of him,
To fill the mouth of deep defiance up,
And shake the peace and safety of our throne.
And what say you to this? Percy, Northumber-
land,

The archbishop's grace of York, Douglas, Mor-
capitulate² against us, and are up. [timer,
But wherefore do I tell these news to thee?
Why, Harry, do I tell thee of my foes,
Which art my near'st and dearest³ enemy?
Thou that art like enough,—through vassal fear,
Base inclination, and the start of spleen,—
To fight against me under Percy's pay,
To dog his heels, and court'sy at his frowns,
To show how much thou art degenerate.

P. H. Do not think so, you shall not find it so;
And heaven forgive them, that have so much
sway'd

Your majesty's good thoughts away from me!
I will redeem all this on Percy's head,
And in the closing of some glorious day,
Be bold to tell you that I am your son;
When I will wear a garment all of blood,

¹ Parasites.

² When he struck Judge Gascoigne.

³ Brushwood burning fiercely.

⁴ Invested.

¹ Arms.

² Make head.

³ Most fatal.

And stain my favours in a bloody mask,
Which wash'd away, shall scour my shame with it.
And that shall be the day, whene'er it lights,
That this same child of honour and renown,
This gallant Hotspur, this all-praised knight,
And your unthought-of Harry, chance to meet:
For every honour sitting on his helm,
'Would they were multitudes; and on my head
My shames redoubled! for the time will come,
That I shall make this northern youth exchange
His glorious deeds for my indignities.
Percy is but my factor, good my lord,
To engross up glorious deeds on my behalf;
And I will call him to so strict account,
That he shall render every glory up.
Yea, even the slightest worship of his time,
Or I will tear the reckoning from his heart.
This, in the name of God, I promise here:
The which if he be pleas'd I shall perform,
I do beseech your majesty, may save
The long-grown wounds of my intemperance:
If not, the end of life cancels all bands;
And I will die a hundred thousand deaths,
Ere break the smallest parcel of this vow.

K. Hen. A hundred thousand rebels die in this:—

Thou shalt have charge, and sovereign trust,

Enter Blunt.

How now, good Blunt? thy looks are full of speed.

B. So hath the business that I come to speak of.
Lord Mortimer of Scotland hath sent word,—
That Douglas, and the English rebels, met
The eleventh of this month at Shrewsbury:
A mighty and a fearful head they are,
If promises be kept on every hand,
As ever offer'd foul play in a state. [day;

K. Hen. The earl of Westmoreland set forth to-
With him my son, lord John of Lancaster;
For this advertisement is five days old:—
On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set
Forward; on Thursday, we ourselves will march:
Our meeting is Bridgnorth: and, Harry, you,
Shall march through Glostershire; by which
account,

Our business valued, some twelve days hence
Our general forces at Bridgnorth shall meet.
Our hands are full of business: let's away;
Advantage feeds him fat, while men delay.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—EASTCHEAP. A ROOM IN THE
BOAR'S HEAD TAVERN.

Enter Falstaff and Bardolph.

Fal. Bardolph, am I not fallen away vilely
since this last action? do I not bate? do I not
dwindle? Why, my skin hangs about me like
an old lady's loose gown; I am wither'd like
an old apple-John. Well, I'll repent, and that
suddenly, while I am in some liking¹; I shall
be out of heart shortly, and then I shall have no
strength to repent. An I have not forgotten
what the inside of a church is made of, I am a
pepper-corn, a brewer's horse: the inside of a
church! Company, villainous company, hath
been the spoil of me.

¹ Good condition.

Bard. Sir John, you are so fretful, you cannot
live long.

Fal. Why, there is it:—come, sing me a song;
make me merry. I was as virtuously given, as
a gentleman need to be; virtuous enough; swore
little; diced, not above seven times a week;
paid money that I borrowed, three or four times;
lived well, and in good compass: and now I live
out of all order, out of all compass.

Bard. Why, you are so fat, Sir John, that
you must needs be out of all compass; out of
all reasonable compass, Sir John.

Fal. Do thou amend thy face, and I'll amend
my life: Thou art our admiral,¹ thou bearest
the lantern in the poop,—but 'tis in the nose of
thee; thou art the knight of the burning lamp.

Bard. Why, Sir John, my face does you no
harm.

Fal. No, I'll be sworn; I make as good use
of it as many a man doth of a death's head, or
a *memento mori*: I never see thy face, but I
think upon Dives that lived in purple. If thou
wert any way given to virtue, I would swear by
thy face; my oath should be, By this fire: but
thou art altogether given over; and wert indeed,
but for the light in thy face, the son of utter
darkness. When thou ran'st up Gads-hill in the
night to catch my horse, if I did not think thou
hadst been an *ignis fatuus*, or a ball of wildfire,
there's no purchase in money. O, thou art a
perpetual triumph, an everlasting bonfire-light!
Thou hast saved me a thousand marks in links
and torches, walking with thee in the night be-
twixt tavern and tavern: but the sack that thou
hast drunk me, would have bought me lights
as good cheap, at the dearest chandler's in
Europe. I have maintained that salamander of
yours with fire, any time this two-and-thirty
years; Heaven reward me for it!

Enter Hostess.

How now dame Partlet the hen? have you in-
quired yet, who picked my pocket?

Host. Why, Sir John! what do you think,
Sir John? do you think I keep thieves in my
house? I have searched, I have inquired, so
has my husband, man by man, boy by boy, ser-
vant by servant: the tithe of a hair was never
lost in the house before.

Fal. You lie, hostess; Bardolph was shaved
and lost many a hair: and I'll be sworn, my
pocket was picked: Go to, you are a woman,
go.

Host. Who I? I defy thee: I was never called
so in mine own house before.

Fal. Go to, I know you well enough.

Host. No, Sir John; you do not know me,
Sir John: I know you, Sir John: you owe me
money, Sir John, and now you pick a quarrel
to beguile me of it; I bought you a dozen of
shirts to your back.

Fal. Dowlas, dowlas³: I have given them
away to bakers' wives, and they have made bol-
ters of them.

Host. Now, as I am a true woman, holland of
eight shillings an ell. You owe money here be-

¹ Admiral's ship.

³ Coarse linen.

² In the story of Reynard the fox.

sides, Sir John, for your diet, and by-drinkings, and money lent you, four-and-twenty pound.

Fal. He had his part of it; let him pay.

Host. He! alas, he is poor; he hath nothing.

Fal. How! poor? look upon his face; What call you rich? let them coin his nose, let them coin his cheeks; I'll not pay a denier.¹ What, will you make a younker of me? shall I not take mine ease in mine inn, but I shall have my pocket picked? I have lost a seal-ring of my grandfather's worth forty mark.

Host. O! I have heard the prince tell him, I know not how oft, that that ring was copper.

Fal. How! the prince is a Jack, a sneak-cup; and, if he were here, I would cudgel him like a dog if he would say so.

Enter Prince Henry and Poins, marching.
Falstaff meets the Prince, playing on his truncheon like a fife.

Fal. How now, lad? is the wind in that door, must we all march?

Bard. Yea, two and two, Newgate-fashion.

Host. My lord, I pray you, hear me.

P. Hen. What sayest thou, mistress Quickly? How dost thy husband? I love him well, he is an honest man.

Host. Good my lord, hear me.

Fal. Pr'ythee, let her alone, and list to me.

P. Hen. What say'st thou, Jack?

Fal. The other night I fell asleep here behind the arras, and had my pocket picked.

P. Hen. What did'st thou lose, Jack?

Fal. Wilt thou believe me, Hal? three or four bonds of forty pound a-piece and a seal-ring of my grandfather's.

P. Hen. A trifle, some eight-penny matter.

Host. So I told him, my lord; and I said, I heard your grace say so: And my lord, he speaks most vilely of you, like a foul-mouthed man as he is; and said, he would cudgel you.

P. Hen. What! he did not.

Host. There's neither faith, truth, nor womanhood in me else.

Fal. There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune; nor no more truth in thee, than in a drawn fox; and for womanhood, maid Marian² may be the deputy's wife of the ward to thee. Go, you thing, go.

Host. Say, what thing? what thing? I am an honest man's wife: and, setting thy knighthood aside, thou art a knave to call me so.

Fal. Setting thy womanhood aside, thou art a beast to say otherwise.

Host. Say, what beast, thou knave, thou?

Fal. What beast? why an otter.

P. Hen. An otter, Sir John! why an otter?

Fal. Why? she's neither fish, nor flesh.

Host. Thou art an unjust man in saying so.

P. Hen. Thou sayest true, hostess; and he slanders thee most grossly.

Host. So he doth you, my lord; and said this other day, thou ought him a thousand pound.

P. Hen. Sirrah, do I owe you a thousand pound?

¹ Small French coin.

² Generally a man dressed like a woman, who attends morris-dancers.

Fal. A thousand pound, Hal? a million: thy love is worth a million; thou owest me thy love.

Host. Nay, my lord, he called you Jack, and said, he would cudgel you.

Fal. Did I, Bardolph?

Bard. Indeed, Sir John, you said so.

Fal. Yea; if he said, my ring was copper.

P. Hen. I say, 'tis copper: Darest thou be as good as thy word now?

Fal. Why, Hal, thou knowest, as thou art but man, I dare: but, as thou art prince, I fear thee, as I fear the roaring of the lion's whelp.

P. Hen. And why not, as the lion?

Fal. The king himself is to be feared as the lion: Dost thou think, I'll fear thee as I fear thy father?

P. Hen. O, sirrah, there's no room for faith, truth, nor honesty, in this bosom of thine. Charge an honest woman with picking thy pocket! Why, thou impudent rascal, if there were any thing in thy pocket but tavern-reckonings, and one poor penny-worth of sugar-candy to make thee long winded; if thy pocket were enriched with any other injuries but these, I am a villain. And yet you will stand to it; you will not pocket up wrong: Art thou not ashamed?

Fal. Dost thou hear, Hal? thou knowest, in the state of innocency, Adam fell; and what should poor Jack Falstaff do, in the days of villainy? Thou seest, I have more flesh than another man; and therefore more frailty.—You confess then, you picked my pocket?

P. Hen. It appears so by the story.

Fal. Hostess, I forgive thee: Go, make ready breakfast; love thy husband, look to thy servants, cherish thy guests: thou shalt find me tractable to any honest reason: thou seest, I am pacified.—Still?—Nay, pr'ythee, be gone. [*Exit Hostess.*] Now, Hal, to the news at court: for the robbery, lad,—How is that answered?

P. Hen. O, my sweet beef, I must still be good angel to thee:—The money is paid back again.

Fal. O, I do not like that paying back, 'tis a double labour.

P. Hen. I am good friends with my father, and may do any thing.

Fal. Rob me the exchequer the first thing thou doest, and do it with unwashed hands too.

Bard. Do, my lord.

P. Hen. I have procured thee, Jack, a charge of foot.

Fal. I would, it had been of horse. Where shall I find one that can steal well? O for a fine thief, of the age of two-and-twenty, or thereabouts! I am heinously unprovided. Well, Heaven be thanked for these rebels, they offend none but the virtuous; I laud them, I praise them.

P. Hen. Bardolph—

Bard. My lord.

P. Hen. Go bear this letter to Lord John of Lancaster,
My brother John; this to my lord of Westmoreland,—

Go, Poins, to horse, to horse; for thou, and I, Have thirty miles to ride yet ere dinner time.—Jack,

Meet me to-morrow i' the Temple-hall
At two o'clock i' the afternoon:

There shalt thou know thy charge; and there receive Money, and order for their furniture. [ceive
The land is burning; Percy stands on high;
And either they, or we, must lower lie.

[*Exeunt Prince, Poins, and Bardolph.*

Fal. Rare words! brave world!—Hostess,
my breakfast; come:—

O, I could wish, this tavern were my drum.

[*Exit.*

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

THE REBEL CAMP NEAR SHREWSBURY.

Enter Hotspur, Worcester, and Douglas.

Hot. Well said, my noble Scot: If speaking truth,

In this fine age, were not thought flattery,
Such attribution should the Douglas have,
As not a soldier of this season's stamp
Should go so general current through the world.
By heaven, I cannot flatter; I defy
The tongues of soothers; but a braver place
In my heart's love, hath no man than yourself:
Nay, task me to the word; approve me, lord.

Doug. Thou art the king of honour:
No man so potent breathes upon the ground,
But I will beard him.

Hot. Do so, and 'tis well:—

Enter a Messenger, with Letters.

What letters hast thou there?—I can but thank you.

Mess. These letters come from your father,—

Hot. Letters from him! why comes he not himself?

Mess. He cannot come, my lord; he's grievous sick, [sick,

Hot. Zounds, how has he the leisure to be
In such a justling time? Who leads his power?
Under whose government come they along?

Mess. His letters bear his mind, not I, my lord.

Wor. I pr'ythee, tell me, doth he keep his bed?

Mess. He did, my lord, four days ere I set forth;
And at the time of my departure thence,
He was much fear'd by his physicians.

Wor. I would, the state of time had first been whole,

Ere he by sickness had been visited;
His health was never better worth than now.

H. Sick now! droop now! this sickness doth infect

The very life-blood of our enterprize;

'Tis catching hither, even to our camp.—

He writes me here,—that inward sickness—

And that his friends by deputation could not

So soon be drawn; nor did he think it meet,

To lay so dangerous and dear a trust

On any soul remov'd, but on his own.

Yet doth he give us bold advertisement,—

That with our small conjunction, we should on,

To see how fortune is dispos'd to us:

For, as he writes, there is no quailing now:

Because the king is certainly possess'd

Of all our purposes. What say you to it?

Wor. Your father's sickness is a maim to us.

Hot. A perilous gash, a very limb lopp'd off:—

And yet, in faith, 'tis not: his present want

Seems more than we shall find it:—Were it good,

To set the exact wealth of all our states

All at one cast? to set so rich a main

On the nice hazard of one doubtful hour?

It were not good: for therein should we read

The very bottom and the soul of hope;

The very list,¹ the very utmost bound

Of all our fortunes.

Doug. Faith, and so we should;

Where now remains a sweet reversion:

We may boldly spend upon the hope of what,

Is to come in:

A comfort of retirement lives in this.

Hot. A rendezvous, a home to fly unto.

W. But yet, I would your father had been here,

The quality and hair² of our attempt

Brooks no division: It will be thought

By some, that know not why he is away,

That wisdom, loyalty, and mere dislike

Of our proceedings, kept the earl from hence;

And think, how such an apprehension

May turn the tide of fearful faction,

And breed a kind of question in our cause:

For well you know, we of the offering side

Must keep aloof from strict arbitrement

And stop all sight-holes, every loop, from whence

The eye of reason may pry in upon us:

This absence of your father's draws a curtain,

That shows the ignorant a kind of fear

Before not dreamt of.

Hot. You strain too far.

I, rather, of his absence make this use;—

It lends a lustre, and more great opinion,

A larger dare to our great enterprize,

Than if the earl were here: for men must think,

If we, without his help, can make a head

To push against the kingdom; with his help,

We shall o'erturn it, topsy-turvy down.—

Yet all goes well, yet all our joints are whole.

D. As heart can think: there is not such a word

Spoke of in Scotland, as this term of fear.

Enter Sir Richard Vernon.

Hot. My cousin, Vernon! welcome, by my soul.

Ver. Pray Heaven, my news be worth a wel-

come, lord.

The earl of Westmoreland, seven thousand

strong,

Is marching hitherwards; with him, prince John.

Hot. No harm: What more?

Ver. And further, I have learn'd—

The king himself in person is set forth,

Or hitherwards intended speedily,

With strong and mighty preparation.

H. He shall be welcome, too. Where is his son,

The nimble-footed madcap prince of Wales,

And his comrades that daff'd³ the world aside,

And bid it pass?

Ver. All furnish'd, all in arms,

All plum'd like estridges⁴ that wing the wind;

Bated⁵ like eagles having lately bath'd;

Glittering in golden coats, like images;

As full of spirit as the month of May,

1 Limit.

2 The complexion.

3 Tossed.

4 Ostriches.

5 Fresh.

And gorgeous as the sun at midsummer;
Wanton as youthful goats, wild as young bulls.
I saw young Harry,—with his beaver on,
His cuisses¹ on his thighs, gallantly arm'd,—
Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury,
And vaulted with such ease into his seat,
As if an angel dropp'd down from the clouds,
To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus,
And witch the world with noble horsemanship.

Hot. No more, no more; worse than the sun
in March,

This praise doth nourish agues. Let them come;
They come like sacrifices in their trim,
And to the fire-eyed maid of smoky war,
All hot, and bleeding, will we offer them:
The mailed Mars shall on his altar sit,
Up to the ears in blood. I am on fire,
To hear this rich reprisal is so nigh,
And yet not ours:—Come, let me take my horse,
Who is to bear me like a thunderbolt,
Against the bosom of the prince of Wales:
Harry to Harry shall, hot horse to horse,
Meet, and ne'er part, till one drop down a corse.—
O, that Glendower were come!

Ver. There is more news:
I learn'd in Worcester as I rode along,
He cannot draw his power this fourteen days.

D. That's the worst tidings that I hear of yet.

W. Ay, by my faith, that bears a frosty sound.

Hot. What may the king's whole battle reach

Ver. To thirty thousand. [unto?

Hot. Forty let it be;

My father and Glendower being both away,
The powers of us may serve so great a day.

Come, let us make a muster speedily:

Doomsday is near; die all, die merrily.

Doug. Talk not of dying; I am out of fear
Of death, or death's hand, for this one half year.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

A PUBLIC ROAD NEAR COVENTRY.

Enter Falstaff and Bardolph.

Fal. Bardolph, get thee before to Coventry;
fill me a bottle of sack: our soldiers shall march
through; we'll to Sutton-Colfield to-night.

Bard. Will you give me money, captain?

Fal. Lay out, lay out.

Bard. This bottle makes an angel.

Fal. An if it do, take it for thy labour; and
if it make twenty, take them all, I'll answer the
coinage. Bid my lieutenant Peto meet me at
the town's end.

Bard. I will, captain: farewell. [Exit.

Fal. As if I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am
asoused gurnet.² I have misused the king's press
vilely. I have got in exchange of a hundred and
fifty soldiers, three hundred and odd pounds. I
press me none but good householders, yeoman's
sons: inquire me out contracted bachelors, such
as had been asked twice on the bans; such a
commodity of warm slaves, as had as lief³ hear
the devil as a drum; such as fear the report of a
caliver⁴ worse than a struck fowl, or a hurt
wild-duck. I pressed me none but such tourists
and butter, with hearts no bigger than pins'

heads, and they have bought out their services;
and now my whole charge consists of ancients,
corporals, lieutenants, gentlemen of companies,
slaves as ragged as Lazarus in the painted cloth,
where the glutton's dogs licked his sores, and
such as, indeed, were never soldiers, but dis-
carded, unjust serving-men, younger sons to
younger brothers, revolted tapsters, and ostlers
trade-fallen; the cankers of a calm world, and a
long peace; ten times more dishonourably ragged
than an old faced ancient¹; and such have I to
fill up the rooms of them that have bought out
their services, that you would think that I had
a hundred and fifty tatter'd prodigals lately
come from swine keeping, from eating draff and
husks. A mad fellow met me on the way, and
told me I had unloaded all the gibbets, and
pressed the dead bodies. No eye hath seen such
scare-crows. I'll not march through Coventry
with them, that's flat:—Nay, and the villains
march wide betwixt the legs, as if they had
gyves² on; for, indeed, I had the most of them
out of prison. There's but a shirt and a half in
all my company; and the half shirt is two napkins
tacked together, and thrown over the shoulders
like a herald's coat without sleeves; and the
shirt, to say the truth, stolen from my host at
Saint Alban's, or the red-nose inn-keeper of
Daintry.³ But that's all one; they'll find linen
enough on every hedge.

Enter Prince Henry and Westmoreland.

P. Hen. How now, blown Jack? how now, quilt?

Fal. What, Hal? How now, mad wag? what
dost thou in Warwickshire?—My good lord of
Westmoreland, I cry you mercy; I thought
your honour had already been at Shrewsbury.

West. 'Faith, Sir John, 'tis more than time
that I were there, and you too; but my powers
are there already: The king, I can tell you,
looks for us all; we must away all night.

Fal. Tut, never fear me; I am as vigilant as
a cat to steal cream.

P. Hen. I think to steal cream, indeed; for
thy theft hath already made thee butter. But,
tell me, Jack; Whose fellows are these that
come after?

Fal. Mine, Hal, mine.

P. Hen. I did never see such pitiful rascals.

Fal. Tut, tut; good enough to toss; food for
powder, food for powder; they'll fill a pit, as
well as better: tush, man, mortal men, mortal
men.

West. Ay, but Sir John, methinks they are
exceeding poor and bare; too beggarly.

Fal. 'Faith, for their poverty,—I know not
where they had that; and for their bareness,—I
am sure they never learned that of me.

P. Hen. No, I'll be sworn; unless you call
three fingers on the ribs bare. But, sirrah,
make haste; Percy is already in the field.

Fal. What, is the king encamped?

W. He is, Sir John; I fear we shall stay too long.

Fal. Well,
To the latter end of a fray, and the beginning
of a feast,

Fits a dull fighter, and a keen guest. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

THE REBEL CAMP NEAR SHREWSBURY.

Enter Hotspur, Worcester, Douglas, and Vernon.

Hot. We'll fight with him to-night.

Wor. It may not be.

Doug. You give him then advantage.

Ver. Not a whit.

Hot. Why say you so? looks he not for supply?

Ver. So do we.

Hot. His is certain, ours is doubtful.

Wor. Good cousin, beadvise'd; stir not to-night.

Ver. Do not, my lord.

Doug. You do not counsel well; You speak it out of fear and cold heart.

Ver. Do me no slander, Douglas: by my life, (And I dare well maintain it with my life,) If well respected honour bid me on, I hold as little counsel with weak fear, As you, my lord, or any Scot that lives:— Let it be seen to-morrow in the battle, Which of us fears.

Doug. Yea, or to-night.

Ver. Content.

Hot. To-night, say I.

Ver. Come, come, it may not be. I wonder much, being men of such great leading,¹ That you foresee not what impediments Drag back our expedition: Certain horse Of my cousin Vernon's are not yet come up: Your uncle Worcester's horse came but to-day; And now their pride and mettle is asleep, Their courage with hard labour tame and dull, That not a horse is half the half himself.

Hot. So are the horses of the enemy, In general journey-bated and brought low; The better part of ours is full of rest.

Wor. The number of the king exceedeth ours: For heaven's sake, cousin, stay till all come in. [*The Trumpet sounds a parley.*]

Enter Sir Walter Blunt.

Blunt. I comewith gracious offers from the king. If you vouchsafe me hearing, and respect.

Hot. Welcome, sir Walter Blunt; And 'would to heaven,

You were of our determination?

Some of us love you well: and even those some Envy your great deserving, and good name; Because you are not of our quality,² But stand against us like an enemy.

Bl. And God defend, but still I should stand So long as, out of limit, and true rule, [so, You stand against anointed majesty! But to my charge.—The king hath sent to know The nature of your griefs³; and whereupon You conjure from the breast of civil peace Such bold hostility, teaching this duteous land Audacious cruelty: If that the king Have any way your good deserts forgot,— Which he confesseth to be manifold,— He bids you name your griefs; and with all speed, You shall have your desires, with interest; And pardon absolute for yourself, and these, Herein misled by your suggestion.

1 Experience. 2 Fellowship. 3 Grievances.

Hot. The king is kind; and, well we know, the king

Knows at what time to promise, when to pay.

My father, and my uncle, and myself,

Did give him that same royalty he wears:

And,—when he was not six and twenty strong,

Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,

A poor unmind'd outlaw sneaking home,—

My father gave him welcome to the shore:

And,—when he heard him swear, and vow to

He came but to be duke of Lancaster, [God,

To sue his livery,¹ and beg his peace;

With tears of innocency, and terms of zeal,—

My father, in kind heart and pity mov'd,

Swore him assistance, and perform'd it too.

Now, when the lords and barons of the realm

Perceiv'd Northumberland did lean to him,

The more and less² came in with cap and knee;

Met him in boroughs, cities, villages;

Attended him on bridges, stood in lanes,

Laid gifts before him, proffer'd him their oaths,

Gave him their heirs; as pages followed him,

Even at the heels, in golden multitudes.

He presently,—as greatness knows itself,—

Steps me a little higher than his vow

Made to my father, while his blood was poor,

Upon the naked shore at Ravenspur;

And now, forsooth, takes on him to reform

Some certain edicts, and some straight decrees,

That lie too heavy on the commonwealth:

Cries out upon abuses, seems to weep

Over his country's wrongs; and by this face,

This seeming brow of justice, did he win

The hearts of all that he did angle for.

Proceeded further; cut me off the heads

Of all the favourites, that the absent king

In deputation left behind him here,

When he was personal in the Irish war.

Blunt. I came not to hear this.

Hot. Then, to the point.—

In short time after, he depos'd the king;

Soon after that, depriv'd him of his life;

And, in the neck of that, task'd the whole state:

To make that worse, suffer'd his kinsman March

(Who is, if every owner were well plac'd,

Indeed his king,) to be incag'd in Wales,

There without ransom to lie forfeited:

Disgrac'd me in my happy victories:

Sought to entrap me by intelligence;

Rated my uncle from the council-board;

In rage dismiss'd my father from the court;

Broke oath on oath, committed wrong on wrong;

And, in conclusion, drove us to seek out

This head of safety; and, withal, to pry

Into his title, the which we find

Too indirect for long continuance.

Blunt. Shall I return this answer to the king?

Hot. Not so, Sir Walter; we'll withdraw a while.

Go to the king; and let there be impawn'd

Some surety for a safe return again,

And in the morning early shall mine uncle

Bring him our purposes: and so farewell.

Bl. I would, you would accept of grace and

Hot. And, may be, so we shall. [Love,

Blunt. 'Pray heaven, you do!

[*Exeunt.*]

1 Investiture.

2 Great and small.

SCENE IV.—YORK. A ROOM IN THE
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE.*Enter the Archbishop of York, and a Gentleman.**Arch.* Hie, good Sir Michael! bear this sealed brief,¹

With winged haste, to the lord marshal;
 This to my cousin Scroop; and all the rest
 To whom they are directed: if you knew
 How much they do import, you would make
Gent. My good lord, [haste.
I guess their tenor.

Arch. Like enough you do.
 To-morrow, good Sir Michael, is a day,
 Wherein the fortune of ten thousand men
 Must 'bide the touch: For, sir, at Shrewsbury,
 As I am truly given to understand,
 The king, with mighty and quick-raised power,
 Meets with lord Harry: and I fear, sire Michael,—
 What with the sickness of Northumberland,
 (Whose power was in the first proportion,)
 And what with Owen Glendower's absence
 thence,

(Who with them was a rated sinew² too,
 And comes not in, o'erfull'd by prophecies,)
 I fear the power of Percy is too weak
 To wage an instant trial with the king.

Gent. Why, good my lord, you need not fear;
 And Mortimer. [there's Douglas,

Arch. No, Mortimer's not there.

Gent. But there is Mordake, Vernon, lord
 Harry Percy,
 And there's my lord of Worcester; and a head
 Of gallant warriors, noble gentlemen. [drawn

Arch. And so there is: but yet the king hath
 The special head of all the land together:—
 The prince of Wales, lord John of Lancaster,
 The noble Westmoreland, and warlike Blunt;
 And many more corivals,³ and dear men
 Of estimation and command in arms.

Gent. Doubt not, my lord, they shall be well
 oppos'd.

Arch. I hope no less, yet needful 'tis to fear;
 And, to prevent the worst, Sir Michael, speed:
 For, if lord Percy thrive not, ere the king
 Dismiss his power he means to visit us,—
 For he hath heard of our confederacy.—
 And 'tis but wisdom to make strong against him;
 Therefore, make haste: I must go write again
 To other friends; and so farewell, Sir Michael.
 [Exeunt severally.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

THE KING'S CAMP NEAR SHREWSBURY.

*Enter King Henry, Prince Henry, Prince John
of Lancaster, Sir Walter Blunt, and Sir John
Falstaff.*

K. Hen. How bloody the sun begins to peer
 Above yon busky⁴ hill! the day looks pale
 At his distemperature.

P. Hen. The southern wind
 Doth play the trumpet to his purposes;

¹ Letter.² Strength depended on.³ Competitors.⁴ Woody.

And, by his hollow whistling in the leaves,
 Foretells a tempest, and a blustering day.

K. Hen. Then with the losers let it sympathise;
 For nothing can seem foul to those that win.—

Trumpet. Enter Worcester and Vernon.

How now, my lord of Worcester? 'tis not well,
 That you and I should meet upon such terms
 As now we meet: You have deceiv'd our trust;
 And made us doff our easy robes of peace,
 To crush our old limbs in ungentle steel:
 This is not well, my lord, this is not well.
 What say you to't? will you again unknit
 This churlish knot of all-abhorred war?
 And move in that obedient orb again,
 Where you did give a fair and natural light,
 And be no more an exhal'd meteor,
 A prodigy of fear, and a portent
 Of broached mischief to the unborn times?

Wor. Hear me, my liege:

For mine own part, I could be well content
 To entertain the lag-end of my life
 With quiet hours; for, I do protest,
 I have not sought the day of this dislike. [then?

K. H. You have not sought for it! how comes it

Fal. Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it.

P. Hen. Peace, chewet,¹ peace.

Wor. It pleas'd your majesty, to turn your looks
 Of favour, from myself, and all our house;
 And yet I must remember you, my lord,
 We were the first and dearest of your friends.
 For you, my staff of office did I break
 In Richard's time; and posted day and night
 To meet you on the way, and kiss your hand.
 When yet you were in place and in account
 Nothing so strong and fortunate as I.

It was myself, my brother, and his son,
 That brought you home, and boldly did outdare
 The dangers of the time: You swore to us,—
 And you did swear that oath at Doncaster,—
 That you did nothing purpose 'gainst the state;
 Nor claim no further than your new-fallen right,
 The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster:

To this we swore our aid. But, in short space,
 It rain'd down fortune showering on your head;
 And such a flood of greatness fell on you,—
 What with our help; what with the absent king;
 What with the injuries of a wanton time;
 The seeming sufferances that you had borne;
 And the contrarious winds, that held the king
 So long in his unlucky Irish wars,

That all in England did repute him dead,—
 And, from this swarm of fair advantages,
 You took occasion to be quickly woo'd
 To gripe the general sway into your hand;
 Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster;
 And, being fed by us, you us'd us so
 As that ungentle gull, the cuckoo's bird,
 Useth the sparrow; did oppress our nest;
 Grew by our feeding to so great a bulk,
 That even our love durst not come near your sight,
 For fear of swallowing; but with nimble wing
 We were enforc'd for safety sake, to fly
 Out of your sight, and raise this present head:
 Whereby we stand oppos'd by such means
 As you yourself have forg'd against yourself;
 By unkind usage, dangerous countenance,

¹ Magpie.

And violation of all faith and troth
Sworn to us in your younger enterprize. [laid,¹

K. Hen. These things, indeed, you have articul-
Proclaim'd at market-crosses, read in churches;
To face the garment of rebellion
With some fine colour, that may please the eye
Of fickle changelings, and poor discontents,
Which gape, and rub the elbow, at the news
Of hurlyburly innovation:
And never yet did insurrection want
Such water-colours to impaint his cause;
Nor moody beggars, starving for a time
Of pellmell havoc and confusion.

P. Hen. In both our armies, there is many a soul,
Shall pay full dearly for this encounter,
If once they join in trial. Tell your nephew,
The prince of Wales doth join with all the world
In praise of Henry Percy; By my hopes,—
This present enterprize set off his head,—
I do not think, a braver gentleman,
More active-variant, or more valiant young,
More daring, or more bold, is now alive,
To grace his latter age with noble deeds.
For my part, I may speak it to my shame,
I have a truant been to chivalry;
And so, I hear, he doth account me too:
Yet this before my father's majesty,—
I am content, that he shall take the odds
Of his great name and estimation;
And will, to save the blood on either side,
Try fortune with him in a single fight.

K. H. And, prince of Wales, so dare we venture
Albeit, considerations infinite [thee,
Do make against it:—No, good Worcester, no,
We love our people well; even those we love,
That are misled upon your cousin's part:
And, will they take the offer of our grace,
Both he, and they, and you, yea, every man
Shall be my friend again, and I'll be his:
So tell your cousin, and bring me word
What he will do:—But if he will not yield,
Rebuke and dread correction wait on us,
And they shall do their office. So, be gone;
We will not now be troubled with reply:
We offer fair, take it advisedly.

[*Exeunt Worcester and Vernon.*]

P. Hen. It will not be accepted on my life:
The Douglas and the Hotspur both together
Are confident against the world in arms.

K. Hen. Hence, therefore, every leader to his
For, on their answer, will we set on them: [charge;
And God befriend us, as our cause is just!

[*Exeunt King, Blunt, and Prince John.*]

Fal. Hal, if thou see me down in the battle,
and bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship.

P. Hen. Nothing but a colossus can do thee
that friendship. Say thy prayers, and farewell.

Fal. I would it were bed-time, Hal, and all well.

P. Hen. Why, thou owest heaven a death.

[*Exit.*]

Fal. 'Tis not due yet; I would be loath to pay
before the day. What need I be so forward with
him that calls not on me? Well, 'tis no matter;
Honour pricks me on. Yea, but how if honour
prick me off when I come on? how then? Can
honour set to a leg? No. Or an arm? No. Or
take away the grief of a wound? No. Honour

¹ Displayed in articles.

hath no skill in surgery then? No. What is
honour? A word. What is in that word,
honour? What is that honour? Air. A trim
reckoning!—Who hath it? He that died o'
Wednesday. Doth he feel it? No. Doth he hear
it? No. Is it insensible then? Yea, to the
dead. But will it not live with the living?
No. Why! Detraction will not suffer it:—
therefore I'll none of it: Honour is a mere
scutcheon, and so ends my catechism. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—THE REBEL CAMP.

[*Enter Worcester and Vernon.*]

Wor. O, no, my nephew must not know, Sir
Richard,

The liberal kind offer of the king.

Ver. 'Twere best he did.

Wor. Then are we all undone.
It is not possible, it cannot be,
The king should keep his word in loving us;
He will suspect us still, and find a time
To punish this offence in other faults:
Suspicion shall be all stuck full of eyes:
For treason is but trusted like the fox;
Who, ne'er so tame, so cherish'd, and lock'd up,
Will have a wild trick of his ancestors.
Look how we can, or sad, or merrily,
Interpretation will misquote our looks;
And we shall feed like oxen at a stall,
The better cherish'd, still the nearer death.
My nephew's trespass may be well forgot,
It hath the excuse of youth, and heat of blood;
And an adopted name of privilege,—
A hair-brain'd Hotspur, govern'd by a spleen:
All his offences live upon my head,
And on his father's;—we did train him on;
And, his corruption being ta'en from us,
We, as the spring of all, shall pay for all.
Therefore, good cousin, let not Harry know,
In any case, the offer of the king.

Ver. Deliver what you will, I'll say, 'tis so.
Here comes your cousin.

[*Enter Hotspur and Douglas; and Officers and
Soldiers, behind.*]

Hot. My uncle is return'd:—Deliver up
My lord of Westmoreland.—Uncle, what news?

Wor. The king will bid you battle presently.

Doug. Defy him by the lord of Westmoreland.

Hot. Lord Douglas, go you and tell him so.

Doug. Marry, and shall, and very willingly.

[*Exit.*]

Wor. There is no seeming mercy in the king.

Hot. Did you beg any? God forbid!

Wor. I told him gently of our grievances,
Of his oath-breaking; which he mended thus,—
By now forswearing that he is forsworn:
He calls us rebels, traitors; and will scourge
With haughty arms this hateful name in us.

[*Re-enter Douglas.*]

D. Arm, gentlemen; to arms! for I have thrown
A brave defiance in King Henry's teeth, [it;
And Westmoreland, that was engag'd, did bear
Which cannot choose but bring him quickly on.

Wor. The prince of Wales stepp'd forth be-
fore the king,
And nephew, challeng'd you to single fight.

Hot. O, 'would the quarrel lay upon our heads;
And that no man might draw short breath to-day,
But I, and Harry Monmouth! Tell me, tell me,
How show'd his talking? seem'd it in contempt?

Ver. No, by my soul; I never in my life
Did hear a challenge urg'd more modestly,
Unless a brother should a brother dare
To gentle exercise and proof of arms.
He gave you all the duties of a man;
Trim'd up your praises with a princely tongue;
Spoke your deservings like a chronicle;
Making you ever better than his praise,
By still dispraising praise, valued with you:
And, which became him like a prince indeed,
He made a blushing cit¹ of himself;
And chid his truant youth with such a grace,
As if he master'd there a double spirit,
Of teaching, and of learning, instantly.

There did he pause: But let me tell the world,—
If he outlive the envy of this day,
England did never owe² so sweet a hope,
So much misconstrued in his wantonness.

Hot. Cousin, I think, thou art enamoured
Upon his follies; never did I hear
Of any prince, so wild, at liberty:—
But, be he as he will, yet once ere night
I will embrace him with a soldier's arm,
That he shall shrink under my courtesy.—
Arm, arm, with speed:—And, fellows, sol-
diers, friends,

Better consider what you have to do,
Than I, that have not well the gift of tongue,
Can lift your blood up with persuasion.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, here are letters for you.

Hot. I cannot read them now.—

O gentlemen, the time of life is short;
To spend that shortness basely, were too long,
If life did ride upon a dial's point,
Still ending at the arrival of an hour.
An if we live, we live to tread on kings;
If die, brave death, when princes die with us!
Now for our conscience,—the arms are fair,
When the intent of bearing them is just.

Enter another Messenger.

M. My lord, prepare; the king comes on apace.

H. I thank him, that he cuts me from my tale,
For I profess not talking; Only this—
Let each man do his best: and here draw I
A sword, whose temper I intend to stain
With the best blood that I can meet withal
In the adventure of this perilous day.
Now,—*Esperance*³!—Percy!—and set on.—
Sound all the lofty instruments of war,
And by that music let us all embrace:
For, heaven to earth, some of us never shall
A second time do such a courtesy.
[*The Trumpets sound. They embrace, and exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—PLAIN NEAR SHREWSBURY.

*Excursions, and Parties fighting. Alarum to the
Battle. Then enter Douglas and Blunt, meeting.*

Bl. What is thy name, that in the battle thus
Thou crossest me? what honour dost thou seek
Upon my head?

1 Recital. 2 Own. 3 The Percy motto.

Doug. Know then, my name is Douglas;
And I do haunt thee in the battle thus,
Because some tell me that thou art a king.

Blunt. They tell thee true. [bought

Doug. The lord of Stafford dear to-day hath
Thy likeness; for, instead of thee King Harry,
This sword hath ended him: so shall it thee,
Unless thou yield thee as my prisoner.

B. I was not born a yielder, thou proud Scot:
And thou shalt find a king that will revenge
Lord Stafford's death.

[*They fight, and Blunt is slain.*]

Enter Hotspur.

H. O Douglas, hadst thou fought at Holmedon
I never had triumph'd upon a Scot. [thus,

D. All's done, all's won; here breathless lies the
Hot. Where? [king.

Doug. Here?

H. This, Douglas? no, I know this face full well:
A gallant knight he was, his name was Blunt;
Sensibly furnish'd like the king himself.

Doug. A fool go with thy soul, whither it goes,
A borrow'd title hast thou bought too dear.
Why didst thou tell me that thou wert a king?

H. The king hath many marching in his coats.

D. Now, by my sword, I will kill all his coats;
I'll murder all his wardrobe, piece by piece,
Until I meet the king.

Hot. Up, and away;
Our soldiers stand full fairly for the day. [*Exeunt.*]

Other Alarums. Enter Falstaff.

Fal. Though I could scape shot-free at London,
I fear the shot here; here's no scoring, but upon
the pate.—Soft! who art thou? Sir Walter Blunt;
—there's honour for you: Here's no vanity!—I
am as hot as molten lead, and as heavy too;
heaven keep lead out of me! I need no more
weight than mine own bowels.—I have led my
raggamuffins where they are peppered: there's
but three of my hundred and fifty left alive;
and they are for the town's end, to beg during
life. But who comes here!

Enter Prince Henry.

P. H. What, stand'st thou idle here? lend methy
Many a nobleman lies stark and stiff [sword:
Under the hoofs of vaunting enemies,
Whose deaths are unreveng'd: Prythee, lend
thy sword:

F. O Hal, I prythee, give me leave to breathe
a while.—Turk Gregory never did such deeds in
arms, as I have done this day. I have paid
Percy, I have made him sure.

P. Hen. He is, indeed; and living to kill thee.
Lend me thy sword, I prythee.

Fal. Nay, Hal, if Percy be alive, thou get'st
not my sword; but take my pistol, if thou wilt.

P. Hen. Give it me: What, is it in the case?

Fal. Ay, Hal; 'tis hot, 'tis hot! there's that
will sack a city.

[*The Prince draws out a bottle of sack.*]

P. Hen. What, is't a time to jest and dally
now? [*Throws it at him, and exit.*]

Fal. Well, if Percy be alive, I'll pierce him.
If he do come in my way, so: if he do not, if I
come in his, willingly, let him make a carbonado¹

1 Meat cut crosswise for the gridiron.

of me. I like not such grinning honour, as Sir Walter hath: Give me life: which if I can save, so; if not, honour comes unlook'd for, and there's an end. *[Exit.]*

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarums. Excursions. Enter the King, Prince Henry, Prince John, and Westmoreland.

K. Hen. I pr'ythee, [much:—
Harry, withdraw thyself; thou bleed'st too Lord John of Lancaster, go you with him.

P. John. Not I, my lord, unless I did bleed too.

P. Hen. I do beseech your majesty, make up. Lest your retirement do amaze your friends.

K. Hen. I will do so:—
My lord of Westmoreland, lead him to his tent.

W. Come, my lord, I will lead you to your tent.

P. Hen. Lead me, my lord? I do not need your help: [drive

And heaven forbid, a shallow scratch should

The prince of Wales from such a field as this;

Where stain'd nobility lies trodden on,
And rebels' arms triumph in massacres?

P. John. We breathe too long:—Come, cousin Westmoreland,

Our duty this way lies: for heaven's sake, come. *[Exit Prince John and Westmoreland.]*

P. Hen. By heaven, thou hast deceiv'd me, Lancaster,

I did not think thee lord of such a spirit:

Before, I lov'd thee as a brother, John;

But now, I do respect thee as my soul.

K. H. I saw him hold lord Percy at the point,
With lustier maintenance than I did look for
Of such an ungrown warrior.

P. Hen. O, this boy
Leads mettle to us all! *[Exit.]*

Alarums. Enter Douglas.

Doug. Another king! they grow like Hydra's
I am the Douglas, fatal to all those [heads:
That wear those colours on them,—What art thou,

That counterfeit'st the person of a king?

K. Hen. The king himself; who, Douglas,
grieves at heart,

So many of his shadows thou hast met,

And not the very king. I have two boys

Seek Percy and thyself, about the field:

But, seeing thou fall'st on me so luckily,

I will assay thee; so defend thyself.

Doug. I fear thou art another counterfeit;
And yet, in faith, thou bear'st thee like a king:
But mine, I am sure thou art, who'er thou be,
And thus I win thee.

[They fight; the King being in danger, enter Prince Henry.]

P. H. Hold up thy head, vile Scot, or thou art
Never to hold it up again! the spirits [like
Of Shirley, Stafford, Blunt, are in my arms.
It is the prince of Wales that threatens thee;
Who never promiseth but he means to pay.—
[They fight; Douglas flies.]

Cheerly, my lord; how fares your grace?—
Sir Nicholas Gawsey hath for succour sent,
And so hath Clifton; I'll to Clifton straight.

K. Hen. Stay, and breathe a while:—

Thou hast redeem'd thy lost opinion;
And show'd thou mak'st some tender of my life,
In this fair rescue thou hast brought to me.

P. H. O, heaven! they did me too much injury,
That ever said, I hearken'd for your death.

If it were so, I might have let alone

The insulting hand of Douglas over you;

Which would have been as speedy in your end,

As all the poisonous potions in the world,

And sav'd the treacherous labour of your son.

K. Hen. Make up to Clifton, I'll to Sir
Nicholas Gawsey. *[Exit King Henry.]*

Enter Hotspur.

H. If I mistake not, thou art Harry Monmouth.

P. Hen. Thou speak'st as if I would deny my

Hot. My name is Harry Percy. [name.

P. Hen. Why then I see

A very valiant rebel of the name.

I am the prince of Wales; and think not, Percy,

To share with me in glory any more:

Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere;

Nor can one England brook a double reign,

Of Harry Percy, and the prince of Wales.

Hot. Nor shall it, Harry, for the hour is come

To end the one of us; And 'would to God,

Thy name in arms were now as great as mine!

P. H. I'll make it greater, ere I part from thee;

And all the budding honours on thy crest

I'll crop to make a garland for my head.

Hot. I can no longer brook thy vanities.

[They fight.]

Enter Falstaff.

Fal. Well said, Hal! to it, Hal!—Nay, you
shall find no boy's play here, I can tell you.

*Enter Douglas; he fights with Falstaff, who falls
down as if he were dead, and exit Douglas.*

Hotspur is wounded, and falls.

Hot. O, Harry, thou hast robb'd me of my
I better brook the loss of brittle life, [youth;

Than those proud titles thou hast won of me;

They wound my thoughts, worse than thy sword

my flesh:— [fool:

But thought's the slave of life, and life time's

And time, that takes survey of all the world,

Must have a stop. O, I could prophesy,

But that the earthy and cold hand of death

Lies on my tongue:—No, Percy, thou art dust,

And food for— [Dies.]

P. Hen. For worms, brave Percy; Fare thee
well, great heart!—

Ill-weav'd ambition, how much art thou shrunk!

When that this body did contain a spirit,

A kingdom for it was too small a bound;

But now, two paces of the vilest earth

Is room enough.—This earth that bears thee dead

Bears not alive so stout a gentleman.

If thou wert sensible of courtesy,

I should not make so dear a show of zeal:—

But let my favours¹ hide thy mangled face;

And, even in thy behalf, I'll thank myself

For doing these fair rites of tenderness.

Adieu, and take thy praise with thee to heaven!

Thy ignominy sleep with thee in the grave,

But not remember'd in thy epitaph!

[He sees Falstaff on the ground.]

What! old acquaintance! could not all this flesh
Keep in a little life? Poor Jack, farewell!
I could have better spar'd a better man.
O, I should have a heavy miss of thee,
If I were much in love with vanity.
Death hath not struck so fat a deer to-day,
Though many dearer, in this bloody fray:—
Embowell'd will I see thee by and by;
Till then, in blood by noble Percy lie. *[Exit.]*

Fal. [Rising slowly.] Embowell'd! if thou
embowell me to-day, I'll give you leave to powder
me, and eat me too, to-morrow. 'Twas time to
counterfeit, or that hot termagant Scot had paid
me scot and lot too. Counterfeit? I lie, I am
no counterfeit: To die, is to be a counterfeit;
for he is but the counterfeit of a man, who hath
not the life of a man: but to counterfeit dying,
when a man thereby liveth, is to be no counter-
feit, but the true and perfect image of life indeed.
The better part of valour is—discretion; in the
which better part, I have saved my life. I am
afraid of this gunpowder Percy, though he be
dead: How, if he should counterfeit too, and
rise! I am afraid, he would prove the better
counterfeit. Therefore I'll make him sure: yea,
and I'll swear I killed him. Why may not he
rise, as well as I? Nothing confutes me but
eyes, and nobody sees me. Therefore, sirrah,
[Stabbing him.] with a new wound in your thigh,
come you along with me.

[Takes Hotspur on his back.]

Re-enter Prince Henry and Prince John.

P. Hen. Come, brother John, full bravely hast
thou flesh'd
Thy maiden sword.

P. John. But, soft! whom have we here?
Did you not tell me, this fat man was dead?

P. Hen. I did; I saw him dead, breathless and
Upon the ground.— *[bleeding]*
Art thou alive? or is it phantasy
That plays upon our eyesight? I pr'ythee, speak;
We will not trust our eyes, without our ears:—
Thou art not what thou seem'st.

F. No, that's certain; I am not a double man:
but if I be not Jack Falstaff, then am I a Jack.
There is Percy: *[Throwing the body down.]* if
your father will do me any honour, so; if not,
let him kill the next Percy himself. I look to
be either earl, or duke, I can assure you.

P. Hen. Why, Percy I killed myself, and saw
thee dead.

Fal. Didst thou?—How this world is given to
lying!—I grant you, I was down, and out of
breath; and so was he: but we rose both at an
instant, and fought a long hour by Shrewsbury
clock. If I may be believed, so; if not, let them,
that should reward valour, bear the sin upon
their own heads. I'll take it upon my death, I
gave him this wound in the thigh: if the man
were alive, and would deny it, I would make
him eat a piece of my sword.

P. J. This is the strangest tale that e'er I heard.

P. Hen. This is the strangest fellow, brother
John.—

Come, bring your luggage nobly on your back:
For my part, if a lie may do thee grace,

1 Salt.

I'll gild it with the happiest terms I have.

[A Retreat is sounded.]
The trumpet sounds retreat, the day is ours.
Come, brother, let's to the highest of the field,
To see what friends are living, who are dead.

[Exeunt Prince Henry and Prince John.]
Fal. I'll follow, as they say, for reward. He
that rewards me, heaven reward him! If I do
grow great, I'll grow less; for I'll purge, and
leave sack, and live as a nobleman should do.

[Exit, bearing off the body.]

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

The Trumpets sound. Enter King Henry, Prince Henry, Prince John, Westmoreland, and others; with Worcester and Vernon, prisoners.

K. Hen. Thus ever did rebellion find rebuke.—
Ill-spirited Worcester! did we not send grace,
Pardon, and terms of love to all of you?
And wouldst thou turn our offers contrary?
Misuse the tenor of thy kinsman's trust?
Three knights upon our party slain to-day,
A noble earl, and many a creature else,
Had been alive this hour,
If, like a Christian, thou hadst truly borne
Betwixt our armies true intelligence.

Wor. What I have done, my safety urg'd me to;
And I embrace this fortune patiently,
Since not to be avoided it falls on me.

K. Hen. Bear Worcester to the death, and
Vernon too:

Other offenders we will pause upon.—

[Exeunt Worcester and Vernon, guarded.]
How goes the field?

P. Hen. The noble Scot, Lord Douglas, when
he saw

The fortune of the day quite turn'd from him,
The noble Percy slain, and all his men
Upon the foot of fear,—fled with the rest;
And, falling from a hill, he was so bruised,
That the pursuers took him. At my tent
The Douglas is; and I beseech your grace,
I may dispose of him.

K. Hen. With all my heart.

P. H. Then, brother John of Lancaster, to
This honourable bounty shall belong: *[you,*
Go to the Douglas, and deliver him
Up to his pleasure, ransomless and free:
His valour shown upon our crests to-day,
Hath taught us how to cherish such high deeds,
Even in the bosom of our adversaries.

K. Hen. Then this remains,—that we divide
our power.—

You, son John, and my cousin Westmoreland,
Towards York shall bend you, with your dearest
speed,

To meet Northumberland, and the prelate
Who, as we hear, are busily in arms: *[Scroop,*
Myself,—and you, son Harry,—will towards
Wales,

To fight with Glendower, and the Earl of March.
Rebellion in this land shall lose his sway,
Meeting the check of such another day:
And since this business so fair is done,
Let us not leave till all our own be won.

[Exeunt.]

Second Part of King Henry IV.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE FOURTH.
 HENRY, *Prince of Wales, afterwards*
 King Henry V.;
 THOMAS, *Duke of Clarence;*
 PRINCE JOHN of Lancaster, *afterwards*
 (Secd. Pt. Henry V.) Duke of } *his*
 Bedford; } *Sons.*
 PRINCE HUMPHREY of Gloster, *after-*
 wards (Secd. Pt. Henry V.) }
 Duke of Gloster; }
 EARL OF WARWICK, }
 EARL OF WESTMORELAND, } *of the*
 GOWER, } *King's Party.*
 HARCOURT, }
Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.
A Gentleman attending on the Chief Justice.
 EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, }
 SCROOP, *Archbishop of York,* } *Enemies to the*
 LORD MOWERAY, } *King.*
 LORD HASTINGS, }
 LORD BARDOLPH, }
 SIR JOHN COLEVILE, }

TRAVERS and MORTON, *Domestics of Northum-*
 berland.
 FALSTAFF, BARDOLPH, PISTOL, and Page.
 POINS and PETO, *Attendants on Prince*
 Henry.
 SHALLOW and SILENCE, *Country Justices.*
 DAVY, *Servant to Shallow.*
 MOULDY, SHADOW, WART, FEEBLE, and
 BULL-CALF, Recruits.
 FANG and SNARE, *Sheriff's-Officers.*
 RUMOUR.
 A Porter.
 A Dancer, *Speaker of the Epilogue.*

LADY NORTHUMBERLAND.
 LADY PERCY,
 HOSTESS QUICKLY, DOLL.

*Lords and other Attendants; Officers, Soldiers,
 Messengers, Drawers, Grooms, &c.*

SCENE.—*England.*

INDUCTION.

WARKWORTH. BEFORE NORTHUMBERLAND'S
 CASTLE.

Enter Rumour, painted full of Tongues.

Rum. Open your ears; For which of you will
 stop

The vent of hearing, when loud Rumour speaks;
 I, from the orient to the drooping west,
 Making the wind my post-horse, still unfold
 The acts commenced on this ball of earth:
 Upon my tongues continual slanders ride;
 The which in every language I pronounce,
 Stuffing the ears of men with false reports.
 I speak of peace, while covert enmity,
 Under the smile of safety, wounds the world:
 And who but Rumour, who but only I,
 Make fearful musters, and prepar'd defence;
 Whilst the big year, swol'n with some other grief,
 Is thought with child by the stern tyrant war,
 And no such matter? Rumour is a pipe
 Blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures;
 And of so easy and so plain a stop,
 That the blunt monster with uncounted heads,
 The still discordant wavering multitude,
 Can play upon it. But what need I thus
 My well-known body to anatomize
 Among my household? Why is Rumour here?
 I run before King Harry's victory,
 Who, in a bloody field by Shrewsbury,
 Hath beaten down young Hotspur, and his troops,
 Quenching the flame of bold rebellion

Even with the rebel's blood. But what mean I
 To speak so true at first? my office is
 To noise abroad,—that Harry Monmouth fell
 Under the wrath of noble Hotspur's sword;
 And that the king before the Douglas' rage
 Stoop'd his anointed head as low as death.
 This have I rumour'd through the peasant towns
 Between that royal field of Shrewsbury
 And this worm-eaten hold of ragged stone,
 Where Hotspur's father, old Northumberland,
 Lies crafty-sick: the posts come tiring on,
 And not a man of them brings other news
 Than they have learn'd of me; From Rumour's
 tongues
 They bring smooth comforts false, worse than
 true wrongs. [Exit.]

Act First.

SCENE I.—WARKWORTH. BEFORE NORTH-
 UMBERLAND'S CASTLE.

The Porter before the Gate; Enter Lord Bardolph.

L. B. Who keeps the gate here, ho?—Where
 is the earl?

Port. What shall I say you are?

L. Bard. Tell thou the earl,
 That the lord Bardolph doth attend him here.

P. His lordship is walk'd forth into the orchard;
 Please it your honour, knock but at the gate,
 And he himself will answer.

Enter Northumberland.

L. Bard. Here comes the earl.
Nor. What news, lord Bardolph? every minute
 Should be the father of some stratagem¹; [now
 The times are wild; contention, like a horse
 Full of high feeding, madly hath broke loose,
 And bears down all before him.]

L. Bard. Noble earl,
 I bring you certain news from Shrewsbury.

North. Good, an heaven will!

L. Bard. As good as heart can wish:—
 The king is almost wounded to the death;
 And, in the fortune of my lord your son,
 Prince Harry slain outright; and both the Blunts
 Kill'd by the hand of Douglas; young Prince John,
 And Westmoreland, and Stafford, fled the field;
 And Harry Monmouth's brawn,² the hulk Sir
 Is prisoner to your son: O, such a day, [John,
 So fought, so follow'd, and so fairly won,
 Came not till now, to dignify the times,
 Since Cæsar's fortunes!

North. How is this deriv'd?
 Saw you the field, came you from Shrewsbury?

L. Bard. I spake with one, my lord, that came
 from thence;

A gentleman well bred, and of good name,
 That freely render'd me these news for true.

N. Here comes my servant, Travers, whom I
 On Tuesday last to listen after news. [sent

L. Bard. My lord, I over-rode him on the way;
 And he is furnish'd with no certainties,
 More than he haply may retail from me.

Enter Travers.

North. Now, Travers, what good tidings come
 with you?

Tr. My lord, Sir John Umfrevile turn'd me back
 With joyful tidings; and, being better hors'd,
 Out-rode me. After him, came, spurring hard,
 A gentleman almost forspent with speed,
 That stopp'd by me to breathe his bloodied horse:
 He ask'd the way to Chester; and of him
 I did demand, what news from Shrewsbury.
 He told me, that rebellion had bad luck,
 And that young Harry Percy's spur was cold:
 With that he gave his able horse the head,
 And, bending forward, struck his armed heels
 Against the panting sides of his poor jade
 Up to the rowel head; and, starting so,
 He seem'd in running to devour the way,
 Staying no longer question.

North. Ha!—Again.
 Said he, young Harry Percy's spur was cold?
 Of Hotspur, coldspur? that rebellion
 Had met ill luck!

L. Bard. My lord, I'll tell you what;—
 If my young lord your son have not the day,
 Upon mine honour, for a silken point³
 I'll give my barony: never talk of it.

North. Why should the gentleman that rode by
 Give then such instances of loss? [Travers,

L. Bard. Who, he?
 He was some hilding⁴ fellow, that had stol'n
 The horse he rode on; and, upon my life,
 Spoke at a venture. Look, here comes more news.

Enter Morton.

North. Yea, this man's brow, like to a tittle-leaf,
 1 Important event. 2 Boar. 3 Lace-tagged. 4 Cowardly.

Foretells the nature of a tragick volume:
 So looks the threstrond,¹ whereon the imperious flood
 Hath left a witness'd usurpation.—

Say, Morton, didst thou come from Shrewsbury?

Mor. I ran from Shrewsbury, my noble lord;
 Where hateful death put on his ugliest mask,
 To fright our party.

North. How doth my son, and brother?
 Thou tremblest; and the whiteness in thy cheek
 Is apter than thy tongue to tell thy errand.

Even such a man, so faint, so spiritless,
 So dull, so dead in look, so woe-begone,
 Drew Priam's curtain in the dead of night,
 And would have told him, half his Troy was burn'd:
 But Priam found the fire, ere he his tongue,
 And I my Percy's death, ere thou report'st it.
 This thou wouldst say,—Your son did thus, and
 thus;

Your brother, thus; so fought the noble Douglas;
 Stopping my greedy ear with their bold deeds:
 But in the end, to stop mine ear indeed,
 Thou hast a sigh to blow away this praise,
 Ending with—brother, son, and all are dead.

Mor. Douglas is living, and your brother, yet:
 But, for my lord, your son,——

North. Why, he is dead.

See, what a ready tongue suspicion hath!
 He, that but fears the thing he would not know,
 Hath, by instinct, knowledge from others' eyes,
 That what he fear'd is chanced. Yetspeak, Mor-
 Tell thou thy earl, his divination lies; [ton:
 And I will take it as a sweet disgrace,
 And make thee rich for doing me such wrong.

Mor. You are too great to be by me gainsaid:
 Your spirit is too true, your fears too certain.

Nor. Yet, for all this, say not that Percy's dead.
 I see a strange confession in thine eye:
 Thou shak'st thy head, and hold'st it fear, or sin,
 To speak a truth. If he be slain, say so:
 The tongue offends not, that reports his death:
 And he doth sin, that doth belie the dead:
 Not he, which says the dead is not alive.
 Yet the first bringer of unwelcome news
 Hath but a losing office; and his tongue
 Sounds ever after as a sullen bell,
 Remember'd knolling a departing friend. [dead.

L. Bard. I cannot think, my lord, your son is

Mor. I am sorry, I should force you to believe
 That which I would to heaven I had not seen:
 But these mine eyes saw him in bloody state,
 Rend'ring faint quittance,² wearied and out-
 breath'd,

To Harry Monmouth: whose swift wrath beat
 The never daunted Percy to the earth, [down
 From whence with life he never more sprung up.
 In few,³ his death (whose spirit lent a fire
 Even to the dullest peasant in his camp,)
 Being bruited⁴ once, took fire and heat away
 From the best temper'd courage in his troops:
 For from his metal was his party steel'd;
 Which once in him abated, all the rest
 Turn'd on themselves, like dull and heavy lead.
 And as the thing that's heavy in itself,
 Upon enforcement, flies with greater speed;
 So did our men, heavy in Hotspur's loss,
 Lend to this weight such lightness with their fear,
 That arrows fled not swifter toward their aim,
 1 Shore. 2 Return of blows. 3 Short. 4 Reported.

Than did our soldiers, aiming at their safety,
Fly from the field: Then was that noble Worcester
Too soon ta'en prisoner; and that furious Scot,
The bloody Douglas, whose well-labouring sword
Had three times slain the appearance of the king,
'Gan vail his stomach,¹ and did grace the shame,
Of those that turn'd their backs; and in his flight,
Stumbling in fear, was took. The sum of all
Is,—that the king hath won; and hath sent out
A speedy power, to encounter you, my lord,
Under the conduct of young Lancaster,
And Westmoreland: this is the news at full.

North. For this I shall have time enough to
mourn.

In poison there is physick; and these news,
Having been well, that would have made me sick,
Being sick, have in some measure made me well:
And as the wretch, whose fever-weakend joints,
Like strengthless hinges, buckle under life,
Impatient of his fit, breaks like a fire
Out of his keepers' arms; even so my limbs,
Weaken'd with grief, being now enrag'd with
grief. [nice² crutch;

Are thrice themselves: hence, therefore, thou
A scaly gauntlet now, with joints of steel,
Must glove this hand: and hence, thou sickly
Thou art a guard too wanton for the head, [quoif,³
Which princes, flesh'd with conquest, aim to hit.
Now bind my brows with iron; And approach
Therag'd'st hour that time and spite dare bring,
To frown upon the enrag'd Northumberland!
Let heaven kiss earth! Now let not nature's hand
Keep the wild flood confin'd! Let order die!
And let this world no longer be a stage,
To feed contention in a lingering act;
But let one spirit of the first-born Cain
Reign in all bosoms, that, each heart being set
On bloody courses, the rude scene may end,
And darkness be the burier of the dead! [lord,

Tra. This strained passion doth you wrong, my
L. Bard. Sweet earl, divorce not wisdom from
your honour.

Mor. The lives of all your loving complices
Lean on your health; the which if you give o'er
To stormy passion, must perforce decay.
You cast the event of war, my noble lord,
And summ'd the account of chance, before you
said,—

Let us make head. It was your presumise,
That in the dole⁴ of blows your son might drop:
You knew he walk'd o'er perils, on an edge
More likely to fall in, than to get o'er:
You were advis'd, his flesh was capable [spirits
Of wounds, and scars; and that his forward
Would lift him where most trade of danger
rang'd;

Yet did you say,—Go forth; and none of this,
Though strongly apprehended, could restrain
The stiff-borne action: What hath then befallen,
Or what hath this bold enterprise brought forth,
More than that being which was like to be?

L. Bard. We all that are engaged to this loss,
Knew that we ventur'd on such dangerous seas,
That, if we wrought out life, 'twas ten to one:
And yet we ventur'd, for the gain propos'd
Chok'd the respect of likely peril fear'd;

And since we are o'erset, venture again.
Come, we will all put forth; body, and goods.

Mor. 'Tis more than time: And, my most
noble lord,

I hear for certain and do speak the truth,—
The gentle archbishop of York is up,
With well appointed powers; he is a man,
Who with a double surety binds his followers.
My lord your son had only but the corps,
But shadows, and the shows of men to fight:
For that same word, rebellion, did divide
The action of their bodies from their souls:
And they did fight with queasiness,¹ constrain'd,
As men drink potions; that their weapons only
Seem'd on our side, but for their spirits and souls,
This word, rebellion, it hath froze them up,
As fish are in a pond; But now the bishop
Turns insurrection to religion:
Suppos'd sincere and holy in his thoughts,
He's follow'd both with body and with mind;
And doth enlarge his rising with the blood
Of fair King Richard, scrap'd from Pomfret
stones.

Derives from heaven his quarrel, and his cause;
Tells them he doth bestride a bleeding land,
Gasping for life under great Bolingbroke;
And more,² and less, do flock to follow him.

N. I. I knew of this before; but, to speak truth,
This present grief had wip'd it from my mind.
Go in with me; and counsel every man
The aptest way for safety, and revenge: [speed;
Get posts, and letters, and make friends with
Never so few, and never yet more need. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—LONDON. A STREET.

*Enter Sir John Falstaff, with his Page bearing
his Sword and Buckler.*

Fal. The brain of this foolish-compounded
clay, man, is not able to invent any thing that
tends to laughter, more than I invent, or is in-
vented on me; I am not only witty in myself,
but the cause that wit is in other men. I do
here walk before thee, like a sow that hath
overwhelmed all her litter but one. If the prince
put thee into my service for any other reason
than to set me off, why then I have no judg-
ment. Thou mandrake, thou art fitter to be
worn in my cap than to wait at my heels. I
was never mann'd³ with an agate till now: but
I will set you neither in gold nor silver, but in
vile apparel, and send you back again to your
master, for a jewel; the juvenal, the prince
your master, whose chin is not yet fledged. I
will sooner have a beard grow in the palm of my
hand, than he shall get one on his cheek; and
yet he will not stick to say his face is a face-
royal: nature may finish it when she will, it is
not a hair amiss yet: he may keep it still as a
face-royal, for a barber shall never earn sixpence
out of it; and yet he will be crowing as if he
had writ man ever since his father was a bachelor.
He may keep his own grace, but he is almost
out of mine, I can assure him.—What said
master Dumbleton about the satin for my short
cloak, and slops?

Page. He said, sir, you should procure him

1 His spirit to sink.

2 Trifling.

3 Cap.

4 Distribution.

1 Against their stomachs.

2 Greater.

3 Put in possession of.

better assurance than Bardolph: he would not take his bond and yours; he liked not the security.

Fal. A rascally Achitophel, yea-forsooth knave! to bear a gentleman in hand, and then stand upon security!—The smooth-pates do now wear nothing but high shoes, and bunches of keys at their girdles; and if a man is thorough¹ with them in honest taking up, then they must stand upon—security. I had as lief they would put ratsbane in my mouth, as offer to stop it with security. I looked he should have sent me two-and-twenty yards of satin, as I am a true knight, and he sends me security. Well, he may sleep in security, for he hath the horn of abundance.—Where's Bardolph?

Page. He's gone into Smithfield, to buy your worship a horse.

Fal. I bought him in Paul's, and he'll buy me a horse in Smithfield: an I could get me but a wife, I were mann'd, horsed, and wived.

Enter the Lord Chief Justice, and an Attendant.

Page. Sir, here comes the nobleman that committed the prince for striking him about Bar-

Fal. Wait close, I will not see him. [*dolph.*

Ch. Just. What's he that goes there?

Atten. Falstaff, an't please your lordship.

Ch. Just. He that was in question for the robbery?

Atten. He, my lord: but he hath since done good service at Shrewsbury; and, as I hear, is now going with some charge to the lord John of Lancaster.

Ch. Just. What, to York? Call him back again.

Atten. Sir John Falstaff!

Fal. Boy, tell him, I am deaf. [*deaf.*

Page. You must speak louder, my master is

Ch. Just. I am sure, he is, to the hearing of any thing good.—Go, pluck him by the elbow; I must speak with him.

Atten. Sir John,—

Fal. What! a young knave, and beg! Is there not wars? is there not employment? Doth not the king lack subjects? do not the rebels need soldiers? Though it be a shame to be on any side but one, it is worse shame to beg than to be on the worst side, were it worse than the name of rebellion can tell how to make it.

Atten. You mistake me, sir.

Fal. Why, sir, did I say you were an honest man? setting my knighthood and my soldiiership aside, I had lied in my throat if I had said so.

Atten. I pray you, sir, then set your knighthood and your soldiiership aside; and give me leave to tell you, you lie in your throat, if you say I am any other than an honest man.

Fal. I give thee leave to tell me so! I lay aside that which grows to me! If thou get'st any leave of me, hang me; if thou takest leave, thou wert better be hang'd: You hunt-counter,² hence! avaunt!

Atten. Sir, my lord would speak with you.

Ch. Just. Sir John Falstaff, a word with you.

Fal. My good lord! give your lordship good time of day. I am glad to see your lordship abroad: I heard say, your lordship was sick: I

hope, your lordship goes abroad by advice. Your lordship, though not clean past your youth, hath yet some smack of age in you, some relish of the saltness of time; and I most humbly beseech your lordship, to have a reverend care of your health.

Ch. Just. Sir John, I sent for you before your expedition to Shrewsbury.

Fal. An't please your lordship, I hear his majesty is returned with some discomfort from Wales.

Ch. Just. I talk not of his majesty:—You would not come when I sent for you.

Fal. And I hear moreover, his highness is fallen into this same apoplexy.

Ch. Just. Well, heaven mend him! I pray, let me speak with you.

Fal. This apoplexy is, as I take it, a kind of lethargy, an't please your lordship; a kind of sleeping in the blood, a tingling.

Ch. Just. What tell you me of it? be it as it is.

Fal. It hath its original from much grief; from study, and perturbation of the brain: I have read the cause of his effects in Galen; it is a kind of deafness.

Ch. Just. I think, you are fallen into the disease; for you hear not what I say to you.

Fal. Very well, my lord, very well: rather, an't please you, it is the disease of not listening, the malady of not marking, that I am troubled withal.

Ch. Just. To punish you by the heels, would amend the attention of your ears; and I care not, if I do become your physician.

Fal. I am as poor as Job, my lord; but not so patient; your lordship may minister the potion of imprisonment to me, in respect of poverty; but how I should be your patient to follow your prescriptions, the wise may make some dram of a scruple, or, indeed, a scruple itself.

Ch. J. I sent for you, when there were matters against you for your life, to come speak with me.

Fal. As I was then advised by my learned counsel in the laws of this land-service, I did not come.

Ch. Just. Well, the truth is, Sir John, you live in great infamy.

Fal. He that buckles him in my belt, cannot live in less.

Ch. Just. Your means are very slender, and your waste is great.

Fal. I would it were otherwise; I would my means were greater, and my waist slenderer.

Ch. Just. You have misled the youthful prince.

Fal. The young prince hath misled me: I am the fellow with the great belly, and he my dog.

Ch. Just. Well, I am loath to gall a new-healed wound: your day's service at Shrewsbury hath a little gilded over your night's exploit on Gads-hill: you may thank the unquiet time for your quiet o'erposting that action.

Fal. My lord?

Ch. Just. But since all is well, keep it so: wake not a sleeping wolf.

Fal. To wake a wolf is as bad as to smell a fox.

Ch. Just. What! you are as a candle, the better part burnt out.

Fal. A wassel candle,¹ my lord: all tallow; if I

¹ In debt.

² A bailiff.

did say of wax, my growth would approve the truth.

Ch. Just. There is not a white hair on your face, but should have his effect of gravity.

Fal. His effect of gravity, gravity, gravity.

Ch. Just. You follow the young prince up and down, like his ill angel.

Fal. Not so, my lord; your ill angel is light¹; but, I hope, he that looks upon me, will take me without weighing: and yet, in some respects, I grant, I cannot go, I cannot tell²: Virtue is of so little regard in these coster-monger times, that true valour is turned bear-herd: Pregnancy³ is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings: all the other gifts appertinent to man, as the malice of this age shapes them, are not worth a gooseberry. You, that are old, consider not the capacities of us that are young: you measure the heat of our livers with the bitterness of your galls; and we that are in the vaward⁴ of our youth, I must confess, are wags too.

Ch. Just. Do you set down your name in the scroll of youth, that are written down old with all the characters of age? Have you not a moist eye? a dry hand? a yellow cheek? a white beard? a decreasing leg? an increasing body? Is not your voice broken? your wind short? your chin double? your wit single? and every part about you blasted with antiquity? and will you yet call yourself young? Fie, fie, fie, Sir John!

Fal. My lord, I was born about three of the clock in the afternoon, with a white head, and something a round belly. For my voice,—I have lost it with hollaing, and singing of anthems. To approve my youth further, I will not: the truth is, I am only old in judgment and understanding; and he that will caper with me for a thousand marks, let him lend me the money, and have at him. For the box o' the ear that the prince gave you,—he gave it like a rude prince, and you took it like a sensible lord. I have checked him for it; and the young lion repents: marry, not in ashes, and sack-cloth; but in new silk, and old sack.

Ch. Just. Well, heaven send the prince a better companion!

Fal. Heaven send the companion a better prince! I cannot rid my hands of him.

Ch. Just. Well, the king hath severed you and Prince Harry: I hear you are going with Lord John of Lancaster, against the archbishop, and the Earl of Northumberland.

Fal. Yea, I thank your pretty sweet wit for it. But look you pray, all you that kiss my lady peace at home, that our armies join not in a hot day! for, I take but two shirts out with me, and I mean not to sweat extraordinarily: if it be a hot day, an I brandish anything but my bottle, I would I might never spit white again. There is not a dangerous action can peep out his head, but I am thrust upon it: Well, I cannot last ever; But it was always yet the trick of our English nation, if they have a good thing, to make it too common. If you will needs say, I am an old man, you should give me rest. I would to heaven, my name were not so terrible

to the enemy as it is. I were better to be eaten to death with rust, than to be scoured to nothing with perpetual motion.

Ch. Just. Well, be honest, be honest; And heaven bless your expedition!

Fal. Will your lordship lend me a thousand pound, to furnish me forth?

Ch. Just. Not a penny, not a penny; you are too impatient to bear crosses. Fare you well: Commend me to my cousin Westmoreland.

[*Exeunt Chief Justice and Attendant.*]

Fal. If I do, fillip me with a three-man Boy!— [beetle.]

Page. Sir?

Fal. What money is in my purse?

Page. Seven groats and two-pence.

Fal. I can get no remedy against this consumption of the purse: borrowing only lingers and lingers it out, but the disease is incurable.—Go bear this letter to my lord of Lancaster; this to the prince; this to the earl of Westmoreland; and this to old mistress Ursula, whom I have weekly sworn to marry since I perceived the first white hair on my chin: About it, you know where to find me. [*Exit Page.*] This gout plays the rogue with my great toe. It is no matter if I do halt; I have the wars for my colour, and my pension shall seem the more reasonable: A good wit will make use of any thing; I will turn diseases to commodity.²

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—YORK. A ROOM IN THE ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE.

Enter the Archbishop of York, the Lords Hastings, Mowbray, and Bardolph.

Arch. Thus have you heard our cause, and known our means;

And, my most noble friends, I pray you all, Speak plainly your opinions of our hopes:— And first, lord marshal, what say you to it?

Mowb. I well allow the occasion of our arms; But gladly would be better satisfied, How, in our means, we should advance ourselves To look with forehead bold and big enough Upon the power and puissance of the king.

Hast. Our present musters grow upon the file To five-and-twenty thousand men of choice; And our supplies live largely in the hope Of great Northumberland, whose bosom burns With an incensed fire of injuries.

L. Bard. The question then, Lord Hastings, standeth thus;— Whether our present five-and-twenty thousand May hold up head without Northumberland.

Hast. With him, we may.

L. Bard. Ay, marry, there's the point: But if without him, we be thought too feeble, My judgment is, we should not step too far Till we had his assistance by the hand: For, in a theme so bloody-fac'd as this, Conjecture, expectation, and surmise Of aids uncertain, should not be admitted.

Ar. 'Tis very true, Lord Bardolph; for, indeed, It was young Hotspur's case at Shrewsbury.

1 A heavy wooden hammer, requiring three men to
2 Profit. [wield it.]

1 Punning on the coin called an angel. 3 Readiness.
2 Pass current. 4 Forepart.

L. Ba. It was, my lord; who lined himself with Eating the air on promise of supply, [hope, Flattering himself with project of a power Much smaller than the smallest of his thoughts: And so with great imagination, Proper to madmen, led his powers to death, And, winking, leap'd into destruction.

Hast. But, by your leave, it never yet did hurt To lay down likelihoods, and forms of hope.

L. Bard. Yes, in this present quality of war:— Indeed the instant action, (a cause on foot,) Lives so in hope, as in an early spring We see the appearing buds; which, to prove fruit, Hope gives not so much warrant, as despair, That frost will bite them. When we mean to build,

We first survey the plot, then draw the model, And when we see the figure of the house, Then must we rate the cost of the erection; Which if we find outweighs ability, What do we then, but draw anew the model In fewer offices; or, at least, desist To build at all? Much more, in this great work, (Which is, almost to pluck a kingdom down, And set another up,) should we survey The plot of situation, and the model; Consent¹ upon a sure foundation; Question surveyors; know our own estate, How able such a work to undergo, To weigh against his opposite; or else, We fortify in paper, and in figures, Using the names of men, instead of men: Like one, that draws the model of a house Beyond his power to build it; who, half through, Gives o'er, and leaves his part-created cost A naked subject to the weeping clouds, And waste for churlish winter's tyranny.

H. Grant, that our hopes (yet likely of fair birth) Should be still-born, and that we now possess'd The utmost man of expectation; I think, we are a body strong enough, Even as we are, to equal with the king.

L. Bard. What! is the king but five-and-twenty thousand? [Bardolph.

Hast. To us, no more; nay, not so much, Lord For his divisions, as the times do brawl, Are in three heads: one power against the French, And one against Glendower; perforce a third Must take up us: So is the uniform king In three divided; and his coffers sound With hollow poverty and emptiness.

A. That he should draw his several strengths to— And come against us in full puissance, [gether, Need not be dreaded.

Hast. If he should do so, He leaves his back unarm'd, the French and Welsh Baying him at the heels: never fear that.

L. Bard. Who, is it like, should lead his forces hither?

H. The Duke of Lancaster and Westmoreland: Against the Welsh, himself, and Harry Monmouth:

But who is substituted 'gainst the French, I have no certain notice.

Arch. Let us on; And publish the occasion of our arms. The commonwealth is sick of their own choice,

1 Agree.

Their over-greedy love hath surfeited:— An habitation giddy and unsure Hath he, that buildeth on the vulgar heart. O thou fond man! ¹ with what loud applause Didst thou beat heaven with blessing Bolingbroke, Before he was what thou wouldst have him be? And being now trimm'd ² in thine own desires, Thou beastly feeder, art so full of him, That thou provok'st thyself to cast him up. So, so, thou common dog, didst thou disgorge Thy glutton bosom of the royal Richard; And now thou would'st eat thy dead vomit up, And howl'st to find it. What trust is in these times?

They that, when Richard liv'd, would have him Are now become enamour'd on his grave: [die, Thou, that threw'st dust upon his goodly head, When through proud London he came sighing on After the admired heels of Bolingbroke, Cry'st now, *O earth, yield us that king again, And take thou this!* O thoughts of men accurst Past, and to come, seem best; things present, worst.

Mow. Shall we go draw our numbers, and set on?

Hast. We are time's subjects, and time bids be gone. [Exeunt.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A STREET.

Enter Hostess; Fang, and his Boy, with her; and Snare following.

Host. Master Fang, have you entered the ac-Fang. It is entered. [tion?

Host. Where is your yeoman? Is it a lusty yeoman? will a' stand to't?

Fang. Sirrah, where's Snare?

Host. O, good master Snare.

Snare. Here, here.

Fang. Snare, we must arrest Sir John Falstaff.

Host. Yea, good master Snare; I have entered him and all.

Snare. It may chance cost some of us our lives, for he will stab.

Host. Alas the day! take heed of him; in good faith, a' cares not what mischief he doth, if his weapon be out; he will foin⁴ like any devil; he will spare neither man, woman, nor child.

Fang. If I can close with him, I care not for his thrust.

Host. I'll be at your elbow.

Fang. An I but fist him once; an a' come but within my vice,⁵

Host. I am undone by his going; I warrant you, he's an infinite thing upon my score:—Good master Fang, hold him sure;—good master Snare, let him not escape. He comes continually to Pie-corner, and he's indited to dinner to the Lubbar's Head in Lumbert-street, to master Smooth's the silkman: I pray ye, since my exion is entered, and my case so openly known to the world, let him be brought in to his answer. A hundred mark is a long loan for a poor lone woman to bear: and I have borne, and borne,

1 Foolish multitude. 3 A bailiff's assistant. 5 Grasp.

2 Dressed.

4 Thrust.

and borne; and have been fubbed off,¹ and fubbed off, and fubbed off, from this day to that day, that it is a shame to be thought on. There is no honesty in such dealing; unless a woman should be made an ass, and a beast, to bear every knave's wrong.——

Enter Sir John Falstaff, Page, and Bardolph.
Yonder he comes; and that arrant malmsey-nose knave, Bardolph, with him. Do your offices, do your offices, master Fang and master Snare; do me, do me, do me your offices.

Fal. How now? whose mare's dead? what's the matter?

Fang. Sir John, I arrest you at the suit of mistress Quickly.

Fal. Away, varlets:—Draw, Bardolph; cut me off the villain's head; throw the quean² in the channel.

Host. Throw me in the channel? I'll throw thee in the channel. Wilt thou? wilt thou? thou rogue!—Murder, murder? O thou honey-suckle³ villain! wilt thou kill the king's officers? O thou honeyseed⁴ rogue! thou art a honey-seed; a man-queller, and a woman-queller.

Fal. Keep them off, Bardolph.

Fang. A rescue! a rescue!

Host. Good people, bring a rescue or two.—Thou wo't, wo't thou? thou wo't, wo't thou? do, do, thou rogue! do, thou hemp-seed?

Fal. Away, you scullion! you rampallian! you fustilarian!

Enter the Lord Chief Justice, attended.

Ch. Just. What's the matter? keep the peace here, ho!

Host. Good my lord, be good to me! I beseech you!

Ch. Just. How now, Sir John? what, are you brawling here?

Doth this become your place, your time, and business?

You should have been well on your way to York.—Stand from him, fellow; Wherefore hang'st thou on him?

Host. O my most worshipful lord, an't please your grace, I am a poor widow of Eastcheap, and he is arrested at my suit.

Ch. Just. For what sum?

Host. It is more than for some, my lord; it is for all, all I have: he hath eaten me out of house and home: he hath put all my substance into that fat belly of his.

Ch. Just. How comes this, Sir John? Fie! what man of good temper would endure this tempest of exclamation? Are you not ashamed to enforce a poor widow to so rough a course to come by her own?

Fal. What is the gross sum that I owe thee?

Host. Marry, if thou wert an honest man, thy self, and the money too. Thou didst swear to me upon a parcel-gilt⁵ goblet, sitting in my Dolphin-chamber, at the round table, by a sea-coal fire, upon Wednesday in Whitsun-week, when the prince broke thy head for liking his father to a singing-man of Windsor; thou didst

swear to me then, as I was washing thy wound, to marry me, and make me my lady thy wife. Canst thou deny it? Did not goodwife Keech, the butcher's wife, come in then, and call me gossip Quickly? coming in to borrow a mess of vinegar; telling us, she had a good dish of prawns; whereby thou didst desire to eat some; whereby I told thee, they were ill for a green wound? And didst thou not, when she was gone down stairs, desire me to be no more so familiarly with such poor people; saying, that ere long they should call me madam? And didst thou not kiss me, and bid me fetch thee thirty shillings? I put thee now to thy book-oath; deny it, if thou canst.

Fal. My lord, this is a poor mad soul; and she says, up and down the town, that her eldest son is like you: she hath been in good case, and, the truth is, poverty hath distracted her. But for these foolish officers, I beseech you, I may have redress against them.

Ch. Just. Sir John, Sir John, I am well acquainted with your manner of wrenching the true cause the false way. It is not a confident brow, nor the throng of words that come with such more than impudent sauciness from you, can thrust me from a level consideration; you have, as it appears to me, practised upon the easy-yielding spirit of this woman, and made her serve your uses both in purse and person.

Host. Yea, in troth, my lord.

Ch. Just. Pr'ythee, peace:—Pay her the debt you owe her, and unpay the villainy you have done with her; the one you may do with sterling money, and the other with current repentance.

Fal. My lord, I will not undergo this sneap¹ without reply. You call honourable boldness, impudent sauciness: if a man will make court'sy, and say nothing, he is virtuous: No, my lord, my humble duty remembered, I will not be your suitor; I say to you, I do desire deliverance from these officers, being upon hasty employment in the king's affairs.

Ch. Just. You speak as having power to do wrong: but answer in the effect of your reputation,² and satisfy the poor woman.

Fal. Come hither, hostess, [*Talking her aside.*]

Enter Gower.

Ch. Just. Now, master Gower; What news? *Gow.* The king, my lord, and Harry, prince of Wales,

Are near at hand: the rest the paper tells.

Fal. As I am a gentleman;——

Host. Nay, you said so before.

Fal. As I am a gentleman;——Come, no more words of it.

Host. By this heavenly ground I tread on, I must be fain to pawn both my plate, and the tapestry of my dining-chambers.

Fal. Glasses, glasses, is the only drinking; and for thy walls,—a pretty slight drollery, or the story of the prodigal, or the German hunting in waterwork, is worth a thousand of these bed-hangings, and these fly-bitten tapestries. Let it be ten pound, if thou canst. Come, an it were

1 Snub, check.

2 Suitably to your position,

1 Put off. 2 (Homicidal.) 3 Partly gilt.
2 Worthless woman, 4 (Homicide.)

not for thy humours, there is not a better wench in England. Go, wash thy face, and draw¹ thy action: Come, thou must not be in this humour with me; dost not know me? Come, come, I know thou wast set on to this.

Host. Pray thee, Sir John, let it be but twenty nobles; i'faith I am loath to pawn my plate, in good earnest, la.

Fal. Let it alone; I'll make other shift; you'll be a fool still.

Host. Well, you shall have it, though I pawn my gown. I hope you'll come to supper: you'll pay me altogether?

Fal. Will I live?—Go, with her, with her; [To Bardolph.] hook on, hook on.

[*Exeunt Hostess, Bardolph, Officers, and Page.*]

Ch. Just. I have heard better news.

Fal. What's the news, my good lord?

Ch. Just. Where lay the king last night?

Gow. At Basingstoke, my lord.

Fal. I hope, my lord, all's well: What's the news, my lord?

Ch. Just. Come all his forces back?

Gow. No; fifteen hundred foot, five hundred Are march'd up to my lord of Lancaster, [horse, Against Northumberland, and the archbishop.

Fal. Comes the king back from Wales, my noble lord?

Ch. Just. You shall have letters of me presently: Come, go along with me, good master Gower.

Fal. My lord!

Ch. Just. What's the matter?

Fal. Master Gower, shall I entreat you with me to dinner?

Gow. I must wait upon my good lord here: I thank you, good Sir John.

Ch. Just. Sir John, you loiter here too long, being you are to take soldiers up in counties as you go.

Fal. Will you sup with me, master Gower?

Ch. Just. What foolish master taught you these manners, Sir John?

Fal. Master Gower, if they become me not, he was a fool that taught them me.—This is the right fencing grace, my lord; tap for tap, and so part fair.

Ch. Just. Now heaven lighten thee! thou art a great fool. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—ANOTHER STREET.

Enter Prince Henry and Poins.

P. Hen. Trust me, I am exceeding weary.

Poins. Is it come to that? I had thought weariness durst not have attached one of so high blood.

P. Hen. Faith, it does me; though it discolors the complexion of my greatness to acknowledge it. Doth it not show vilely in me, to desire small beer?

Poins. Why, a prince should not be so loosely studied, as to remember so weak a composition.

P. Hen. Belike then, my appetite was not princely got; for, by my troth, I do now remember the poor creature, small beer. But, indeed, these humble considerations make me

¹ Withdraw.

out of love with my greatness. What a disgrace is it to me, to remember thy name? or to know thy face to-morrow? or to take note how many pair of silk stockings thou hast; viz. these, and those that were the peach-coloured ones?

Poins. How ill it follows, after you have laboured so hard, you should talk so idly! Tell me, how many good young princes would do so, their fathers being so sick as yours at this time is?

P. Hen. Shall I tell thee one thing, Poins?

Po. Yes; and let it be an excellent good thing.

P. Hen. It shall serve among wits of no higher breeding than thine.

Poins. Go to; I stand the push of your one thing that you will tell.

P. Hen. Why, I tell thee,—it is not meet that I should be sad, now my father is sick: albeit I could tell to thee, (as to one it pleases me, for fault of a better, to call my friend,) I could be sad, and sad indeed too.

Poins. Very hardly, upon such a subject.

P. Hen. By this hand, thou think'st me as far in the devil's book, as thou and Falstaff, for obduracy and persistency: Let the end try the man. But I tell thee,—my heart bleeds inwardly, that my father is so sick: and keeping such vile company as thou art, hath in reason taken from me all ostentation of sorrow.

Poins. The reason?

P. Hen. What wouldst thou think of me, if I should weep?

Poins. I would think thee a most princely hypocrite.

P. Hen. It would be every man's thought: and thou art a blessed fellow, to think as every man thinks; never a man's thought in the world keeps the road-way better than thine: every man would think me an hypocrite indeed. And what accites¹ your most worshipful thought, to think so?

Poins. Why, because you have been so much engrafted to Falstaff.

P. Hen. And to thee.

Poins. By this light, I am well spoken of, I can hear it with my own ears: the worse that they can say of me is, that I am a second brother, and that I am a proper fellow of my hands; and those two things, I confess I cannot help. By the mass, here comes Bardolph.

P. Hen. And the boy that I gave Falstaff: he had him from me Christian; and look, if the fat villain hath not transformed him ape.

Enter Bardolph and Page.

Bard. 'Save your grace.

P. Hen. And yours, most noble Bardolph.

Bard. [To the Page.] Come, you virtuous ass, you bashful fool, must you be blushing? wherefore blush you now?

Page. He called me even now, my lord, through a red lattice, and I could discern no part of his face from the window: at last, I spied his eyes.

P. Hen. Hath not the boy profited?

Bard. Away, you upright rabbit, away!

Pa. Away, you rascally Althea's dream, away!

P. Hen. Instruct us, boy: What dream, boy?

Page. Marry, my lord, Althea dreamed she

¹ Incites.

was delivered of a firebrand; and therefore I call him her dream.

P. Hen. A crown's worth of good interpretation.—There it is, boy. [*Gives him money.*]

Poins. O, that this good blossom could be kept from cankers!—Well, there is sixpence to preserve thee.

Bard. An you do not make him be hanged among you, the gallows shall have wrong.

P. Hen. And how doth thy master, Bardolph?

Bard. Well, my lord. He heard of your grace's coming to town; there's a letter for you.

Poins. Delivered with good respect.—And how doth the martlemas,¹ your master?

Bard. In bodily health, sir.

Poins. Marry, the immortal part needs a physician; but that moves not him; though that be sick, it dies not.

P. Hen. I do allow this wen to be as familiar with me as my dog; and he holds his place; for, look you, how he writes.

Poins. [*Reads.*] John Falstaff, knight.—Every man must know that, as oft as he has occasion to name himself. Even like those that are kin to the king; for they never prick their finger, but they say, *There is some of the king's blood spilt: How comes that?* says he, that takes upon him not to conceive: the answer is as ready as a borrower's cap; *I am the king's poor cousin, sir.*

P. Hen. Nay, they will be kin to us, or they will fetch it from Japhet. But the letter:—

Poins. Sir John Falstaff, knight, to the son of the king, nearest his father, Harry prince of Wales, greeting.—Why, this is a certificate.

P. Hen. Peace!

Poins. I will imitate the honourable Roman in brevity; he sure means brevity in breath; short-winded.—I commend me to thee, I commend thee, and I leave thee. Be not too familiar with *Poins*; for he misuses thy favours so much, that he swears, thou art to marry his sister Nell. Repent at idle times as thou mayst, and so farewell.

Thine, by yea and no, (which is as much as to say, as thou usest him,) Jack Falstaff, with my familiars; John, with my brothers and sisters; and Sir John with all Europe.

My lord, I will steep this letter in sack, and make him eat it.

P. Hen. That's to make him eat twenty of his words. But do you use me thus, Ned? must I marry your sister?

Poins. May the girl have no worse fortune! but I never said so.

P. Hen. Well, thus we play the fools with the time; and the spirits of the wise sit in the clouds and mock us.—Is your master here in London?

Bard. Yes, my lord.

P. Hen. Where sups he? doth the old boar feed in the old frank?²

Bard. At the old place, my lord: in Eastcheap.

P. H. Shall we steal upon him, Ned, at supper?

Poi. I am your shadow, my lord; I'll follow you.

P. Hen. Sirrah, you boy,—and Bardolph;—no word to your master that I am yet come to town: There's for your silence.

¹ (Old, like Martinmas day.)

² Sty.

Bard. I have no tongue, sir.

Page. And for mine, sir;—I will govern it.

P. Hen. Fare ye well; go. [*Exeunt Bardolph and Page.*] How might we see Falstaff bestow himself to-night in his true colours, and not ourselves be seen?

Poins. Put on two leather jerkins, and aprons, and wait upon him at his table as drawers.

P. Hen. From a god to a bull? a heavy descension! it was Jove's case. From a prince to a prentice? a low transformation! that shall be mine; for, in every thing, the purpose must weigh with the folly. Follow me, Ned. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

WARKWORTH. BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Enter Northumberland, Lady Northumberland, and Lady Percy.

North. I pray thee, loving wife, and gentle Give even way unto my rough affairs: [daughter, Put not you on the visage of the times, And be, like them, to Percy troublesome. {more:]

Lady N. I have given over, I will speak no Do what you will; your wisdom be your guide.

North. Alas, sweet wife, my honour is at pawn; And, but my going, nothing can redeem it.

Lady P. O, yet, for heaven's sake, go not to these wars!

The time was, father, that you broke your word, When you were more endear'd to it than now; When your own Percy, when my heart's dear Harry,

Threw many a northward look to see his father Bring up his powers; but he did long in vain.

Who then persuaded you to stay at home? [son's. There were two honours lost: yours, and your For yours,—may heavenly glory brighten it!

For his—it stuck upon him, as the sun In the grey vault of heaven: and by his light,

Did all the chivalry of England move To do brave acts: he was, indeed, the glass

Wherein the noble youth did dress themselves. He had no legs, that practis'd not his gait:

And speaking thick, which nature made his Became the accents of the valiant! [blemish,

For those that could speak low, and tardily, Would turn their own perfection to abuse,

To seem like him: So that, in speech, in gait, In diet, in affections of delight,

In military rules, humours of blood, He was the mark and glass, copy and book,

That fashioned others. And him,—O wondrous O miracle of men!—him did you leave, [him!

(Second to none, unseconded by you,) To look upon the hideous god of war

In disadvantage; to abide a field Where nothing but the sound of Hotspur's name

Did seem defensible, so you left him: Never, O never, do his ghost the wrong,

To hold your honour more precise and nice With others, than with him; let them alone;

The marshal, and the archbishop, are strong: Had my sweet Harry had but half their numbers,

To-day might I, hanging on Hotspur's neck, Have talk'd of Monmouth's grave.

North. Beshrew your heart, Fair daughter! you do draw my spirits from me,

With new lamenting ancient oversights.
But I must go, and meet with danger there;
Or it will seek me in another place,
And find me worse provided.

Lady N. O, fly to Scotland,
Till that the nobles, and the armed commons,
Have of their puissance made a little taste.

Lady P. If they get ground and vantage of
the king,

Then join you with them, like a rib of steel,
To make strength stronger; but for all our loves,
First let them try themselves: So did your son;
He was so suffer'd; So came I a widow;
And never shall have length of life enough,
To rain upon remembrance with mine eyes,
That it may grow and sprout as high as heaven,
For recordation to my noble husband. [mind,

North. Come, come, go in with me: 'tis with my
As with the tide swell'd up unto its height,
That makes a still-stand, running neither way.
Fain would I go to meet the archbishop,
But many thousand reasons hold me back:—
I will resolve for Scotland; there am I
Till time and vantage crave my company.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE
BOAR'S HEAD TAVERN IN EASTCHEAP.

Enter Two Drawers.

1 Draw. What hast thou brought there? apple-
Johns? thou know'st, Sir John cannot endure
an apple-John.

2 Draw. Mass, thou sayest true: The prince
once set a dish of apple-Johns before him, and
told him there were five more Sir Johns: and,
putting off his hat, said *I will now take my leave
of these six dry, round, old withered knights.* It
angered him to the heart; but he hath forgot that.

1 Draw. Why then, cover, and set them down:
And see if thou canst find out Sneak's noise;
mistress Doll would fain hear some musick. Des-
patch:—The room where they supped is too
hot; they'll come in straight.

2 Draw. Sirrah, here will be the prince, and
master Poins anon: and they will put on two of
our jerkins, and aprons; and Sir John must not
know of it; Bardolph hath brought word.

1 Draw. By the mass, here will be old utis: *1*
It will be an excellent stratagem.

2 Draw. I'll see if I can find out Sneak.

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Hostess and Doll.

Host. I' faith, sweet heart, methinks now you
are in an excellent good temperality: your pul-
sidge beats as extraordinarily as heart would de-
sire; and your colour, I warrant you, is as red
as any rose; but, i' faith, you have drunk too
much canaries; and that's a marvellous search-
ing wine, and it perfumes the blood ere one can
say, What's this? How do you now?

Doll. Better than I was. Hem.

Host. Why, that's well said; a good heart's
worth gold. Look, here comes Sir John.

Enter Falstaff, singing.

Fal. When Arthur first in court. And was a
worthy king. How now, mistress Doll?

1 Festival.

Doll. Come, I'll be friends with thee, Jack:
thou art going to the wars; and whether I shall
ever see thee again, or no, there is nobody cares.

Re-enter Drawer.

Draw. Sir, ancient Pistol's below, and would
speak with you.

Doll. Hang him, swaggering rascal! let him
not come hither: it is the foul-mouth'dst rogue
in England.

Host. If he swagger, let him not come here;
no, by my faith; I must live amongst my neigh-
bours; I'll no swaggerers; I am in good name
and fame with the very best:—Shut the door:
—there comes no swaggerers here: I have not
lived all this while to have swaggering now:—
shut the door, I pray you.

Fal. Dost thou hear, hostess?—

Host. 'Pray you, pacify yourself, Sir John;
there comes no swaggerers here.

Fal. Dost thou hear? it is mine ancient.

Host. Tilly-fally, Sir John, never tell me;
your ancient swaggerer comes not in my doors.
I was before master Tisick, the deputy, the
other day; and, as he said to me,—it was no
longer ago than Wednesday last,—*Neighbour
Quickly*, says he;—master Dumb, our minister,
was by then;—*Neighbour Quickly*, says he, *re-
ceive those that are civil: for, saith he, you are in
an ill name;*—now he said so, I can tell where-
upon; for, says he, *you are an honest woman, and
well thought on;* therefore take heed what guests
you receive: *Receive*, says he, *no swaggering
companions.*—There comes none here;—you
would bless you to hear what he said:—no, I'll
no swaggerers.

Fal. He's no swaggerer, hostess; a tame
cheater, he; you may stroke him as gently as a
puppy greyhound: he will not swagger with a
Barbary hen, if her feathers turn back in any
show of resistance.—Call him up, drawer.

Host. Cheater, call you him? I will bar no
honest man my house, nor no cheater: But I
do not love swaggering; by my troth, I am the
worse, when one says—swagger: feel, masters,
how I shake; look you, I warrant you.

Doll. So you do, hostess.

Host. Do I? yea, in very truth, do I, an 'twere
an aspen leaf: I cannot abide swaggerers.

Enter Pistol, Bardolph, and Page.

Pist. 'Save you, Sir John!

Fal. Welcome, ancient Pistol. Here, Pistol,
I charge you with a cup of sack: do you charge
upon mine hostess.

Pist. I will discharge upon her, Sir John, with
two bullets.

Fal. She is pistol-proof, sir; you shall hardly
offend her.

Host. Come, I'll drink no proofs, nor no bul-
lets: I'll drink no more than will do me good
for no man's pleasure, I.

Pist. Then to you, mistress Dorothy; I will
charge you.

Doll. Charge me? I scorn you, scurvy com-
panion. What! you poor, base, rascally, cheat-
ing, lack-linen mate! Away, you mouldy rogue;
away!

Pist. I know you, mistress Dorothy.

Dol. Away, you cut-purse rascal! you filthy bung, away! by this wine, I'll thrust my knife in your mouldy chaps, an you play the saucy cuttle with me. Away, you bottle-ale rascal! you basket-hilt stale juggler, you! What, with two points on your shoulder? much!

Pist. I will murder your ruff for this.

Fal. No more, Pistol; I would not have you go off here: discharge yourself of our company, Pistol.

Host. No, good captain Pistol; not here, sweet captain.

Dol. Captain! thou abominable cheater, art thou not ashamed to be called—captain? If captains were of my mind, they would truncheon you out, for taking their names upon you before you have earned them. You a captain, you slave! Hang him, rogue! He lives upon mouldystewed prunes, and dried cakes. A captain! these villains will make the word captain odious, therefore captains had need look to it.

Bard. 'Pray thee, go down, good ancient.

Fal. Hark thee hither, mistress Doll.

Pist. Not I: tell thee what, corporal Bardolph;—I could tear her:—I'll be revenged on her.

Page. 'Pray thee, go down.

Host. Good Captain Peestel, be quiet; it is very late, i' faith: I beseech you now, aggravate your choler.

Pist. These be good humours, indeed! Shall packhorses,

And hollow pamper'd jades of Asia,
Which cannot go but thirty miles a day,
Compare with Cæsars, and with Cannibals,
And Trojan Greeks? nay, rather let the welkin
Shall we fall foul for toys? [roar.

Host. By my troth, captain, these are very bitter words.

Bard. Be gone, good ancient: this will grow to a brawl anon.

Pist. Die men, like dogs; give crowns like pins; Have we not Hiren here?

Host. O' my word, captain, there's none such here. What the good-year! do you think, I would deny her? for heaven's sake, be quiet.

Pist. Then, feed and be fat, my fair Calipolis; Come, give's some sack.

Si fortuna me tormenta, sperato me contenta.—
Fear we broadsides? no, let the fiend give fire:
Give me some sack;—and, sweetheart, lie thou there.

[*Laying down his sword.*]
Come we to full points here; and are *et ceteras*.

Fal. Pistol, I would be quiet. [nothing?]

Pist. Sweet knight, I kiss thy nief! What! we have seen the seven stars.

Dol. Thrust him down stairs; I cannot endure such a fustian rascal.

Pist. Thrust him down stairs! know we not Galloway nags?

Fal. Quoit him down, Bardolph, like a shove-groat shilling: nay, if he do nothing but speak nothing, he shall be nothing here.

Bard. Come, get you down stairs.

Pist. What! shall we have incision? shall we imbrue?— [*Snatching up his sword.*]
Then death rock me asleep, abridge my doleful days!

Fist.

Why, then, let grievous, ghastly, gaping wounds
Untwine the sisters three! Come, Atropos, I say!

Host. Here's goodly stuff toward!

Fal. Give me my rapier, boy.

Dol. I pray thee, Jack, I pray thee do not draw.

Fal. Get you down stairs.

[*Drawing, and driving Pistol out.*]

Host. Here's a goodly tumult! I'll forswear keeping house, afore I'll be in these tiritts and frights. So; murder, I warrant now.—Alas, alas! put up your naked weapons, put up your naked weapons. [*Exeunt Pistol and Bardolph.*]

Dol. I pray thee, Jack, be quiet; the rascal is gone. Ah, you little valiant villain, you.

Re-enter Bardolph.

Fal. Have you turned him out of doors?

Bard. Yes, sir. The rascal's drunk: you have hurt him, sir, in the shoulder.

Fal. A rascal! to brave me!

Dol. Ah, you sweet little rogue, you! Alas, poor ape, how thou sweat'st! Come, let me wipe thy face.—Ah, rogue! i' faith I love thee. Thou art as valorous as Hector of Troy, worth five of Agamemnon, and ten times better than the nine worthies. Ah, villain!

Fal. A rascally slave! I will toss the rogue in a blanket.

Enter Musick.

Page. The musick is come, sir.

Fal. Let them play:—Play, sirs. A rascal bragging slave! the rogue fled from me like quicksilver.

Dol. I' faith, and thou followedst him like a church. Thou little tidy Bartholomew boar-pig, when wilt thou leave fighting o' days, and begin to patch up thine old body for heaven?

Enter behind, Prince Henry and Poins, disguised like Drawers.

Fal. Peace, good Doll! do not speak like a death's head; do not bid me remember mine end.

Dol. Sirrah, what humour is the prince of?

Fal. A good shallow young fellow: he would have made a good pantler; he would have chipped bread well.

Dol. They say, Poins has a good wit.

Fal. He a good wit? hang him, baboon! his wit is as thick as Tewkesbury mustard; there is no more conceit in him, than is in a mallet.

Dol. Why does the prince love him so then?

Fal. Because their legs are both of a bigness: and he plays at quoits well; and eats conger and fennel; and drinks off candles' ends for flap-dragons: and swears with a good grace; and wears his boot very smooth, like unto the sign of the leg: and breeds no bate with telling of discreet stories; and such other gambol faculties he hath, that show a weak mind and an able body, for the which the prince admits him: for the prince himself is such another; the weight of a hair will turn the scales between their avoirdupois.

P. Hen. Would not this nave of a wheel have his ears cut off?

Poins. Let's beat him.

P. Hen. Look, if the withered elder hath not his poll clawed like a parrot.

Fal. Kiss me, Doll.

P. Hen. Saturn and Venus this year in conjunction! what says the almanack to that?

Poins. And, look, whether the fiery Trigon, his man, be not lisping to his master's old tables, his note-book, his counsel-keeper.

Fal. Thou dost give me flattering busses.

Dol. Nay, truly: I kiss thee with a most constant heart.

Fal. What stuff wilt have a kirtle of? I shall receive money on Thursday: thou shalt have a cap to-morrow. A merry song, come; it grows late. Thou'lt forget me, when I am gone.

Dol. By my troth thou'lt set me a weeping, an thou sayest so: prove that ever I dress my self handsome till thy return.—Well, hearken the end.

Fal. Some sack, Francis.

P. Hen. *Poins.* Anon, anon, sir. [*Advancing.*]

Fal. Ha! a bastard son of the king's!—And art not thou *Poins* his brother?

P. Hen. Why, thou globe of sinful continents, what a life dost thou lead?

Fai. A better than thou; I am a gentleman, thou art a drawer.

P. Hen. Very true, sir, and I come to draw you out by the ears.

Host. O, heaven preserve thy good grace! by my troth, welcome to London.—Heaven bless that sweet face of thine! are you come from Wales?

Fal. Thou mad compound of majesty,—by this light thou art welcome.

Poins. My lord, he will drive you out of your revenge, and turn all to merriment, if you take not the heat.

P. Hen. You candle-mine, you, how vilely did you speak of me even now, before this honest, virtuous, civil gentlewoman?

Host. 'Blessing o' your good heart! and so she is, by my troth.

Fal. Didst thou hear me?

P. Hen. Yes; and you knew me, as you did when you ran away by Gads-hill: you knew, I was at your back; and spoke it on purpose, to try my patience.

Fal. No, no, no; not so; I did not think thou wast within hearing.

P. H. I shall drive you then to confess the wilful abuse; and then I know how to handle you.

F. No abuse, Hal, on mine honour; no abuse.

P. H. Not! to dispraise me; and call me—pantler, and bread-chipper, and I know not what?

Fal. No abuse, Hal.

Poins. No abuse!

Fal. No abuse, Ned, in the world; honest Ned, none. I dispraised him before the wicked, that the wicked might not fall in love with him:—in which doing, I have done the part of a careful friend, and a true subject, and thy father is to give me thanks for it. No abuse, Hal;—none, Ned, none;—no, boys, none.

P. Hen. See now, whether pure fear, and entire cowardice, doth not make thee wrong this virtuous gentlewoman to close with us? Is she of the wicked? Is thine hostess here of the wicked? Or is the boy of the wicked? Or honest Bardolph, whose zeal burns in his nose, of the wicked?

Poins. Answer, thou dead elm, answer.

Fal. The fiend hath pricked down Bardolph irrecoverable; and his face is Lucifer's privy-kitchen, where he doth nothing but roast malt-worms. For the boy,—there is a good angel about him; but the devil outbids him too.

Host. No, I warrant you.

Fal. Marry, there is another indictment upon thee, for suffering flesh to be eaten in thy house, contrary to the law; for the which, I think, thou wilt howl.

Host. All victuallers do so: What's a joint of mutton or two in a whole Lent?

P. Hen. You, gentlewoman,—

Dol. What says your grace?

Fal. His grace says that which his flesh rebels against.

Host. Who knocks so loud at door? look to the door there, Francis.

Enter Peto.

P. Hen. *Peto*, how now? what news?

Peto. The king your father is at Westminster: And there are twenty weak and wearied posts, Come from the north: and, as I came along, I met, and overtook, a dozen captains, Bare-headed, sweating, knocking at the taverns And asking every one for Sir John Falstaff.

P. Hen. By heaven, *Poins*, I feel me much to blame,

So idly to profane the precious time;
When tempest of commotion, like the south
Borne with black vapour, doth begin to melt,
And drop upon our bare unarmed heads.
Give me my sword, and cloak:—Falstaff, good night.

[*Exeunt Prince Henry, Poins, Peto, and Bardolph.*]

Fal. [*Knocking heard.*] More knocking at the door?

Re-enter Bardolph.

How now? what's the matter?

Bard. You must away to court, sir, presently; a dozen captains stay at door for you.

Fal. [*To the Page.*] Pay the musicians, sirrah.—Farewell, hostess;—farewell, Doll.—You see how men of merit are sought after: the under-server may sleep, when the man of action is called on. Farewell. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry in his Night-gown, with a Page.

K. Hen. Go, call the earls of Surrey and of Warwick; [*Letters.*]
But, ere they come, bid them o'er-read these
And well consider of them: Make good speed.—
[*Exit Page.*]

How many thousand of my poorest subjects
Are at this hour asleep!—Sleep, gentle sleep,
Nature's soft nurse, how have I frightened thee,
That thou no more wilt weigh mine eyelids down,
And steep my senses in forgetfulness!
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoky cribs,

Upon uneasy pallets stretching thee, [slumber ;
And hush'd with buzzing night-flies to thy
Than in the perfum'd chambers of the great,
Under the canopies of costly state,
And lull'd with sounds of sweetest melody?
O thou dull god, why liest thou with the vile,
In loathsome beds; and leav'st the kingly couch,
A watch-case, or a common 'larum bell?
Wilt thou upon the high and giddy mast
Seal up the ship-boy's eyes, and rock his brains
In cradle of the rude imperious surge;
And in the visitation of the winds
Who take the ruffian billows by the top,
Curling their monstrous heads, and hanging them
With deaf'ning clamours in the slippery clouds,
That, with the hurly,¹ death itself awakes?
Canst thou, O partial sleep! give thy repose
To the wet sea-boy in an hour so rude;
And, in the calmest and most stillest night,
With all appliances and means to boot,
Deny it to a king? Then, happy low,² lie down!
Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

Enter Warwick and Surrey.

War. Many good morrows to your majesty!

K. Hen. Is it good morrow, lords?

War. 'Tis one o'clock, and past.

K. Hen. Why then, good morrow to you all
my lords.

Have you read o'er the letters that I sent you?

War. We have, my liege.

K. Hen. Then you perceive the body of our
kingdom,

How foul it is: what rank diseases grow,
And with what danger, near the heart of it.

War. It is but as a body, yet distemper'd;
Which to his former strength may be restor'd,
With good advice, and little medicine:—
My lord Northumberland will soon be cool'd.

K. Hen. O heaven! that one might read the
book of fate;

And see the revolution of the times
Make mountains level, and the continent
(Weary of solid firmness) melt itself
Into the sea! and, other times, to see
The beachy girdle of the ocean
Too wide for Neptune's hips; how chances mock,
And changes fill the cup of alteration
With divers liquors! O, if this were seen,
The happiest youth,—viewing his progress
through,

What perils past, what crosses to ensue,—
Would shut the book, and sit him down and die.
'Tis not ten years gone, [friends,
Since Richard, and Northumberland, great
Did feast together, and, in two years after,
Were they at wars: It is but eight years, since
This Percy was the man nearest my soul;
Who like a brother toil'd in my affairs,
And laid his love and life under my foot:
Yea, for my sake, even to the eyes of Richard,
Gave him defiance. But which of you was by,
[To Warwick.] (You, cousin Nevil, as I may
remember,)

When Richard,—with his eye brimfull of tears,
Then check'd and rated by Northumberland,—
Did speak these words, now prov'd a prophecy?
Northumberland, thou ladder, by the which,

¹ Turmoil.

² Those in lowly situations.

My cousin Bolingbroke ascends my throne;—
Though then, heaven knows, I had no such in-
But that necessity so bow'd the state, [tent:
That I and greatness were compell'd to kiss:—
The time shall come, thus did he follow it,
The time will come, that foul sin, gathering head,
*Shall break into corruption:—*so went on,
Foretelling this same time's condition,
And the division of our amity.

War. There is a history in all men's lives,
Figuring the nature of the times deceas'd:
The which observ'd a man may prophesy,
With a near aim, of the main chance of things
As yet not come to life; which in their seeds,
And weak beginnings, lie intreasur'd.
Such things become the hatch and brood of time;
And, by the necessary form of this,
King Richard might create a perfect guess,
That great Northumberland, then false to him,
Would of that seed grow to a greater falseness;
Which should not find a ground to root upon,
Unless on you.

K. Hen. Are these things then necessities?
Then let us meet them like necessities:
And that same word even now cries out on us;
They say, the bishop and Northumberland
Are fifty thousand strong.

War. It cannot be, my lord;
Rumour doth double, like the voice and echo,
The numbers of the fear'd:—Please it your grace,
To go to bed; upon my life, my lord,
The powers that you already have sent forth,
Shall bring this prize in very easily.
To comfort you the more, I have receiv'd
A certain instance, that Glendower is dead.
Your majesty hath been this fortnight ill;
And these unseason'd hours, perforce must add
Unto your sickness.

K. Hen. I will take your counsel;
And, were these inward wars once out of hand,
We would, dear lords, unto the Holy Land.
[Exeunt.

SCENE II.—COURT BEFORE JUSTICE SHALLOW'S HOUSE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

*Enter Shallow and Silence, meeting; Mouldy,
Shadow, Wart, Feeble, Bull-calf, and Servants
behind.*

Shal. Come on, come on, come on; give me
your hand, sir, give me your hand, sir; an early
stirrer, by the rood,¹ And how doth my good
cousin Silence?

Sil. Good morrow, good cousin Shallow.

Shal. And how doth my cousin, your bed-
fellow? and your fairest daughter, and mine,
my god-daughter Ellen?

Sil. Alas, a black ouzel,² cousin Shallow.

Shal. By yea and nay, sir, I dare say, my
cousin William is become a good scholar: He is
at Oxford still, is he not?

Sil. Indeed, sir, to my cost.

Shal. He must then to the inns of court,
shortly: I was once of Clement's Inn; where,
I think, they will talk of mad Shallow yet.

Sil. You were called—lusty Shallow, then,
cousin.

Shal. By the mass, I was called any thing; and

¹ Cross.

² Blackbird.

I would have done any thing indeed, and roundly too. There was I, and little John Doit of Staffordshire, and Black George Bare, and Francis Pickbone, and Will Squele a Cotswold man,—you had not four such swinge-bucklers¹ in all the inns of court again: and I may say to you, we knew where the bona-robas were. Then was Jack Falstaff, now Sir John, a boy; and page to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk.

Sil. This Sir John, cousin, that comes hither anon about soldiers?

Shal. The same Sir John, the very same, I saw him break Skogan's head at the court gate, when he was a crack,² not thus high; and the very same day did I fight with one Sampson Stockfish, a fruiterer; behind Gray's Inn. O the mad days that I have spent! and to see how many of mine old acquaintance are dead!

Sil. We shall all follow, cousin.

Shal. Certain, 'tis certain; very sure, very sure; death, as the Psalmist saith, is certain to all; all shall die.—How a good yoke of bullocks at Stamford fair?

Sil. Truly, cousin, I was not there.

Shal. Death is certain.—Is old Double of your town living yet?

Sil. Dead, sir.

Shal. Dead!—See, see!—he drew a good bow;—And dead!—He shot a fine shoot:—John of Gaunt loved him well, and betted much money on his head. Dead!—he would have clapp'd³ the clout at twelve score⁴; and carried you a forehand shaft at fourteen and fourteen and a half, that it would have done a man's heart good to see.—How a score of ewes now?

Sil. Thereafter as they be; a score of good ewes may be worth ten pounds.

Shal. And is old Double dead!

Enter Bardolph, and one with him.

Sil. Here come two of Sir John Falstaff's men, as I think.

Bard. Good morrow, honest gentlemen: I beseech you, which is justice Shallow?

Sh. I am Robert Shallow, sir; a poor esquire of this county, and one of the king's justices of the peace: What is your good pleasure with me?

Bard. My captain, sir, commends him to you: my captain, Sir John Falstaff: a tall⁴ gentleman, and a most gallant leader.

Shal. He greets me well, sir; I knew him a good backword man: How doth the good knight? may I ask, how my lady his wife doth?

Bard. Sir, pardon; a soldier is better accommodated, than with a wife.

Shal. It is well said, in faith, sir; and it is well said indeed too. Better accommodated!—it is good; yea, indeed, it is: good phrases are surely, and ever were, very commendable. Accommodated;—it comes from *accommodo*: very good; a good phrase.

Bard. Pardon me, sir: I have heard the word. Phrase, call you it? By this good day, I know not the phrase: but I will maintain the word with my sword, to be a soldier-like word, and a word of exceeding good command. Accommo-

dated; that is, when a man is, as they say, accommodated: or when a man is,—being,—whereby,—he may be thought to be accommodated; which is an excellent thing.

Enter Falstaff.

Shal. It is very just?—Look, here comes good Sir John.—Give me your good hand, give me your worship's good hand: By my troth, you look well, and bear your years very well. Welcome, good Sir John.

Fal. I am glad to see you well, good master Robert Shallow:—Master Sure-card, as I think.

Shal. No, Sir John; it is my cousin Silence, in commission with me.

Fal. Good master Silence, it well befits you should be of the peace.

Sil. Your good worship is welcome.

F. Fie! this is hot weather.—Gentlemen, have you provided me here half a dozen sufficient men?

Shal. Marry have we, sir. Will you sit?

Fal. Let me see them, I beseech you.

Sh. Where's the roll? where's the roll? where's the roll?—Let me see, let me see.

So. So, so, so: Yea, marry, sir—Ralph Mouldy:—let them appear as I call; let them do so, let them do so.—Let me see; where is Mouldy?

Moul. Here, an't please you.

Shal. What think you, Sir John; a good limbed fellow: young, strong, and of good friends.

Fal. Is thy name Mouldy?

Moul. Yea, an't please you.

Fal. 'Tis the more time thou wert used.

Shal. Ha, ha, ha! most excellent, things that are mouldy lack use: Very singular good!—well said, Sir John; very well said.

Fal. [To Shallow.] Prick him.

Moul. My old dame will be undone now, for one to do her husbandry, and her drudgery: you need not to have pricked me; there are other men fitter to go out than I.

Fal. Go to; peace, Mouldy, you shall go, Mouldy.

Shal. Peace, fellow, peace; stand aside: Know you where you are?—For the other, Sir John:—let me see;—Simon Shadow!

Fal. Ay marry, let me have him to sit under: he's like to be a cold soldier.

Shal. Where's Shadow?

Shad. Here, sir.

Fal. Shadow, whose son art thou?

Shad. My mother's son, sir.

Fal. Thy mother's son! like enough, and thy father's shadow.

Shal. Do you like him, Sir John?

Fal. Shadow will serve for summer,—prick him;—for we have a number of shadows to fill up the muster-book.

Shal. Thomas Wart!

Fal. Where's he?

Wart. Here, sir.

Fal. Is thy name Wart?

Wart. Yea, sir.

Fal. Thou art a very ragged wart.

Shal. Shall I prick him, Sir John?

Fal. It were superfluous: for his apparel is built upon his back, and the whole frame stands upon pins: prick him no more.

1 Riotous fellows.

3 Hit the white at 240 yards.

2 Child.

4 Brave.

Shal. Ha, ha, ha!—you can do it, sir; you can do it: I commend you well.—Francis Feeble!

Fee. Here, sir.

Fal. What trade art thou, Feeble!

Fee. A woman's tailor, sir.

Shal. Shall I prick him, sir!

Fal. You may:—Wilt thou make as many holes in an enemy's battle, as thou hast made with thy needle?

Fee. I will do my good will, sir; you can have no more.

Fal. Well said, good woman's tailor! well said, courageous Feeble! Thou wilt be as valiant as the wrathful dove, or most magnanimous mouse.—Prick the woman's tailor well, master Shallow; deep, master Shallow.

Fee. I would, Wart might have gone, sir.

Fal. I would thou wert a man's tailor; that thou might'st mend him, and make him fit to go. I cannot put him to a private soldier, that is the leader of so many thousands: Let that suffice, most forcible Feeble.

Fee. It shall suffice, sir.

Fal. I am bound to thee, reverend Feeble.—Who is next?

Shal. Peter Bull-calf of the green!

Fal. Yea, marry, let us see Bull-calf.

Bull. Here, sir.

Fal. Trust me, a likely fellow!—Come, prick me Bull-calf till he roar again.

Bull. O my lord! good my lord captain,—

Fal. What, dost thou roar before thou art pricked?

Bull. O my lord! I am a diseased man.

Fal. What disease hast thou?

Bull. A cold, sir; a cough, sir; which I caught with ringing in the king affairs, upon his coronation-day, sir.

Fal. Come, thou shalt go to the wars in a gown; we will have away thy cold; and I will take such order, that thy friends shall ring for thee.—Is here all?

Shal. Here is two more called than your number? you must have but four here, sir;—and so, I pray you, go in with me to dinner.

Fal. Come, I will go drink with you, but I cannot tarry dinner. I am glad to see you, in good troth, master Shallow.

Shal. O, Sir John, do you remember since we lay all night in the windmill in Saint George's fields?

Fal. No more of that, good master Shallow, no more of that.

Shal. Ha, it was a merry night. And is Jane Night alive?

Fal. She lives, master Shallow.

Shal. She never could away with me.

Fal. Never, never: she would always say, she could not abide master Shallow.

Shal. By the mass, I could anger her to the heart. She was then a bona-roba. Doth she hold her own well?

Fal. Old, old, master Shallow.

Shal. Nay, she must be old; she cannot choose but be old; certain she's old; and had Robin before I came to Clement's Inn.

Sil. That's fifty-five year ago.

Shal. Ha, cousin Silence, that thou hadst

seen that that this knight and I have seen!—Ha, Sir John, said I well?

Fal. We have heard the chimes at midnight, master Shallow.

Shal. That we have, that we have, that we have: in faith, Sir John, we have: our watch-word was, *Hem, boys!*—Come, let's to dinner; come, let's to dinner:—O, the days that we have seen!—Come, come.

[*Exeunt Falstaff, Shallow, and Silence.*]

Bull. Good master corporate Bardolph, stand my friend; and here is four Harry ten shillings in French crowns for you. In very truth, sir, I had as lief¹ be hanged, sir, as go; and yet, for mine own part, sir, I do not care; but, rather, because I am unwilling, and, for mine own part, have a desire to stay with my friends; else, sir, I did not care, for mine own part, so much.

Bard. Go to; stand aside.

Moul. And good master corporal captain, for my old dame's sake, stand my friend: she has nobody to do anything about her, when I am gone: and she is old, and cannot help herself: you shall have forty, sir.

Bard. Go to; stand aside.

Fee. By my troth I care not;—a man can die but once;—we owe God a death;—I'll ne'er bear a base mind;—an't be my destiny, so; an't be not, so: No man's too good to serve his prince; and let it go which way it will, he that dies this year is quit for the next.

Bard. Well said; thou'rt a good fellow.

Fee. Nay, I'll bear no base mind.

Re-enter Falstaff, and Justices.

Fal. Come, sir, which men shall I have?

Shal. Four, of which you please.

Bard. Sir, a word with you:—I have three pound to free Mouldy and Bull-calf.

Fal. Go to; well.

Shal. Come, Sir John, which four will you

Fal. Do you choose for me. [have?]

Sh. Marry then,—Mouldy, Bull-calf, Feeble, and Shadow.

F. Mouldy, and Bull-calf:—For you, Mouldy, stay at home, still; you are past service:—and, for your part, Bull-calf,—grow till you come unto it; I will none of you.

Shal. Sir John, Sir John, do not yourself wrong; they are your likeliest men, and I would have you served with the best.

Fal. Will you tell me, master Shallow, how to choose a man? Care I for the limb, the thews, the stature, bulk, and big assemblance of a man! Give me the spirit, master Shallow.—Here's Wart;—you see what a ragged appearance it is: he shall charge you, and discharge you, with the motion of a pewterer's hammer; come off, and on, swifter than he that gibbets on the brewer's bucket. And this same half-faced fellow, Shadow,—give me this man; he presents no mark to the enemy; the foeman may with as great aim level at the edge of a penknife: And, for a retreat,—how swiftly will this Feeble, the woman's tailor, run off? O, give me the spare men, and spare me the great ones.—Put me a caliver² into Wart's hand, Bardolph.

¹ As willingly.

² Musket.

Bard. Hold, Wart, traverse¹; thus, thus, thus.
Fal. Come, manage me your caliver. So:—
 very well: go to:—very good:—exceeding good.
 —O, give me always a little, lean, old, chapped
 bald shot.—Well said, Wart; hold, there's a
 tester² for thee.

Shal. He is not his craft's master, he doth
 not do it right. I remember at Mile-end green,
 (when I lay at Clement's Inn,—I was then Sir
 Dagonet in Arthur's show,³) there was a little
 quiver fellow, and 'a would manage you his
 piece thus: and 'a would about and about, and
 come you in, and come you in: *rah, tah, tah,*
 would 'a say; *bounce*, would 'a say; and away
 again would 'a go, and again would 'a come:—
 I shall never see such a fellow.

Fal. These fellows will do well, master Shal-
 low.—Heaven keep you, master Silence; I will
 not use many words with you:—Fare you well,
 gentlemen both: I thank you: I must a dozen
 mile to-night.—Bardolph, give the soldiers coats.

Shal. Sir John, heaven bless you and prosper
 your affairs, and send us peace! As you return,
 visit my house; let our old acquaintance be re-
 newed: peradventure, I will with you to the
 court.

Fal. I would you would, master Shallow.

Shal. Go to; I have spoke at a word. Fare
 you well. [*Exeunt Shallow and Silence.*]

Fal. Fare you well, gentle gentlemen. On,
 Bardolph; lead the men away. [*Exeunt Bar-
 dolph, Recruits, &c.*] As I return, I will fetch
 off these justices: I do see the bottom of jus-
 tice Shallow. How subject we old men are to
 this vice of lying! This same starved justice
 hath done nothing but prate to me of the
 wildness of his youth, and the feats he hath
 done about Turnbull street; and every third
 word a lie, duer paid to the hearer than the
 Turk's tribute. I do remember him at Cle-
 ment's Inn, like a man made after supper
 of 'a cheese-paring: he was so forlorn,
 that his dimensions to any thick sight were
 invisible: he was the very Genius of
 famine; he came ever in the rearward of the
 fashion; and sung those tunes to the huswives
 that he heard the car-men whistle, and sware
 —they were his Fancies, or his Good-nights.⁴
 And now is this Vice's dagger⁵ become a
 squire; and talks as familiarly of John of
 Gaunt, as if he had been sworn brother to him:
 and I'll be sworn he never saw him but once
 in the Tilt-yard; and then he burst his head,
 for crowding among the marshal's men. I saw
 it; and told John of Gaunt, he beat his own
 name: for you might have truss'd him, and
 all his apparel, into an eel-skin; the case of a
 treble haut-boy was a mansion for him, a
 court; and now has he land and beeves. Well;
 I will be acquainted with him, if I return: and
 it shall go hard, but I will make him a philo-
 sopher's stone to me: If the young dace⁶ be a
 bait for the old pike, I see no reason, in the
 law of nature, but I may snap at him. Let
 time shape, and there an end. [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A FOREST IN YORKSHIRE.

*Enter the Archbishop of York, Mowbray,
 Hastings, and others.*

Arch. What is this forest call'd?

Hast. 'Tis Gualtree forest, an't shall please
 your grace. [forth,

A. Here stand, my lord; and send discoverers
 To know the numbers of our enemies.

Hast. We have sent forth already.

Arch. 'Tis well done.

My friends and brethren in these great affairs,
 I must acquaint you that I have receiv'd
 New-dated letters from Northumberland;
 Their cold intent, tenour and substance, thus:—
 Here doth he wish his person, with such powers
 As might hold sortance¹ with his quality,
 The which he could not levy; whereupon
 He is retir'd, to ripe his growing fortunes,
 To Scotland; and concludes in hearty prayers,
 That your attempts may overlive the hazard,
 And fearful meeting of their opposite.

Mowb. Thus do the hopes we have in him touch
 And dash themselves to pieces. [ground,

Enter a Messenger.

Hast. Now, what news?

Mess. West of this forest, scarcely off a mile,
 In goodly form comes on the enemy:
 And, by the ground they hide, I judge their
 number

Upon, or near, the rate of thirty thousand.

M. The just proportion that we gave them out.
 Let us sway on, and face them in the field.

Enter Westmoreland.

A. What well-appointed leader fronts us here?

Mowb. I think it is my lord of Westmoreland.

W. Health and fair greeting from our general,
 The prince, lord John, and duke of Lancaster.

A. Say on, my lord of Westmoreland, in peace:
 What doth concern your coming?

West. Then, my lord,
 Unto your grace do I in chief address

The substance of my speech. If that rebellion
 Came like itself, in base and abject roots,
 Led on by bloody youth, guarded with rage,
 And countenanc'd by boys and beggary;

I say, if vile commotion so appear'd,
 In his true, native, and most proper shape,
 You, reverend father, and these noble lords,
 Had not been here, to dress the ugly form
 Of base and bloody insurrection

With your fair honours. You, lord archbishop,—
 Whose see is by a civil peace maintain'd;

Whose beard the silver hand of peace hath
 touch'd;

Whose learning and good letters peace hath
 tutor'd;

Whose white investments figure innocence,
 The dove and very blessed spirit of peace,—
 Wherefore do you so ill translate yourself,
 Out of the speech of peace, that bears such grace,
 Into the harsh and boist'rous tongue of war?
 Turning your books to graves, your ink to blood,

1 Accord.

1 March.

2 Sixpence.

3 An exhibition of archers.

4 Titles of little poems.

5 Puppet.

6 A small white fish.

Your pens to lances; and your tongue divine
To a loud trumpet, and a point of war?

Ar. Wherefore do I this? so the question stands,
Briefly to this end:—We are all diseased;
And, with our surfeiting, and wanton hours,
Have brought ourselves into a burning fever,
And we must bleed for it: of which disease
Our late king, Richard, being infected, died.
But, my most noble lord of Westmoreland,
I take not on me here as a physician;
Nor do I, as an enemy to peace,
Troop in the throngs of military men;
But, rather show a while like fearful war,
To diet rank minds, sick of happiness;
And purge the obstructions, which begin to stop
Our very veins of life. Hear me more plainly.
I have in equal balance justly weigh'd
What wrongs our arms may do, what wrongs
we suffer,

And find our griefs¹ heavier than our offences.
We see which way the stream of time doth run,
And are enforced from our most quiet sphere
By the rough torrent of occasion:
And have the summary of all our griefs,
When time shall serve, to show in articles:
Which, long ere this, we offer'd to the king,
And might by no suit gain our audience:
When we are wrong'd, and would unfold our
griefs,

We are denied access unto his person
Even by those men that most have done us wrong.
The dangers of the days but newly gone,
(Whose memory is written on the earth
With yet-appearing blood,) and the examples
Of every minute's instance (present now),
Have put us in these ill-beseeming arms;
Not to break peace, or any branch of it;
But to establish here a peace indeed,
Concurring both in name and quality.

West. When ever yet was your appeal denied?
Wherein have you been galled by the king?
What peer hath been suborn'd to grate on you?
That you should seal this lawless bloody book
Of forg'd rebellion with a seal divine,
And consecrate commotion's bitter edge?

Arch. My brother general, the commonwealth,
I make my quarrel in particular.

West. There is no need of any such redress;
Or, if there were, it not belongs to you.

Mowb. Why not to him, in part; and to us all,
That feel the bruises of the days before;
And suffer the condition of these times,
To lay a heavy and unequal hand
Upon our honours?

West. O my good lord Mowbray,
Construe the times to their necessities,
And you shall say indeed,—it is the time,
And not the king, that doth you injuries.
Yet, for your part, it not appears to me,
Either from the king, or in the present time,
That you should have an inch of any ground
To build a grief on: Were you not restor'd
To all the duke of Norfolk's signories,
Your noble and right-well remember'd father's?

M. What thing, in honour, had my father lost,
That need to be reviv'd and breath'd in me?
The king, that loved him, as the state stood then,

1 Grievances.

Was, force perforce, compell'd to banish him:
And then, when Harry Bolingbroke, and he,—
Being mounted, and both roused in their seats,
Their neighing coursers daring of the spur,
Their armed staves in charge, their beavers
down,

Their eyes of fire sparkling through sights of
And the loud trumpet blowing them together;
Then, then, when there was nothing could have
staid

My father from the breast of Bolingbroke,
O, when the king did throw his warder¹ down,
His own life hung upon the staff he threw:
Then threw he down himself; and all their lives,
That by indictment, and by dint of sword,
Have since miscarried under Bolingbroke.

West. You speak, lord Mowbray, now you
know not what:

The earl of Hereford was reputed then
In England the most valiant gentleman;
Who knows, on whom fortune would then have
smil'd?

But if your father had been victor there
He ne'er had borne it out of Coventry:
For all the country in a general voice,
Cried hate upon him; and all their prayers
and love,

Were set on Hereford, whom they doted on,
And bless'd and grac'd indeed, more than the
king.

But this is mere digression from my purpose. ✓
Here come I from our princely general,
To know your griefs; to tell you from his grace,
That he will give you audience: and wherein
It shall appear that your demands are just,
You shall enjoy them; every thing set off,
That might so much as think you enemies.

M. But he hath forc'd us to compel this offer;
And it proceeds from policy, not love.

West. Mowbray, you overween,² to take it so;
This offer comes from mercy, not from fear:
For, lo! within a ken,³ our army lies;
Upon mine honour, all too confident
To give admittance to a thought of fear.
Our battle is more full of names than yours,
Our men more perfect in the use of arms,
Our armour all as strong, our cause the best;
Then reason wills, our hearts should be as good:—
Say you not then, our offer is compell'd.

M. Well, by my will, we shall admit no parley.
W. That argues but the shame of your offence:
A rotten case abides no handling.

Hast. Hath the prince John a full commission,
In very ample virtue of his father,
To hear, and absolutely to determine
Of what conditions we shall stand upon?

West. That is intended⁴ in the general's name;
I muse,⁵ you make so slight a question.

Arch. Then take, my lord of Westmoreland,
this schedule;

For this contains our general grievances:—
Each several article herein redress'd;
All members of our cause, both here and hence,
That are insinew'd to this action,
Acquitted by a true substantial form;

1 Truncheon.

2 Think too highly.

3 Sight.

4 Understood.

5 Wonder.

And present execution of our wills
To us, and to our purposes, consign'd;
We come within our awful banks again,
And knit our powers to the arm of peace.

West. This will I show the general. Please
you, lords,

In sight of both our battles we may meet:
And either end in peace, which heaven so frame!
Or to the place of difference call the swords
Which must decide it.

Arch. My lord, we will do so. [*Exit West.*]

Mow. There is a thing within my bosom, tells me
That no conditions of our peace can stand.

H. Fear you not that: if we can make our
peace

Upon such large terms, and so absolute,
As our conditions shall consist upon,
Our peace shall stand as firm as rocky moun-
tains.

Mowb. Ay, but our valuation shall be such,
That every slight and false-derived cause,
Yea, every idle, nice,¹ and wanton reason,
Shall, to the king, taste of this action:
That, were our royal faiths martyrs in love,
We shall be winnow'd with so rough a wind,
That even our corn shall seem as light as chaff,
And good from bad find no partition.

Arch. No, no, my lord; Note this,—the king
is weary

Of dainty and such picking² grievances:
For he hath found,—to end one doubt by death,
Revives two greater in the heirs of life.
And therefore will he wipe his tables³ clean;
And keep no tell-tale to his memory,
That may repeat and history his loss
To new remembrance: For full well he knows,
He cannot so precisely weed this land,
As his misdoubts present occasion:
His foes are so enrooted with his friends,
That, plucking to unfix an enemy,
He doth unfasten so, and shake a friend.
So that this land, like an offensive wife,
That hath enrag'd him on to offer strokes;
As he is striking, holds his infant up,
And hangs resolv'd correction in the arm
That was uprear'd to execution.

Hast. Besides, the king hath wasted all his rods
On late offenders, that he now doth lack
The very instruments of chastisement:
So that his power, like to a fangless lion,
May offer, but not hold.

Arch. 'Tis very true;—
And therefore be assur'd, my good lord marshal,
If we do now make our atonement well,
Our peace will, like a broken limb united,
Grow stronger for the breaking.

Mowb. Be it so.
Here is return'd my lord of Westmoreland.

Re-enter Westmoreland.

West. The prince is here at hand: Pleaseth
your lordship,

To meet his grace just distance 'tween our armies?

Mowb. Your Grace of York, in God's name
then set forward.

Arch. Before, and greet his grace:—my lord,
we come. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

*Enter, from one side, Mowbray, the Arch-
bishop, Hastings, and others: from the other
side, Prince John of Lancaster, Westmoreland,
Officers, and Attendants.*

P. John. You are well encounter'd here, my
cousin Mowbray:—

Good day to you, gentle lord-archbishop;—
And so to you, lord Hastings,—and to all.—
My lord of York, it better show'd with you,
When that your flock, assembled by the bell,
Encircled you, to hear with reverence
Your exposition on the holy text;
Than now to see you here an iron man,
Cheering a rout of rebels with your drum,
Turning the word to sword, and life to death.
That man, that sits within a monarch's heart,
And ripens in the sunshine of his favour,
Would he abuse the countenance of the king,
Alack, what mischiefs might be set abroad,
In shadow of such greatness! With you, lord
bishop,

It is even so: Who hath not heard it spoken,
How deep you were within the books of heaven?
To us, the speaker in his parliament;
To us, the imagin'd voice of heaven itself;
The very opener, and intelligencer,
Between the grace, the sanctities of heaven,
And our dull workings: O, who shall believe,
But you misuse the reverence of your place;
Employ the countenance and grace of heaven,
As a false favourite doth his prince's name,
In deeds dishonourable? You have taken up,
Under the counterfeited zeal of heaven,
The subject of heaven's substitute, my father;
And, both against the peace of heaven,
Have here up-swarm'd them.

Arch. Good my lord of Lancaster,
I am not here against your father's peace:
But, as I told my lord of Westmoreland,
The time misorder'd doth, in common sense,
Crowd us, and crush us, to this monstrous form,
To hold our safety up. I sent your grace
The parcels and particulars of our grief;
The which hath been with scorn shov'd from the
court,

Whereon this hydra son of war is born:
Whose dangerous eyes may well be charm'd
asleep,

With grant of our most just and right desires;
And true obedience of this madness cur'd
Stoop tamely to the feet of majesty.

Mowb. If not we ready are to try our fortunes
To the last man.

Hast. And though we here fall down,
We have supplies to second our attempt;
If they miscarry, theirs shall second them;
And so, success¹ of mischief shall be born;
And heir from heir shall hold this quarrel up,
Whiles England shall have generation.

P. John. You are too shallow, Hastings, much
too shallow,

To sound the bottom of the after times.

West. Pleaseth your grace, to answer them
directly,

How far-forth you do like their articles?

¹ Trivial.

² Insignificant.

³ Note-book.

¹ Succession.

P. J. I like them all, and do allow¹ them well: And swear here by the honour of my blood, My father's purposes have been mistook; And some about him have too lavishly Wrested his meaning and authority.— My lord, these griefs shall bewith speed redress'd; Upon my soul they shall. If this may please you, Discharge your powers unto their several counties,

As we will ours: and here, between the armies, Let's drink together friendly, and embrace; That all their eyes may bear those tokens home, Of our restored love, and amity. [dresses.]

A. I take your princely word for these re-
P. J. I give it you, and will maintain my word; And thereupon I drink unto your grace.

Hast. [To an Officer.] Go, captain, and deliver to the army This news of peace; let them have pay, and part:

I know it will well please them; Hie thee, captain. [Exit Officer.]

Arch. To you, my noble lord of Westmoreland.

West. I pledge your grace: And, if you knew what pains

I have bestow'd, to breed this present peace, You would drink freely: but my love to you Shall show itself more openly hereafter.

Arch. I do not doubt you.

West. I am glad of it:— Health to my lord, and gentle cousin, Mowbray. Mo. You wish me health in very happy season; For I am, on the sudden, something ill.

Arch. Against ill chances, men are ever merry;

But heaviness foreruns the good event.

West. Therefore be merry, coz; since sudden sorrow

Serves to say thus,—Some good thing comes tomorrow.

Arch. Believe me, I am passing light in spirit.

Mowb. So much the worse, if your own rule be true. [Shouts within.]

P. John. The word of peace is render'd; Hark, how they shout!

Mowb. This had been cheerful, after victory.

Arch. A peace is of the nature of a conquest; For then both parties nobly are subdued, And neither party loser.

P. John. Go, my lord, And let our army be discharged too.—

[Exit Westmoreland.] And, good my lord, so please you, let our trains March by us; that we may peruse the men We should have cop'd withal.

Arch. Go, good lord Hastings, And, ere they be dismiss'd, let them march by.

[Exit Hastings.] *P. John.* I trust, my lords, we shall lie to-night together.—

Re-enter Westmoreland.

Now, cousin, wherefore stands our army still?

West. The leaders, having charge from you to stand,

Will not go off until they hear you speak.

P. John. They know their duties.

1 Approve.

Re-enter Hastings.

Hast. My lord, our army is dispers'd already: Like youthful steers unyok'd, they take their courses [up,

East, west, north, south; or, like a school broke Each hurries towards his home, and sporting-place. [which]

West. Good tidings, my lord Hastings; for the I do arrest thee, traitor, of high treason:—

And you, lord archbishop,—and you, lord Mowbray,

Of capital treason I attach you both.

Mowb. Is this proceeding just and honourable?

West. Is your assembly so?

Arch. Will you thus break your faith?

P. John. I pawn'd thee none: I promis'd you redress of these same grievances, Whereof you did complain; which, by mine honour,

I will perform with a most Christian care.

But, for you, rebels—look to taste the due

Meet for rebellion, and such acts as yours.

Most shallowly did you these arms commence,

Fondly¹ brought here, and foolishly sent hence.—

Strike up our drums, pursue the scatter'd stray;

Heaven, and not we, have safely fought to-day.—

Some guard these traitors to the block of death,

Treason's true bed, and yielder up of breath.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST.

Alarums: Excursions. Enter Falstaff and Coleville, meeting.

Fal. What's your name, sir? of what condition are you; and of what place, I pray?

Cole. I am a knight, sir; and my name is— Coleville of the dale.

Fal. Well then, Coleville is your name; a knight is your degree; and your place, the dale: Coleville shall still be your name,—a traitor your degree; and the dungeon your place,—a place deep enough; so shall you still be Coleville of the dale.

Cole. Are not you Sir John Falstaff?

Fal. As good a man as he, sir, who'er I am. Do ye yield, sir? or shall I sweat for you? If I do sweat, they are drops of thy lovers, and they weep for thy death: therefore rouse up fear and trembling, and do observance to my mercy.

Cole. I think, you are Sir John Falstaff; and, in that thought, yield me.

Fal. I have a whole school of tongues in this belly of mine; and not a tongue of them all speaks any other word but my name. An I had but a belly of any indifference, I were simply the most active fellow in Europe:—Here comes our general.

Enter Prince John of Lancaster, Westmoreland, and others.

P. Jo. The heat is past, follow no further now;— Call in the powers, good cousin Westmoreland.—

[Exit Westmoreland.] Now, Falstaff, where have you been all this while?

When every thing is ended, then you come:

These tardy tricks of yours will, on my life,

One time or other break some gallows' back.

1 Foolishly.

Fal. I would be sorry, my lord, but it should be thus; I never knew yet, but rebuke and check was the reward of valour. Do you think me a swallow, an arrow, or a bullet? have I, in my poor and old motion, the expedition of thought? I have speeded hither with the very extremest inch of possibility; I have foundered nine-score and odd posts; and here, travel-tainted as I am, have, in my pure and immaculate valour, taken Sir John Coleville of the dale, a most furious knight, and valorous enemy: But what of that? he saw me, and yielded; that I may justly say, with the hooked-nose fellow of Rome, *I—*I came, saw, and overcame.

P. John. It was more of his courtesy than your deserving.

Fal. I know not; here he is, and here I yield him: and I beseech your grace let it be booked with the rest of this day's deeds; or I will have it in a particular ballad else, with mine own picture on the top of it, Colville kissing my foot: To the which course, if I be enforced, if you do not all shew like gilt two-pences to me; and I, in the clear sky of fame, o'ershining you as much as the full moon doth the cinders of the element, which shew like pins' heads to her; believe not the word of the noble: Therefore let me have right, and let desert mount.

P. John. Thine's too heavy to mount.

Fal. Let it shine then.

P. John. Thine's too thick to shine.

Fal. Let it do something, my good lord, that may do me good, and call it what you will.

P. John. Is thy name Colville?

Cole. It is, my lord.

P. John. A famous rebel art thou, Colville.

Fal. And a famous true subject took him.

Cole. I am, my lord, but as my betters are, That led me hither: had they been ruled by me, You should have won them dearer than you have.

Fal. I know not how they sold themselves: but thou, like a kind fellow, gavest thyself away; and I thank thee for thee.

Re-enter Westmoreland.

P. John. Now, have you left pursuit?

West. Retreat is made, and execution stay'd.

P. John. Send Coleville, with his confederates, To York, to present execution:

Blunt, lead him hence; and see you guard him sure. *[Exeunt some with Colville.]*

And now despatch we toward the court, my lords; I hear, the king my father is sore sick:

Our news shall go before us to his majesty,—Which, cousin, you shall bear, —to comfort him;

And we with sober speed will follow you.

Fal. My lord, I beseech you, give me leave to go through Glostershire; and, when you come to court, stand my good lord, 'pray, in your good report.

P. John. Fare you well, Falstaff: I, in my condition,

Shall better speak of you than you deserve. *[Exit.]*

Fal. I would you had but the wit: 'twere better than your dukedom.—Good faith, this same young sober-blooded boy doth not love me; nor a man cannot make him laugh;—but that's

1 Julius Caesar.

no marvel, he drinks no wine. There's never any of these demure boys come to any proof: for thin drink doth so over-cool their blood, they are generally fools and cowards;—which some of us should be too, but for inflammation. A good sherris-sack¹ hath a two-fold operation in it. It ascends me into the brain; dries me there all the foolish and dull, and crudy vapours which environ it; makes it apprehensive, quick, forgetive,² full of nimble, fiery, and delectable shapes; which delivered o'er to the voice (the tongue), which is the birth, becomes excellent wit. The second property of your excellent sherris is, —the warming of the blood; which, before cold and settled, left the liver white and pale, which is the badge of pusillanimity and cowardice: but the sherris warms it, and makes it course from the inwards to the parts extreme. It illumineth the face; which, as a beacon, gives warning to all the rest of this little kingdom, man, to arm; and then the vital commoners, and inland petty spirits, muster me all to their captain, the heart; who, great, and puffed up with this retinue, doth any deed of courage: and this valour comes of sherris: So that skill in the weapon is nothing, without sack; for that sets it a-work; and learning, a mere hoard of gold, kept by a devil; till sack commences it, and sets it in act and use. Hereof comes it, that prince Harry is valiant: for the cold blood he did naturally inherit of his father, he hath, like lean, sterile, and bare land, manured, husbanded, and tilled, with excellent endeavour of drinking good and good store of fertile sherris; that he is become very hot and valiant. If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them should be, —to forswear thin potations, and addict themselves to sack.

Enter Bardolph.

How now, Bardolph?

Bard. The army is discharged all, and gone.

Fal. Let them go. I'll through Glostershire; and there will I visit master Robert Shallow, esquire: I have him already tempering between my finger and my thumb, and shortly will I seal with him.³ Come away. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV.

WESTMINSTER. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, Clarence, Prince Humphrey, Warwick, and others.

K. Henry. Now, lords, if heaven doth give successful end

To this debate that bleedeth at our doors, We will our youth lead on to higher fields, And draw no swords but what are sanctified.

Our navy is address'd,⁴ our power collected, Our substitutes in absence well invested,

And every thing lies level to our wish:

Only, we want a little personal strength;

And pause us, till these rebels now afoot, Come underneath the yoke of government.

War. Both which we doubt not but your majesty Shall soon enjoy.

1 Sherry.

2 Inventive.

3 An allusion to sealing with soft wax.

4 Prepared.

K. Hen. Humphrey, my son, of Gloster,
Where is the prince your brother?

P. Hum. I think he's gone to hunt, my lord,
at Windsor.

K. Hen. And how accompanied?

P. Hum. I do not know, my lord.

K. H. Is not his brother, Thomas of Clarence,
with him?

P. H. No, my good lord, he is in presence here.
Cl. What would my lord and father?

K. Hen. Nothing but well to thee, Thomas of
Clarence. [brother?

How chance, thou art not with the prince thy
Heloves thee, and thou dost neglect him, Thomas;
Thou hast a better place in his affection,
Than all thy brothers; cherish it, my boy;
And noble offices thou mayest effect
Of mediation, after I am dead,

Between his greatness and thy other brethren:
Therefore omit him not; blunt not his love;
Nor lose the good advantage of his grace
By seeming cold, or careless of his will,
For he is gracious, if he be observ'd¹;
He hath a tear for pity, and a hand
Open as day for melting charity:

Yet notwithstanding, being incens'd, he's flint;
As humorous as winter, and as sudden
As flaws congealed in the spring of day.
His temper, therefore, must be well observ'd:

Chide him for faults, and do it reverently,
When you perceive his blood inclin'd to mirth:
But, being moody, give him line and scope;
Till that his passions, like a whale on ground,
Confound themselves with working. Learn this,
Thomas,

And thou shalt prove a shelter to thy friends;
A hoop of gold, to bind thy brothers in;
That the united vessel of their blood,
Mingled with venom of suggestion,
(As, force perforce, the age will pour it in,)
Shall never leak, though it do work as strong
As aconitum,² or rash gunpowder.

Cl. I shall observe him with all care and love.

K. Hen. Why art thou not at Windsor with
him, Thomas?

C. He is not there to-day; he dines in London.

K. Hen. And how accompanied? canst thou
tell that? [lowers.

Cl. With Poins, and other his continual fol-

K. H. Most subject is the fattest soil to weeds;
And he, the noble image of my youth,
Is overspread with them: Therefore my grief
Stretches itself beyond the hour of death;
The blood weeps from my heart, when I do shape,
In forms imaginary, the unguided days,
And rotten times, that you shall look upon
When I am sleeping with my ancestors.
For when his headstrong riot hath no curb,
When rage and hot blood are his counsellors,
When means and lavish manners meet together,
O, with what wings shall his affections fly
Towards fronting peril and oppos'd decay!

War. My gracious lord, you look beyond him
quite:

The prince but studies his companions,
Like a strange tongue: wherein, to gain the
language,

'Tis needful that the most immodest word
Belook'd upon, and learn'd: which once attain'd,
Your highness knows, comes to no further use,
But to be known and hated. So, like gross terms,
The prince will, in the perfectness of time,
Cast off his followers: and their memory
Shall as a pattern or a measure live,
By which his grace must mete the lives of others;
Turning past evils to advantages.

K. Hen. 'Tis seldom, when the bee doth leave
her comb [land?
In the dead carrion.—Who's here? Westmore-

Enter Westmoreland.

W. Health to my sovereign! and new happiness
Added to that that I am to deliver! [hand:
Prince John, your son, doth kiss your grace's
Mowbray, the bishop Scroop, Hastings, and all,
Are brought to the correction of your law;
There is not now a rebel's sword unsheath'd,
But peace puts forth her olive everywhere.
The manner how this action hath been borne,
Here at more leisure may your highness read;
With every course, in this particular.¹

K. Hen. O Westmoreland, thou art a summer-
bird,

Which ever in the haunch of winter, sings
The lifting up of day. Look! here's more news.

Enter Harcourt.

Har. From enemies heaven keep your majesty;
And when they stand against you, may they fall
As those that I am come to tell you of! [dolph,
The earl Northumberland, and the lord Bar-
With a great power of English, and of Scots,
Are by the sheriff of Yorkshire overthrown:
The manner and true order of the fight,
This packet, please it you, contains at large.

K. Hen. And wherefore should these good
news make me sick?

Will fortune never come with both hands full,
But write her fair words still in foulest letters?
She either gives a stomach, and no food,—
Such are the poor, in health; or else a feast,
And takes away the stomach,—such are the rich,
That have abundance, and enjoy it not.

I should rejoice now at this happy news;
And now my sight fails, and my brain is giddy:—
Ome! come near me, now I am most ill. [Swoons.

P. Hum. Comfort, your majesty!

Cl. O, my royal father!

West. My sovereign lord, cheer up yourself,
look up! [fits

War. Be patient, princes; you do know, these
Are with his highness very ordinary. [well.
Stand from him, give him air; he'll straight be
C. No, no; he cannot long hold out these pangs;
The incessant care and labour of his mind
Hath wrought the mure,² that should confine
it in, [out.

So thin, that life looks through, and will break
P. Hum. The people fear me³; for they do
observe

Unfather'd heirs, and loathly birds of nature;
The seasons change their manners, as the year
Had found some months asleep, and leap'd
them over.

1 Attended to. 2 Wolf's bane, a poisonous herb.

1 In Fr. John's letter. 2 Wall. 3 Make me fear.

Cla. The river hath thrice flow'd, no ebb between¹:
 And the old folk, time's doting chronicles,
 Say, it did so, a little time before [died].
 That our great grandsire, Edward, sick'd and
W. Speak lower, princes, for the king recovers.
P. Hum. This apoplex will, certain, be his end.
K. Hen. I pray you, take me up, and bear me
 Into some other chamber: softly, pray. [hence
*[They convey the King into an inner part
 of the room, and place him on a bed.]*
 Let there be no noise made, my gentle friends;
 Unless some dull² and favourable hand
 Will whisper musick to my weary spirit.
War. Call for the musick in the other room.
K. H. Set me the crown upon my pillow here.
Cla. His eye is hollow, and he changes much.
War. Less noise, less noise.

Enter Prince Henry.

P. Hen. Who saw the duke of Clarence?
Cla. I am here, brother, full of heaviness.
P. Hen. How now! rain within doors, and
 none abroad!
 How doth the king?
P. Hum. Exceeding ill.
P. Hen. Heard he the good news yet?
 Tell it him.
P. Hum. He alter'd much upon the hearing it.
P. Hen. If he be sick
 With joy, he will recover without physick.
War. Not so much noise, my lords:—sweet
 prince, speak low;
 The king your father is dispos'd to sleep.
Cla. Let us withdraw into the other room, [us?
War. Will't please your grace to go along with
P. Hen. No; I will sit and watch here by the
 king. [Exit all but P. Henry.
 Why doth the crown lie there upon his pillow,
 Being so troublesome a bedfellow?
 O polished perturbation! golden care!
 That keep'st the ports³ of slumber open wide
 To many a watchful night!—sleep with it now!
 Yet not so sound, and half so deeply sweet,
 As he, whose brow, with homely biggin⁴ bound,
 Snores out the watch of night. O majesty!
 When thou dost pinch thy bearer, thou dost sit
 Like a rich armour worn in heat of day,
 That scalds with safety. By his gates of breath
 There lies a downy feather, which stirs not:
 Did he suspire, that light and weightless down
 Perforce must move.—My gracious lord! my
 father!—
 This sleep is sound indeed; this is a sleep
 That from this golden rigol⁵ hath divorc'd
 So many English kings. Thy due, from me,
 Is tears, and heavy sorrows of the blood;
 Which nature, love, and filial tenderness,
 Shall, O dear father, pay thee plenteously;
 My due, from thee, is this imperial crown;
 Which, as immediate from thy place and blood,
 Derives itself to me. Lo, here it sits,—
[Putting it on his head.]
 Which heaven shall guard: And put the world's
 whole strength
 Into one giant arm, it shall not force

This lineal honour from me: This from thee
 Will I to mine leave, as 'tis left to me. [Exit.
K. Hen. Warwick! Gloster! Clarence!

Re-enter Warwick, and the rest.

Cla. Doth the king call?
War. What would your majesty? How fares
 your grace?
K. Hen. Why did you leave me here alone, my
Cla. We left the prince my brother here, my
 Who undertook to sit and watch by you. [liege,
K. Hen. The prince of Wales? Where is he?
 He is not here:
War. This door is open; he is gone this way,
 let me see him:
P. Hum. He came not through the chamber
 where we stay'd.
K. H. Where is the crown? who took it from
 my pillow?
W. When we withdrew, my liege, we left it
K. Hen. The prince hath ta'en it hence:—go,
 seek him out;

Is he so hasty, that he doth suppose

My sleep my death?—

Find him, my lord of Warwick; chide him hither.

[Exit Warwick.]

This part of his conjoins with my disease,
 And helps to end me.—See, sons, what things you
 How quickly nature falls into revolt, [are!
 When gold becomes her object!
 For this the foolish over-careful fathers
 Have broke their sleep with thoughts, their
 Their bones with industry; [brains with care,
 For this they have engrossed and piled up
 The canker'd heaps of strange-achieved gold;
 For this they have been thoughtful to invest
 Their sons with arts, and martial exercises:
 When, like the bee, tolling¹ from every flower
 The virtuous sweets; [honey,
 Our thighs pack'd with wax, our mouths with
 We bring it to the hive; and, like the bees,
 Are murder'd for our pains. This bitter taste
 Yield his engrossments² to the ending father;—

Re-enter Warwick.

Now, where is he that will not stay so long
 Till his friend sickness hath determin'd³ me?
W. My lord, I found the prince in the next room,
 Washing with kindly tears his gentle cheeks;
 With such a deep demeanour in great sorrow,
 That tyranny, which never quaff'd but blood,
 Would, by beholding him, have wash'd his knife
 With gentle eye-drops. He is coming hither.
K. Hen. But wherefore did he take away the
 crown?

Re-enter Prince Henry.

Lo, where he comes.—Come hither to me, Harry:—
 Depart the chamber, leave us here alone.

[Exit Clarence, Prince Humphrey,
 Lords, &c.]

P. Hen. I never thought to hear you speak
K. Hen. Thy wish was father, Harry, to that
 I stay too long by thee, I weary thee. [thought:
 Dost thou so hunger for my empty chair,
 That thou wilt needs invest thee with mine hon-
 Before thy hour be ripe? O foolish youth! [ours
 1 Taking toll. 2 Accumulations. 3 Ended.

1 On Oct. 12, 1411.

2 Gates.

5 Circle.

2 Soothing.

4 Cap.

Thou seek'st the greatness that will overwhelm thee.

Stay but a little; for my cloud of dignity Is held from falling with so weak a wind, That it will quickly drop: my day is dim. [hours, Thou hast stolen that, which, after some few Were thine without offence; and, at my death, Thou hast seal'd up my expectation: Thy life did manifest, thou lov'd'st me not, And thou wilt have me die assur'd of it. Thou hid'st a thousand daggers in thy thoughts; Which thou hast whetted on thy stony heart, To stab at half an hour of my life.

What! canst thou not forbear me half an hour? Then get thee gone; and dig my grave thyself; And bid the merry bells ring to thine ear, That thou art crown'd, not that I am dead. Let all the tears that should bedew my hearse, Be drops of balm, to sanctify thy head: Only compound me with begotten dust; Give that, which gave thee life, unto the worms, Pluck down my officers, break my decrees; For now a time is come to mock at form, Harry the fifth is crown'd:—Up, vanity! Down, royal state! all you sage counsellors, And to the English court assemble now, [hence! From every region, apes of idleness!

Now, neighbour confines, purge you of your scum: Have you a ruffian, that will swear, drink, dance, Revel the night; rob, murder, and commit The oldest sins the newest kind of ways? Be happy, he will trouble you no more: England shall double gild his treble guilt; England shall give him office, honour, might: For the fifth Harry from curb'd license plucks The muzzle of restraint, and the wild dog Shall flesh his tooth in every innocent. O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows! When that my care could not withhold thy riots, What wilt thou do, when riot is thy care? O, thou wilt be a wilderness again, Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants!

P. Hen. [Kneeling.] O pardon me, my liege! but for my tears,

The moist impediments unto my speech, I had forestall'd this dear and deep rebuke, Ere you with grief had spoke, and I had heard The course of it so far. There is your crown; And He that wears the crown immortally, Long guard it yours! If I affect it more, Than as your honour, and as your renown, Let me no more from this obedience rise, (Which my most true and inward duteous spirit Teacheth,) this prostrate and exterior bending! Heaven witness with me, when I here came in, And found no course of breath within your majesty,

How cold it struck my heart! if I do feign, O, let me in my present wildness die; And never live to show the incredulous world The noble change that I have purpos'd! Coming to look on you, thinking you dead, (And dead almost, my liege, to think you were,) I spake unto the crown, as having sense, And thus upbraided it. *The care on thee depend- Hath fed upon the body of my father; [ing, Therefore, thou best of gold, art worst of gold,*

1 Confirmed.

Other, less fine in carat, is more precious, Preserving life in med'cine potable:¹ But thou, most fine, most honour'd, most re- nown'd,

Haste at thy bearer up. Thus, my most royal liege, Accusing it, I put it on my head;

To try with it,—as with an enemy, That had before my face murder'd my father,— The quarrel of a true inheritor. But if it did infect my blood with joy, Or swell my thoughts to any strain of pride; If any rebel or vain spirit of mine Did, with the least affection of a welcome, Give entertainment to the might of it, Let God for ever keep it from my head! And make me as the poorest vassal is, That doth with awe and terror kneel to it!

K. Hen. O my son! Heaven put it in thy mind to take it hence, That thou might'st win the more thy father's Pleading so wisely in excuse of it. [love, Come hither, Harry; sit thou by my bed, And hear, I think, the very latest counsel That ever I shall breathe. Heaven knows, my son, By what by-paths, and indirect crook'd ways, I met this crown; and I myself know well, How troublesome it sat upon my head:

To thee it shall descend with better quiet, Better opinion, better confirmation: For all the soil of the achievement goes With me into the earth. It seem'd in me, But as an honour snatch'd with boisterous hand; And I had many living, to upbraid My gain of it by their assistances; Which daily grew to quarrel and to bloodshed, Wounding supposed peace: all these bold fears, Thou seest, with peril I have answer'd: For all my reign hath been but as a scene Acting that argument; and now my death Changes the mode: for what in me was purchas'd,² Falls upon thee in a more fairer sort; So thou the garland wear'st successively.³ Yet, though thou stand'st more sure than I could do,

Thou art not firm enough, since griefs are green; And all thy friends, which thou must make thy friends,

Have but their stings and teeth newly ta'en out; By whose fell working I was first advanc'd, And by whose power I well might lodge a fear To be again displac'd: which to avoid I cut them off; and had a purpose now To lead out many to the Holy Land; Lest rest, and lying still, might make them look Too near unto my state. Therefore my Harry, Be it thy course, to busy giddy minds With foreign quarrels; that action, hence borne May waste the memory of the former days. [out, More would I, but my lungs are wasted so, That strength of speech is utterly denied me. How I came by the crown, O God, forgive! And grant it may with thee in true peace live!

P. Hen. My gracious liege, You won it, wore it, kept it, gave it me: Then plain, and right, must my possession be: Which I, with more than with a common pain, 'Gainst all the world will rightfully maintain.

1 Drinkable. 2 Acquired. 3 By succession.

Enter Prince John of Lancaster, Warwick, Lords, and others.

K. Hen. Look, look, here comes my John of Lancaster.

P. John. Health, peace, and happiness to my royal father!

K. Hen. Thou bring'st me happiness, and peace, son John;

But health, alack, with youthful wings is flown
From this bare, wither'd trunk; upon thy sight,
My worldly business makes a period.—

Where is my lord of Warwick?

P. Hen. My lord of Warwick!

K. Hen. Doth any name particular belong
Unto the lodging where I first did swoon;

War. 'Tis call'd Jerusalem, my noble lord.

K. Hen. Laud be to God!—even there my life must end.

It hath been prophesied to me many years,

I should not die but in Jerusalem;

Which vainly I supposed the Holy Land:—

But, bear me to that chamber; there I'll lie;

In that Jerusalem shall Harry die. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

GLOSTERSHIRE. A HALL IN SHALLOW'S HOUSE.

Enter Shallow, Falstaff, Bardolph, and Page.

Shal. By cock and pye, sir, you shall not away to-night.—What, Davy, I say!

Fal. You must excuse me, master Robert Shallow.

Shal. I will not excuse you; you shall not be excused; excuses shall not be admitted; there is no excuse shall serve; you shall not be excused.—Why, Davy!

Enter Davy.

Davy. Here, sir.

Shal. Davy, Davy, Davy,—let me see, Davy; let me see:—yea, marry, William cook, bid him come hither.—Sir John, you shall not be excused.

Davy. Marry, sir, thus;—those precepts¹ cannot be served: and, again, sir,—Shall we sow the head-land with wheat?

Shal. With red wheat, Davy. But for William cook;—Are there no young pigeons?

Davy. Yes, sir.—Here is now the smith's note, for shoeing and plough-irons.

Shal. Let it be cast,² and paid:—Sir John, you shall not be excused.

Davy. Now, sir, a new link to the bucket must needs be had;—And, sir, do you mean to stop any of William's wages, about the sack he lost the other day at Hinckley fair?

Shal. He shall answer it:—Some pigeons, Davy; a couple of short-legged hens; a joint of mutton; and any pretty little tiny kickshaws, tell William cook.

Davy. Doth the man of war stay all night, sir?

1 Warrants.

2 Cast up.

Shal. Yes, Davy. I will use him well; A friend i' the court is better than a penny in purse. Use his men well, Davy; for they are arrant knaves, and will backbite.

Davy. No worse than they are back-bitten, sir; for they have marvellous foul linen.

Shal. Well conceited, Davy. About thy business, Davy.

Davy. I beseech you, sir, to countenance William Visor of Wincot against Clement Perkes of the hill.

Shal. There are many complaints, Davy, against that Visor; that Visor is an arrant knave, on my knowledge.

Davy. I grant your worship, that he is a knave, sir; but yet, heaven forbid, sir, but a knave should have some countenance at his friend's request. An honest man, sir, is able to speak for himself, when a knave is not. I have served your worship truly, sir, this eight years; and if I cannot once or twice in a quarter bear out a knave against an honest man, I have but a very little credit with your worship. The knave is mine honest friend, sir; therefore, I beseech your worship, let him be countenanced.

Shal. Go to; I say, he shall have no wrong. Look about, Davy. [*Exit Davy.*] Where are you, Sir John? Come, off with your boots.—Give me your hand, master Bardolph.

Bard. I am glad to see your worship.

Shal. I thank thee with all my heart, kind master Bardolph:—and welcome, my tall fellow. [*To the Page.*] Come, Sir John.

[*Exit Shallow.*]

Fal. I'll follow you, good master Robert Shallow. Bardolph, look to our horses. [*Exeunt Bardolph and Page.*] If I were sawed into quantities, I should make four dozen of such bearded hermit's staves as master Shallow. It is a wonderful thing, to see the semblable coherence of his men's spirit's and his: They, by observing him, do bear themselves like foolish justices; he, by conversing with them, is turned into a justice-like serving-man; their spirits are so married in conjunction with the participation of society, that they flock together in consent, like so many wild-geese. If I had a suit to master Shallow, I would humour his men, with the imputation of being near their master: if to his men, I would curry with master Shallow, that no man could better command his servants. It is certain, that either wise bearing, or ignorant carriage, is caught, as men take diseases, one of another: therefore, let men take heed of their company. I will devise matter enough out of this Shallow, to keep Prince Harry in continual laughter, the wearing-out of six fashions, (which is four terms, or two actions,) and he shall laugh without intervallums. O, it is much, that a lie, with a slight oath, and a jest, with a sad¹ brow, will do with a fellow that never had the ache in his shoulders! O, you shall see him laugh, till his face be like a wet cloak ill laid up.

Shal. [*Within.*] Sir John!

Fal. I come, master Shallow; I come, master Shallow. [*Exit Falstaff.*]

1 Serious.

SCENE II.

WESTMINSTER. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Warwick, and the Lord Chief Justice.

War. How now, my lord chief Justice? whither away?

Ch. Just. How doth the king?

War. Exceeding well; his cares are now all

Ch. Just. I hope, not dead. [tended.]

War. He's walk'd the way of nature;

And, to our purposes, he lives no more.

C. J. I would his majesty had call'd me with the service that I truly did his life, [him:]

Hath left me open to all injuries. [not.]

War. Indeed, I think, the young king loves you.

Ch. Just. I know he doth not; and do arm me to welcome the condition of the time; [self,]

Which cannot look more hideously upon me Than I have drawn it in my fantasy.

Enter Prince John, Prince Humphrey, Clarence, Westmoreland, and others.

War. Here come the heavy issue of dead Harry: O, that the living Harry had the temper Of him, the worst of these three gentlemen! How many nobles then should hold their places, That must strike sail to spirits of vile sort!

Ch. Just. Alas! I fear, all will be overturn'd.

P. John. Good morrow, cousin Warwick.

P. Hum. Cla. Good morrow, cousin.

P. John. We meet like men that had forgot to speak.

War. We do remember; but our argument Is all too heavy to admit such talk.

P. J. Well, peace be with him that hath made us heavy!

Ch. Just. Peace be with us, lest we be heavier!

P. Humph. O, good my lord, you have lost a friend indeed:

And I dare swear, you borrow not that face Of seeming sorrow; it is, sure, your own.

P. John. Though no man be assur'd what grace You stand in coldest expectation: [to find,] I am the sorrier; 'would 'twere otherwise.

Cla. Well, you must now speak Sir John Falstaff fair;

Which swims against your stream of quality.

Ch. Just. Sweet princes, what I did, I did in honour,

Led by the impartial conduct of my soul;

And never shall you see, that I will beg

A ragged and forestall'd remission.—

If truth and upright innocence fail me,

I'll to the king my master that is dead,

And tell him who hath sent me after him.

War. Here comes the prince.

Enter King Henry V.

Ch. Just. Good morrow; and heaven save your majesty!

K. This new and gorgeous garment, majesty, Sits not so easy on me as you think.—

Brothers, you mix your sadness with some fear;

This is the English, not the Turkish court,

Not Amurath an Amurath¹ succeeds,

But Harry Harry: Yet be sad, good brothers,

¹ Who had all his brothers strangled.

For, to speak truth, it very well becomes you; Sorrow so royally in you appears, That I will deeply put the fashion on, And wear it in my heart. Why then, be sad: But entertain no more of it, good brothers, Than a joint burden laid upon us all. For me, by Heaven, I bid you be assur'd, I'll be your father and your brother too; Let me but bear your love, I'll bear your cares. Yet weep, that Harry's dead; and so will I: But Harry lives, that shall convert those tears, By number, into hours of happiness.

P. J., &c. We hope no other from your majesty.

King. You all look strangely on me:—[*To the Chief Justice.*] and you most;

You are, I think, assur'd, I love you not.

Ch. Just. I am assur'd, if I be measur'd rightly, Your majesty hath no just cause to hate me.

King. No!

How might a prince of my great hopes forget So great indignities you laid upon me?

What! rate, rebuke, and roughly send to prison The immediate heir of England! Was this easy? May this be wash'd in Lethe and forgotten?

Ch. Just. I then did use the person of your father;

The image of his power lay then in me:

And, in the administration of his law,

Whiles I was busy for the commonwealth,

Your highness pleased to forget my place,

The majesty and power of law and justice,

The image of the king whom I presented,

And struck me in my very seat of judgment

Whereon, as an offender to your father,

I gave bold way to my authority,

And did commit you. If the deed were ill,

Be you contented, wearing now the garland,

To have a son set your decrees at nought;

To pluck down justice from your awful bench;

To trip the course of law, and blunt the sword

That guards the peace and safety of your person:

Nay, more: to spurn at your most royal image,

And mock your workings in a second body.

Question your royal thoughts, make the case yours;

Be now the father, and propose a son:

Hear your own dignity so much profan'd,

See your most dreadful laws so loosely slighted,

Behold yourself so by a son disdain'd:

And then imagine me taking your part,

And, in your power, soft silencing your son:

After this cold consideration, sentence me;

And, as you are a king, speak in your state,¹

What I have done, that misbecame my place,

My person, or my liege's sovereignty.

King. You are right, justice, and you weigh this well;

Therefore still bear the balance, and the sword:

And I do wish your honours may increase,

Till you do live to see a son of mine

Offend you, and obey you, as I did.

So shall I live to speak my father's words;—

Happy am I, that have a man so bold,

That dares do justice on my proper son:

And not less happy, having such a son,

That would deliver up his greatness so

Into the hands of justice.—You did commit me:

¹ Regal character.

For which I do commit into your hand
The unstained sword that you have us'd to bear;
With this remembrance,—That you use the same
With the like bold, just, and impartial spirit,
As you have done 'gainst me. There is my hand;
You shall be as a father to my youth;
My voice shall sound as you do prompt mine ear;
And I will steep and humble my intents
To your well-practis'd, wise directions.—
And, princes all, believe me, I beseech you;—
My father is gone wild into his grave,
For in his tomb lie my affections;
And with his spirit sadly I survive;
To mock the expectation of the world;
To frustrate prophecies; and to raze out
Rotten opinion, who hath writ me down
After my seeming. The tide of blood in me
Hath proudly flow'd in vanity till now:
Now doth it turn, and ebb back to the sea:
Where it shall mingle with the state of floods,
And flow henceforth in formal majesty.
Now call we our high court of parliament:
And let us choose such limbs of noble council,
That the great body of our state may go
In equal rank with the best govern'd nation;
That war, or peace, or both at once, may be
As things acquainted and familiar to us:—

[To the Lord Chief Justice.

In which you, father, shall have foremost hand.
Our coronation done, we will accite,¹
As I before remember'd, all our state:
And (heaven-consigning to my good intents)
No prince, nor peer, shall have just cause to
say,—

Heaven shorten Harry's happy life one day.

[Exit.

SCENE III. GLOSTERSHIRE. THE GARDEN OF SHALLOW'S HOUSE.

*Enter Falstaff, Shallow, Silence, Bardolph,
the Page, and Davy.*

Shal. Nay, you shall see mine orchard: where,
in an arbour, we will eat a last year's pippin of
my own grafting, with a dish of carraways, and
so forth;—come, cousin Silence;—and then to bed.

Fal. You have here a goodly dwelling, and a rich.
Shal. Barren, barren, barren; beggars all, beg-
gars all, Sir John:—marry, good sir.—Spread,
Davy; spread, Davy; well said, Davy.

Fal. This Davy serves you for good uses; he
is your serving-man, and your husbandman.

Shal. A good varlet, a good varlet, a very good
varlet, Sir John.—By the mass, I have drunk
too much sack at supper:—A good varlet. Now
sit down, now sit down;—come cousin.

Sil. Ah, sirrah! quoth-a,—we shall [*Singing.*
*Do nothing but eat, and make good cheer,
And praise heaven for the merry year;*

So merrily,

And ever among so merrily.

Fal. There's a merry heart!—Good master
Silence, I'll give you a health for that anon.

Shal. Give master Bardolph some wine, Davy.

Davy. Sweet sir, sit; [*Seating Bardolph and
the Page at another table.*] I'll be with you anon;
—most sweet sir, sit.—Master page, good

1 Summons.

master page, sit: *proface!*¹ What you want in
meat, we'll have in drink. But you must bear;
the heart's all, [*Exit.*

Shal. Be merry, master Bardolph:—and my
little soldier there, be merry.

Sil. [*Sings.*] *Be merry, be merry, my wife's as all;*

For women are shrews both short and tall;

'Tis merry in hall when beards wag all,

And welcome merry shrove-tide.

Be merry, be merry, &c.

Fal. I did not think master Silence had been
a man of this mettle.

Sil. Who, I? I have been merry twice and
once, ere now.

Re-enter Davy.

Davy. There is a dish of leather-coats² for you.

[*Setting them before Bardolph.*

Shal. Davy,—

Davy. Your worship?—I'll be with you
straight.

[*To Bard.*]—A cup of wine, sir?

Sil. [*Sings.*] *A cup of wine, that's brisk and*

And drink unto the lady mine; [fine,

And a merry heart lives long-a.

Fal. Well said, master Silence.

Sil. And we shall be merry;—now comes in
the sweet of the night.

Fal. Health and long life to you, master
Silence.

Sil. *Fill the cup, and let it come;*

I'll pledge you a mile to the bottom.

Shal. Honest Bardolph, welcome: If thou
wastest any thing, and wilt not call, beshrew
thy heart.—Welcome, my little tiny thief; [*To
the Page.*] and welcome, indeed, too.—I'll drink
to master Bardolph, and to all the cavaleroes³
about London.

Davy. I hope to see London once ere I die.

Bard. An I might see you there, Davy,—

Shal. By the mass, you'll crack a quart to-
gether. Ha! will you not, master Bardolph?

Bard. Yes, sir, in a pottle pot.

Shal. I thank thee:—The knave will stick by
thee, I can assure thee that: he will not out:
he is true bred.

Bard. And I'll stick by him, sir.

Shal. Why, there spoke a king. Lack nothing:
be merry. [*Knocking heard.*] Look who's at
door there: Ho! who knocks? [*Exit Davy.*

Fal. Why, now you have done me right.

[*To Silence, who drinks a bumper.*

Sil. *Do me right,⁴*

And dub me knight⁵:

Samingo.

Is't not so?

Fal. 'Tis so.

Sil. Is't so? Why, then say, an old man can
do somewhat.

Re-enter Davy.

Davy. An it please your worship, there's one
Pistol from the court with news.

Fal. From the court! let him come in.—

1 *Profacia*, Much good may it do you. 3 *Cavallers*.

2 Apples commonly called russetines.

4 An expression used while drinking healths.

5 He who drank a bumper on his knees, to the health
of his mistress, was dubb'd a knight for the evening.

Enter Pistol.

How now, Pistol?

Pist. Save you, Sir John!

Fal. What wind blew you hither, Pistol?

Pist. Not the ill wind which blows no man to good.—Sweet knight, thou art now one of the greatest men in the realm.

Sil. By'r lady, I think 'a be; but Goodman Puff of Barson.

Pist. Puff?

Puff in thy teeth, most recreant coward base!—Sir John, I am thy Pistol, and thy friend, And helter-skelter have I rode to thee; And tidings do I bring, and lucky joys, And golden times, and happy news of price.

Fal. I prythee now, deliver them like a man of this world. [base!]

Pist. A founra! for the world, and worldlings I speak of Africa, and golden joys.

Fal. O base Assyrian knight, what is thy news? Let king Cophetua know the truth thereof.

Sil. [Sings.] *And Robin Hood, Scarlet, and John.* [Helicons?]

Pist. Shall dunghill curs confront the And shall good news be baffled?

Then, Pistol, lay thy head in Furies' lap.

Shal. Honest gentleman, I know not your breeding.

Pist. Why then, lament therefore.

Shal. Give me pardon, sir;—if, sir, you come with news from the court, I take it, there is but two ways; either to utter them, or to conceal them. I am, sir, under the king, in some authority. [die.]

Pist. Under which king, Benzonian? speak or

Shal. Under king Harry.

Pist. Harry the fourth? or fifth?

Shal. Harry the fourth.

Pist. A fico for thine office!—

Sir John, thy tender lambkin now is king; Harry the fifth's the man. I speak the truth: When Pistol lies, do this; and fig² me, like The bragging Spaniard.

Fal. What! is the old king dead? [just.]

Pist. As nail in door: the things I speak, are

Fal. Away, Bardolph; saddle my horse.—Master Robert Shallow, choose what office thou wilt in the land, 'tis thine.—Pistol, I will double-charge thee with dignities.

Bard. O joyful day!—I would not take a knighthood for my fortune.

Pist. What? I do bring good news?

Fal. Carry Master Silence to bed.—Master Shallow, my lord Shallow, be what thou wilt, I am fortune's steward. Get on thy boots; we'll ride all night.—O, sweet Pistol:—Away, Bardolph. [Exit Bard.]—Come, Pistol, utter more to me; and withal, devise something, to do thyself good.—Boot, boot, master Shallow; I know, the young king is sick for me. Let us take any man's horses; the laws of England are at my commandment. Happy are they which have been my friends; and woe to my Lord Chief Justice!

Pist. Let vultures vile seize on his lungs also! Where is the life that late I led, say they:

Why, here it is; Welcome these pleasant days.

[Exeunt.]

1 A fig.

2 Insult.

SCENE IV.—LONDON. A STREET.

Enter Beadles, dragging in Hostess Quickly and Doll.

Host. No, thou arrant knave; I would I might die, that I might have thee hanged: thou hast drawn my shoulder out of joint.

1 *Bead.* The constables have deliver'd her over to me; and she shall have whipping-cheer enough, I warrant her: There hath been a man or two lately killed about her.

Doll. Nut-hook, nut-hook, you lie. Come on; I'll tell thee what, thou tripe-visaged rascal; thou hadst better thou hadst struck thy mother, thou paper-faced villain.

Host. O, that Sir John were come! he would make this a bloody day to somebody.

1 *Bead.* Come, I charge you both go with me; for the man is dead, that you and Pistol beat among you.

Doll. I'll tell thee what, thou thin man in a censer! I will have you as soundly swung for this, you blue-bottle rogue! you filthy famished correctioner!

1 *B.* Come, come, you she knight-errant, come.

Host. O, that right should thus overcome might! Well; of sufferance comes ease.

Doll. Come, you rogue, come; bring me to a justice.

Host. Ay; come, you starved blood-hound.

Doll. Goodman death! goodman bones!

Host. Thou atomy thou!

Doll. Come, you thin thing; come, you rascal!

1 *Bead.* Very well. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.

A PUBLIC PLACE NEAR WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Enter two Grooms, strewing rushes.

1 *Groom.* More rushes, more rushes.

2 *Groom.* The trumpets have sounded twice.

1 *Groom.* It will be two o'clock ere they come from the coronation: Despatch, despatch.

[Exeunt Grooms.]

Enter Falstaff, Shallow, Pistol, Bardolph, and the Page.

Fal. Stand here by me, master Robert Shallow; I will make the king do you grace: I will leer upon him, as 'a comes by; and do but mark the countenance that he will give me.

Pist. Bless thy lungs, good knight.

Fal. Come here, Pistol; stand behind me.—[To Shallow.] O, if I had had time to have made new liveries, I would have bestowed the thousand pound I borrowed of you. But 'tis no matter; this poor show doth better: this doth infer the zeal I had to see him.

Shal. It doth so.

Fal. It shows my earnestness of affection.

Shal. It doth so.

Fal. My devotion.

Shal. It doth, it doth, it doth.

Fal. As it were, to ride day and night; and not to deliberate, not to remember, not to have patience to shift me.

Shal. It is most certain.

Fal. But to stand stained with travel, and sweating with desire to see him: thinking of nothing else; putting all affairs else in oblivion; as if there were nothing else to be done, but to see him.

Pist. 'Tis *semper idem*, for *absque hoc nihil* 'Tis all in every part. [est:

Shal. 'Tis so indeed.

[*Shouts within, and the Trumpets sound.*

Pist. There roar'd the sea, the trumpet-clangor sounds.

Enter the King and his Train, the Chief Justice among them.

F. God save thy grace, king Hal! my royal Hal!

Pist. The heavens thee guard and keep, most royal imp¹ of fame!

Fal. God save thee, my sweet boy!

King. My lord chief justice, speak to that vain man.

Ch. Just. Have you your wits? know you what 'tis you speak? [heart!

Fal. My king! my Jove! I speak to thee, my

K. I know thee not, old man: Fall to thy prayers;

How ill white hairs become a fool, and jester! I have long dream'd of such a kind of man, So surfeit-swell'd, so old, and so profane: But, being awake, I do despise my dream. Make less thy body, hence,² and more thy grace; Leave gormandizing; know the grave doth gape For thee thrice wider than for other men: Reply not to me with a fool-born jest; Presume not, that I am the thing I was: [ceive,

For heaven doth know, so shall the world perceive, That I have turn'd away my former self; So will I those that kept me company. When thou dost hear I am as I have been,

Approach me; and thou shalt be as thou wast, The tutor and the feeder of my riots:

Till then, I banish thee, on pain of death,— As I have done the rest of my misleaders,—

Not to come near our person by ten miles.

For competence of life, I will allow you, That lack of means enforce you not to evil:

And, as we hear you do reform yourselves, We will,—according to your strength, and qualities,—

Give you advancement,—Be it your charge, my To see perform'd the tenor of our word.— [lord, Set on. [Exeunt King, and his Train.

Fal. Master Shallow, I owe you a thousand pound.

Shal. Ay, marry, Sir John; which I beseech you to let me have home with me.

Fal. That can hardly be, master Shallow. Do not you grieve at this; I shall be sent for in private to him: look you, he must seem thus to the world. Fear not your advancement; I will be the man yet, that shall make you great.

Shal. I cannot perceive how; unless you give me your doublet, and stuff me out with straw. I beseech you, good Sir John, let me have five hundred of my thousand.

Fal. Sir, I will be as good as my word: this that you heard, was but a colour. [Sir John.

Shal. A colour, I fear, that you will die in,

¹ Progeny.

² Henceforth.

Fal. Fear no colours; go with me to dinner. Come, lieutenant Pistol;—come, Bardolph:—I shall be sent for soon at night.

Re-enter Prince John, the Chief Justice, Officers, &c.

Ch. Just. Go, carry Sir John Falstaff to the Take all his company along with him. [Fleet;

Fal. My lord, my lord,—

Ch. Just. I cannot now speak: I will hear you Take them away. [soon.

P. *Si fortuna me tormenta, spero me contenta.*

[Exeunt *Fal.*, *Shal.*, *Pist.*, *Bard.*, *Page*, and *Officers.*

P. Jo. I like this fair proceeding of the king's;

He hath intent, his wonted followers

Shall all be very well provided for;

But all are banish'd, till their conversations

Appear more wise and modest to the world.

Ch. Just. And so they are. [lord.

P. Jo. The king hath call'd his parliament, my

Ch. Just. He hath.

P. J. I will lay odds,—that ere this year expire,

We bear our civil swords, and native fire,

As far as France: I heard a bird so sing,

Whose music, to my thinking, pleas'd the king.

Come, will you hence? [Exeunt.

EPILOGUE.

SPOKEN BY A DANCER.

First, my fear; then, my court'sy; last, my speech. My fear is, your displeasure; my court'sy, my duty; and my speech, to beg your pardons. If you look for a good speech now, you undo me: for what I have to say, is of mine own making; and what, indeed, I should say, will, I doubt, prove mine own marring. But to the purpose, and so to the venture.—Be it known to you, (as it is very well,) I was lately here in the end of a displeasing play, to pray your patience for it, and to promise you a better. I did mean, indeed, to pay you with this; which, if, like an ill venture, it come unluckily home, I break, and you, my gentle creditors lose. Here, I promised you, I would be, and here I commit my body to your mercies: bate me some, and I will pay you some, and as most debtors do, promise you infinitely.

If my tongue cannot entreat you to acquit me, will you command me to use my legs? and yet that were but light payment,—to dance out of your debt. But a good conscience will make any possible satisfaction, and so will I. All the gentlewomen here have forgiven me; if the gentlemen will not, then the gentlemen do not agree with the gentlewomen, which was never seen before in such an assembly.

One word more, I beseech you. If you be not too much cloyed with fat meat, our humble author will continue the story, with Sir John in it, and make you merry with fair Katharine of France: where, for any thing I know, Falstaff shall die of a sweat, unless already he be killed with your hard opinions; for Oldcastle died a martyr, and this is not the man. My tongue is weary; when my legs are too, I will bid you good night: and so kneel down before you;—but, indeed, to pray for the queen.

King Henry V.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE FIFTH.

DUKE OF GLOSTER, } Brothers to the King.
DUKE OF BEDFORD, }
DUKE OF EXETER, *Uncle to the King.*
DUKE OF YORK, *Cousin to the King.*
EARLS OF SALISBURY, WESTMORELAND, and
WARWICK.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

BISHOP OF ELY.

EARL OF CAMBRIDGE, } Conspirators against
LORD SCROOP, } the King.
SIR THOMAS GREY, }

SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM, GOWER, FLUELLEN,
MACMORRIS, JAMY, *Officers in King
Henry's army.*

BATES, COURT, WILLIAMS, *Soldiers in the same.*

NYM, BARDOLPH, PISTOL, *formerly Servants
to Falstaff, now Soldiers in the same.*

Boy, *Servant to them.*

A Herald.

Chorus.

CHARLES THE SIXTH, *King of France.*

LEWIS, *the Dauphin.*

DUKES OF BURGUNDY, ORLEANS, and BOURBON.

The CONSTABLE of France.

RAMBURES, and GRANDPREE, *French Lords.*

Governor of Harfleur.

MONTJOY, *a French Herald.*

Ambassadors to the King of England.

ISABEL, *Queen of France.*

KATHARINE, *Daughter of Charles and Isabel.*

ALICE, *a Lady attending on the Princess
Katharine.*

QUICKLY, *Pistol's Wife, an Hostess.*

*Lords, Ladies, Officers, French and English
Soldiers. Messengers, and Attendants.*

THE SCENE.—*At the beginning of the play, lies in England; but afterwards wholly in France.*

Enter Chorus.

O, for a muse of fire that would ascend,
The brightest heaven of invention!
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene.
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,
Assume the port of Mars; and at his heels, [fire,
Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and
Crouch for employment. But pardon, gentles all,
The flat unraised spirit, that hath dar'd,
On this unworthy scaffold, to bring forth
So great an object: Can this cockpit hold
The vasty fields of France, or may we cram
Within this wooden O,¹ the very casques,
That did affright the air at Agincourt?
O, pardon! since a crooked figure may
Attest, in little place, a million;
And let us, ciphers to this great accompt,
On your imaginary forces work:
Suppose, within the girdle of these walls,
Are now confined two mighty monarchies,
Whose high upreared and abutting fronts
The perilous, narrow ocean parts asunder.
Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;
Into a thousand parts divide one man,
And make imaginary puissance:
Think, when we talk of horses, that you see them
Printing their proud hoofs i' the receiving earth:
For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our
kings,

Carry them here and there; jumping o'er times;
Turning the accomplishment of many years
Into an hour-glass; For the which supply,
Admit me Chorus to this history;

¹ The circular theatre.

Who, prologue-like, your humble patience pray,
Gently to hear, kindly to judge, our play.

Act First.

SCENE I.—LONDON. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN
THE KING'S PALACE.

*Enter the Archbishop of Canterbury, and
Bishop of Ely.*

C. Mylord, I'll tell you,—that self bill is urg'd,
Which, in the eleventh year of the last king's
reign,

Was like, and had indeed against us pass'd,
But that the scrambling¹ and unquiet time
Did push it out of further question.

Ely. But how, my lord, shall we resist it now?

C. It must be thought on. If it pass against us,
We lose the better half of our possession:
For all the temporal lands which men devout
By testament have given to the church,
Would they strip from us; being valued thus,—
As much as would maintain, to the king's honour,
Full fifteen earls, and fifteen hundred knights;
Six thousand and two hundred good esquires;
And, to relief of lazars, and weak age,
Of indigent faint souls, past corporal toil,
A hundred alms-houses, right well supplied;
And to the coffers of the king beside,
A thousand pounds by the year: Thus runs the

Ely. This would drink deep. [bill.

Cant. 'Twould drink the cup and all.

Ely. But what prevention?

Cant. The king is full of grace and fair regard.

¹ Uncertain.

Ely. And a true lover of the holy church.

Cant. The courses of his youth promis'd it not.
The breath no sooner left his father's body,
But that his wildness, mortified in him,
Seem'd to die too; yea, at that very moment,
Consideration like an angel came,
And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him;
Leaving his body as a paradise,
To envelop and contain celestial spirits.
Never was such a sudden scholar made;
Never came reformation in a flood,
With such a heady current, scouring faults;
Nor never hydra-headed wilfulness,
So soon did lose his seat, and all at once,
As in this king.

Ely. We are blessed in the change.

Cant. Hear him but reason in divinity,
And, all-admiring, with an inward wish
You would desire the king were made a prelate:
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,
You would say,—it hath been all-in-all his study:
List¹ his discourse of war, and you shall hear
A fearful battle render'd you in musick:
Turn him to any cause of policy,
The Gordian knot of it he will unloose,
Familiar as his garter; that, when he speaks,
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,
To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences;
So that the art and practick part of life
Must be the mistress to this theoric:
Which is a wonder, how his grace should glean it,
Since his addiction was to courses vain:
His companies unletter'd, rude, and shallow;
His hours fill'd up with riots, banquets, sports;
And never noted in him any study,
Any retirement, any sequestration
From open haunts and popularity.

E. The strawberry grows underneath the nettle;
And wholesome berries thrive and ripen best,
Neighbour'd by fruit of baser quality:
And so the prince obscur'd his contemplation
Under the veil of wildness; which, no doubt,
Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night,
Unseen, yet crevice² in his faculty.

Cant. It must be so: for miracles are ceas'd;
And therefore we must needs admit the means,
How things are perfected.

Ely. But, my good lord,
How now for mitigation of this bill
Urg'd by the commons? Doth his majesty
Incline to it, or no?

Cant. He seems indifferent,
Or, rather, swaying more upon our part,
Than cherishing the exhibitors³ against us:
For I have made an offer to his majesty,—
Upon our spiritual convocation;
And in regard of causes now in hand,
Which I have open'd to his grace at large,
As touching France,—to give a greater sum
Than ever at one time the clergy yet
Did do his predecessors part withal.

Ely. How did this offer seem receiv'd, my lord?

Cant. With good acceptance of his majesty;
Save, that there was not time enough to hear
(As, I perceiv'd, his grace would fain have done,)
The severals, and unhidden passages,

Of his true titles to some certain dukedoms;
And, generally, the crown and seat of France,
Deriv'd from Edward, his great grandfather.

E. What was the impediment that broke this off?

C. The French ambassador, upon that instant,
Crav'd audience; and the hour, I think, is come,
To give him hearing: Is it four o'clock?

Ely. It is.

Cant. Then go we in, to know his embassy;
Which I could, with a ready guess, declare,
Before the Frenchman speak a word of it.

Ely. I'll wait upon you; and I long to hear it.
[Exeunt]

SCENE II.—A ROOM OF STATE IN THE SAME.

*Enter King Henry, Gloster, Bedford, Exeter,
Warwick, Westmoreland, and Attendants.*

K. H. Where is my gracious lord of Canterbury?
Exe. Not here in presence.

K. Hen. Send for him, good uncle. [Liege?

West. Shall we call in the ambassador, my
K. Hen. Not yet, my cousin; we would be re-
solv'd,

Before we hear him, of some things of weight,
That task our thoughts, concerning us and
France.

*Enter the Archbishop of Canterbury, and
Bishop of Ely.*

Cant. God, and his angels, guard your sacred
And make you long become it! [throne,

K. Hen. Sure, we thank you.

My learned lord, we pray you to proceed,
And justly and religiously unfold,
Why the law Salique, that they have in France,
Or should, or should not, bar us in our claim.
And heaven forbid, my dear and faithful lord,
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your read-
Or nicely charge your understanding soul [ing,
With opening titles miscreate, whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth;
For heaven doth know, how many, now in health,
Shall drop their blood in approbation
Of what your reverence shall incite us to:
Therefore take heed how you impawn our person,
How you awake the sleeping sword of war;
We charge you in the name of God, take heed:
For never two such kingdoms did contend, [drops
Without much fall of blood; whose guiltless
Are every one a woe, a sore complaint, [swords
'Gainst him, whose wrongs give edge unto the
That make such waste in brief mortality.
Under this conjuration, speak, my lord:
And we will hear, note, and believe in heart,
That what you speak is in your conscience wash'd
As pure as sin with baptism. [you peers,

Cant. Then hear me, gracious sovereign,—and
That owe your lives, your faith, and services,
To this imperial throne;—There is no bar
To make against your highness' claim to France,
But this which they produce from Pharamond,—
*In terram Salicam mulieres nō succedant,
No woman shall succeed in Salique land:*
Which Salique land the French unjustly gloze,¹
To be the realm of France, and Pharamond
The founder of this law and female bar.
Yet their own authors faithfully affirm,

1 Listen to. 2 Increasing. 3 (Of the bill.)

1 Explain.

That the land Salique lies in Germany,
Between the floods of Sala and of Elbe: [Saxons,
Where Charles the great, having subdued the
There left behind and settled certain French;
Who, holding in disdain the German women,
For some dishonest manners of their life,
Establish'd there this law;—to wit, no female
Should be inheritrix in Salique land;
Which Salique, as I said, 'twixt Elbe and Sala,
Is at this day in Germany call'd—Meisen.
Thus doth it well appear, the Salique law
Was not devised for the realm of France:
Nor did the French possess the Salique land
Until four hundred one and twenty years
After defunction of King Pharamond,
Idly suppos'd the founder of this law:
Who died within the year of our redemption
Four hundred twenty-six; and Charles the great
Subdued the Saxons, and did seat the French
Beyond the river Sala, in the year
Eight hundred five. Besides, their writers say,
King Pepin, which depos'd Childerick,
Did, as heir-general, being descended
Of Blithild, which was daughter to king Clothair,
Make claim and title to the crown of France.
Hugh Capet also,—that usurp'd the crown
Of Charles the duke of Lorain, sole heir-male
Of the true line and stock of Charles the great,—
To fine¹ his title with some show of truth,
(Though, in pure truth, it was corrupt and
naught,)

Convey'd himself² as heir to the lady Lingare,
Daughter to Charlemain, who was the son
To Lewis the emperor, and Lewis the son
Of Charles the great. Also king Lewis the tenth,
Who was sole heir to the usurper Capet,
Could not keep quiet in his conscience,
Wearing the crown of France, till satisfied
That fair queen Isabel, his grandmother,
Was lineal of the lady Ermengare,
Daughter to Charles the foresaid duke of Lorain:
By the which marriage, the line of Charles the
Was re-united to the crown of France. [great
So that, as clear as is the summer's sun,
King Pepin's title, and Hugh Capet's claim,
King Lewis his satisfaction, all appear
To hold in right and title of the female:
So do the kings of France unto this day;
Howbeit they would hold up this Salique law,
To bar your highness claiming from the female;
And rather choose to hide them in a net,
Than amply to imbare³ their crooked titles
Usurp'd from you and your progenitors.

K. Hen. May I, with right and conscience,
make this claim?

Cant. The sin upon my head, dread sovereign!
For in the book of Numbers is it writ,—
When the son dies, let the inheritance
Descend unto the daughter. Gracious lord,
Stand for your own; unwind your bloody flag;
Look back unto your mighty ancestors:
Go, my dread lord, to your great grandsire's tomb,
From whom you claim! invoke his warlike spirit,
And your great uncle's, Edward the black prince;
Who on the French ground play'd a tragedy,⁴
Making defeat on the full power of France;

Whiles his most mighty father on a hill
Stood smiling, to behold his lion's whelp
Forage in blood of French nobility.
O noble English that could entertain
With half their forces the full pride of France;
And let another half stand laughing by,
All out of work, and cold for action!

Ely. Awake remembrance of these valiant dead,
And with your puissant arm renew their feats;
You are their heir, you sit upon their throne;
The blood and courage, that renowned them,
Runs in your veins; and my thrice-puissant liege
Is in the very May-morn of his youth,
Ripe for exploits and mighty enterprises. [earth

Exe. Your brother kings and monarchs of the
Do all expect that you should rouse yourself,
As did the former lions of your blood.

West. They know your grace hath cause, and
means, and might;

So hath your highness; never king of England
Had nobles richer, and more loyal subjects;
Whose hearts have left their bodies here in Eng-
And lie pavilion'd in the fields of France. [land,

Cant. O, let their bodies follow, my dear liege,
With blood, and sword, and fire to win your right:
In aid whereof, we of the spirituality
Will raise your highness such a mighty sum,
As never did the clergy at one time
Bring in to any of your ancestors. [French;

K. Hen. We must not only arm to invade the
But lay down our proportions to defend
Against the Scot, who will make road upon us
With all advantages.

C. They of those marches,¹ gracious sovereign,
Shall be a wall sufficient to defend
Our inland from the pilfering borderers. [only,

K. Hen. We do not mean the couraging snatchers
But fear the main intentment² of the Scot,
Who hath been still a giddy neighbour to us;
For you shall read, that my great grandfather
Never went with his forces into France,
But that the Scot on his unfurnish'd kingdom
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach,
With ample and brim fullness of his force;
Galling the gleaned land with hot essays;
Girding with grievous siege, castles and towns;
That England, being empty of defence, [hood.
Hath shook, and trembled at the ill neighbour.

C. She hath been then more fear'd³ than harm'd,
my liege:

For hear her but exampl'd by herself,—
When all her chivalry hath been in France,
And she a mourning widow of her nobles,
She hath herself not only well defended,
But taken, and impounded as a stray,
The king of Scot, whom she did send to France,—
To fill king Edward's fame with prisoner kings;
And make your chronicle as rich with praise,
As is the ooze and bottom of the sea
With sunken wreck, and sunless treasures.

West. But there's a saying, very old and true,—

*If that you will France win,
Then with Scotland first begin:*

For once the eagle England being in prey,
To her unguarded nest the weasel Scot

¹ Make specious.

² Derived his title.

³ Lay open.

⁴ At Cressy.

¹ Borders

² General desigus.

³ Frightened.

Comes sneaking, and so sucks her princely eggs;
Playing the mouse, in absence of the cat,
To spoil and havock more than she can eat.

Exe. It follows then, the cat must stay at home:
Yet that is but a sad necessity;
Since we have locks to safeguard necessities,
And pretty traps to catch the petty thieves,
While that the armed hand doth fight abroad,
The advised head defends itself at home:
For government, though high, and low, and
Put into parts, doth keep in one consent; [lower,
Congruing¹ in a full and natural close,
Like musick.

Cant. True: therefore doth heaven divide
The state of man in divers functions,
Setting endeavour in continual motion;
To which is fixed, as an aim or butt,
Obedience; for so work the honey bees;
Creatures, that, by a rule in nature, teach
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
They have a king, and officers of sorts:
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home;
Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad;
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds;
Which pillage they with merry march bring
To the tent-royal of their emperor: [home
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons building roofs of gold;
The civil citizens kneading up the honey;
The poor mechanick porters crowding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate;
The sad-eyed justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering o'er to executors² pale
The lazy yawning drone. I this infer,—
That many things, having full reference
To one consent, may work contrariously;
As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Fly to one mark;

As many several ways meet in one town;
As many fresh streams run in one self sea;
As many lines close in the dial's center;
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,
End in one purpose, and be all well borne
Without defeat. Therefore to France, my liege,
Divide your happy England into four;
Whereof take you one quarter into France,
And you withal shall make all Gallia shake.
If we, with thrice that power left at home,
Cannot defend our own door from the dog,
Let us be worried; and our nation lose
The name of hardiness, and policy. [dauphin.

K. Hen. Call in the messengers, sent from the

[*Exit an Attendant. The King
ascends his Throne.*

Now are we well resolved: and,—by God's help,
And yours, the noble sinews of our power,—
France being ours, we'll bend it to our awe,
Or break it all to pieces: Or there we'll sit,
Ruling in large and ample empery,³
O'er France, and all her almost kingly dukedoms;
Or lay these bones in an unworthy urn.
Tombless, with no remembrance over them:
Either our history shall, with full mouth,
Speak freely of our acts; or else our grave,
Like Turkish mute, shall have a tongueless
Not worshipp'd with a waxen epitaph. [mouth,

1 Agreeing. 2 Executioners. 3 Dominion.

Enter Ambassadors of France.

Now are we well prepar'd to know the pleasure
Of our fair cousin dauphin; for we hear,
Your greeting is from him, not from the king.

Amb. May it please your majesty, to give us
Freely to render what we have in charge; [leave
Or shall we sparingly show you far off
The dauphin's meaning, and our embassy?

K. Hen. We are not rant, but a Christian king;
Under whose grace our passion is a subject,
As are our wretches fetter'd in our prisons:
Therefore, with frank and with uncurbed plain-
Tell us the dauphin's mind. [ness,

Amb. Thus, then, in few.
Your highness, lately sending into France,
Did claim some certain dukedoms, in the right
Of your great predecessor, king Edward the third.
In answer of which claim, the prince our master
Says,—that you savour too much of your youth;
And bids you head vis'd, there's nought in France,
That can be with a nimble galliard¹ won;
You cannot revel into dukedoms there:
He therefore sends you, meeter for your spirit,
This tun of treasure; and, in lieu of this,
Desires you, let the dukedoms, that you claim,
Hear no more of you. This the dauphin speaks.

K. Hen. What treasure, uncle?

Exe. Tennis balls, my liege. [with us;

K. Hen. We are glad, the dauphin is so pleasant
His present, and your pains, we thank you for:
When we have match'd our rackets to these balls,
We will, in France, by God's grace, play a set,
Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard²:
Tell him he hath made a match with such a
wrangler,

That all the courts of France will be disturb'd
With chaces.³ And we understand him well,
How he comes o'er us with our wilder days,
Not measuring what use we made of them.
We never valu'd this poor seat³ of England;
And therefore, living hence,⁴ did give ourself
To barbarous license; As 'tis ever common,
That men are merriest when they are from home.
But tell the dauphin,—I will keep my state;
Be like a king, and show my sail of greatness,
When I do rouse me in my throne of France;
For that I have laid by my majesty,
And plodded like a man for working-days;
But I will rise there with so full a glory,
That I will dazzle all the eyes of France,
Yea, strike the dauphin blind to look on us.

And tell the pleasant prince,—this mock of his
Hath turn'd his balls to gun-stones; and his
soul [geance
Shall stand sore charged for the wasteful ven-
That shall fly with them: for many a thousand
widows [bands;

Shall this his mock, mock out of their dear hus-
Mock mothers from their sons, mock castles
And some are yet unborn, and unborn, [down;
That shall have cause to curse the dauphin's
But this lies all within the will of God, [scorn.
To whom I do appeal; and in whose name,
Tell you the dauphin, I am coming on,
To venge me as I may, and to put forth
My rightful hand in a well-hallow'd cause.

1 Lively dance.

3 The throne.

2 Terms at tennis.

4 Away from the court.

So, get you hence in peace; and tell the dauphin,
His jest will sayour but of shallow wit, [it.—
When thousands weep, more than did laugh at
Convey them with safe conduct.—Fare you well.

[*Exeunt Ambassadors.*]

Exe. This was a merry message.

K. Hen. We hope to make the sender blush at it.

[*Descends from his Throne.*]

Therefore, my lords, omit no happy hour,
That may give furtherance to our expedition:
For we have now no thought in us but France;
Save those to heaven, that run before our business.
Therefore, let our proportions for these wars
Be soon collected: and all things thought upon,
That may with reasonable swiftness, add
More feathers to our wings; for, God before,
We'll chide this dauphin at his father's door.
Therefore, let every man now task his thought,
That this fair action may on foot be brought.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Now all the youth of England are on fire,
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies;
Now thrive the armourers, and honour's thought
Reigns solely in the breast of every man:
They sell the pasture now, to buy the horse;
Following the mirror of all Christian kings,
With winged heels, as English Mercuries.
For now sits Expectation in the air;
And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,
With crowns imperial, crowns, and coronets,
Promis'd to Harry, and his followers.
The French advis'd by good intelligence
Of this most dreadful preparation,
Shake in their fear; and with pale policy
Seek to divert the English purposes.
O England!—model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart,—
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee
Were all thy children kind and natural! [do,
But see thy fault! France hath in thee found out
A nest of hollow bosoms, which he fills [men,—
With treacherous crowns: and three corrupted
One, Richard earl of Cambridge; and the second,
Henry lord Scroop of Masham; and the third,
Sir Thomas Grey, knight of Northumberland,—
Have, for the guilt¹ of France, (O guilt, indeed!)
Confirm'd conspiracy with fearful France;
And by their hands this grace of kings must die,
(If hell and treason hold their promises,)—
Ere he takeship for France, and in Southampton.
Linger your patience on; and well digest
The abuse of distance, while we force a play.
The sum is paid; the traitors are agreed;
The king is set from London; and the scene
Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton:
There is the playhouse now, there must you sit:
And thence to France shall we convey you safe,
And bring you back, charming the narrow seas
To give you gentle pass; for, if we may,
We'll not offend one stomach with our play.
But, till the king come forth, and not till then,
Unto Southampton do we shift our scene. [*Exit.*]

¹ Gold.

SCENE I.—LONDON. BEFORE QUICKLY'S HOUSE IN EASTCHEAP.

Enter Nym and Bardolph.

Bard. Well met, corporal Nym.

Nym. Good morrow, lieutenant Bardolph.

B. What are ancient Pistol and you friends yet?

Nym. For my part, I care not; I say little;
but when time shall serve, there shall be smiles;
—but that shall be as it may. I dare not fight;
but I will wink, and hold out mine iron: It is a
simple one; but what though? it will toast cheese;
and it will endure cold as another man's sword
will: and there's the humour of it.

Bard. I will bestow a breakfast, to make you
friends; and we'll be all three sworn brothers to
France; let it be so, good corporal Nym.

Nym. Faith, I will live so long as I may, that's
the certain of it; and when I cannot live any
longer, I will do as I may: that is my rest,¹ that
is the rendezvous of it.

Bard. It is certain, corporal, that he is married
to Nell Quickly: and, certainly she did you
wrong; for you were troth-plight to her.

Nym. I cannot tell; things must be as they
may: men may sleep, and they may have their
throats about them at that time; and some say,
knives have edges. It must be as it may: though
patience be a tired mare, yet she will plod. There
must be conclusions. Well, I cannot tell.

Enter Pistol and Mrs Quickly.

Bard. Here comes ancient Pistol, and his wife:
—good corporal, be patient here.—How now,
mine host Pistol?

Pist. Base tike,² call'st thou me—host?
Now, by this hand, I swear, I scorn the term;
Nor shall my Nell keep lodgers.

Quick. No, by my truth, not long: [*Nym
draws his sword.*] O well-a-day, lady, if he be
not drawn now! Oh! here's corporal Nym—
now shall we have wilful murder committed.
Good lieutenant Bardolph,—good corporal, offer
nothing here.

Nym. Pish!

Pist. Pish for thee, Iceland, dog! thou cur of
Iceland!

Quick. Good corporal Nym, show the valour
of a man, and put up thy sword.

Nym. Will you shog off³? I would have you
solus.

[*Sheathing his sword.*]

Pist. Solus, egregious dog? O viper vile!
The solus in thy most marvellous face;
The solus in thy teeth, and in thy throat,
And in thy hateful lungs, yea, in thy maw,
And, which is worse, within thy nasty mouth!
I do retort the solus in thy bowels:
For I can take, and Pistol's cock is up,
And flashing fire will follow.

Nym. I am not Barbason⁴; you cannot conjure
me. I have an humour to knock you indifferently
well: If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will
scour you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms;
and that's the humour of it.

Pist. O braggard vile, and furious wight!

¹ Determination.

² Dog.

³ Begone.

⁴ A demon.

The grave doth gape, and doting death is near;
Therefore exhale.¹ [*Pistol and Nym draw.*]

Bard. Hear me, hear me what I say:—he that strikes the first stroke, I'll run him up to the hilt, as I am a soldier. [*Draws.*]

Pist. An oath of mickle² might; and fury shall Give me thy fist, thy fore-foot to me give; [abate. Thy spirits are most tall.

Nym. I will cut thy throat, one time or other, in fair terms; that is the humour of it.

Pist. *Coupe le gorge*,³ that's the word?—I thee defy again. [get?

O hound of Crete,⁴ think'st thou my spouse to I have, and I will hold, the *quondam* Quickly For the only she; and—*Pauca*, there's enough.

Enter the Boy.

Boy. Mine host, Pistol, you must come to my master,—and you, hostess;—he is very sick, and would to bed.—Good Bardolph, put thy nose between his sheets, and do the office of a warming-pan: 'faith, he's very ill.

Bard. Away, you rogue.

Quick. By my troth, he'll yield the crow a pudding one of these days: the king has killed his heart.—Good husband, come home presently.

[*Exeunt Mrs Quickly and Boy.*]

Bard. Come, shall I make you two friends? We must to France together; Why should we keep knives to cut one another's throats?

Pist. Let floods o'erswell, and fiends for food howl on!

Nym. You'll pay me the eight shillings I won of you at betting?

Pist. Base is the slave that pays. [of it.

Nym. That now I will have; that's the humour

Pist. As manhood shall compound; Push home.

Bard. By this sword, he that makes the first thrust, I'll kill him; by this sword, I will.

Pist. Sword is an oath, and oaths must have their course.

Bard. Corporal Nym, an thou wilt be friends, befriends: an thou wilt not, why then be enemies with me too. Pr'ythee, put up.

Nym. I shall have my eight shillings, I won of you at betting?

Pist. A noble⁵ shalt thou have, and present And liquor likewise will I give to thee, [pay; And friendship shall combine, and brotherhood: I'll live by Nym, and Nym shall live by me;—Is not this just?—for I shall sutler be Unto the camp, and profits will accrue. Give me thy hand.

Nym. I shall have my noble?

Pist. In cash most justly paid.

Nym. Well, then, that's the humour of it.

Re-enter Mrs Quickly.

Quick. As you ever came of women, come in quickly to Sir John: Ah, poor heart! he is so shaken of a burning quotidian tertian,⁶ that it is most lamentable to behold. Sweet men, come to him.

Nym. The king hath run bad humours on the knight, that's the even of it.

¹ Dio.

⁴ Blood-hound.

² Great.

⁵ A coin, value 6s. 8d.

³ Cut the throat.

⁶ A fever.

Pist. Nym, thou hast spoke the right; My heart is fractured¹ and corroborate.

Nym. The king is a good king: but it must be as it may; he passes some humours, and careers.

Pist. Let us condole the knight; for, lambkins, we will live. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

SOUTHAMPTON. A COUNCIL-CHAMBER.

Enter Exeter, Bedford, and Westmoreland.

Bed. Fore heaven, his grace is bold, to trust these traitors.

Exe. They shall be apprehended by and by.

West. How smooth and even they do bear themselves!

As if allegiance in their bosoms sat, Crowned with faith, and constant loyalty.

Bed. The king hath note of all that they intend, By interception which they dream not of.

Exe. Nay, but the man that was his bedfellow, Whom he hath cloy'd and grac'd with princely favours,—

That he should, for a foreign purse, so sell His sovereign's life to death and treachery!

Trumpet sounds. *Enter King Henry, Scroop, Cambridge, Grey, Lords and Attendants.*

K. Hen. Now sits the wind fair, and we will aboard.

My lord of Cambridge,—and my kind lord of Masham,—

And you, my gentle knight,—give me your thoughts:

Think you not, that the powers we bear with us, Will cut their passage through the force of Doing the execution, and the act, [France; For which we have in head² assembled them?

Scr. No doubt, my liege, if each man do his best.

K. Hen. I doubt not that: since we are well persuaded,

We carry not a heart with us from hence, That grows not in a fair consent with ours; Nor leave not one behind, that doth not wish Success and conquest to attend on us.

C. Never was monarch better fear'd, and lov'd, Than is your majesty; there's not, I think, a sub-That sits in heart-grief and uneasiness [ject, Under the sweet shade of your government.

G. Even those, that were your father's enemies, Have steep'd their galls in honey; and do serve With hearts create of duty and of zeal. [you

K. H. We therefore have great cause of thank-And shall forget the office of our hand, [fulness; Sooner than quittance³ of desert and merit, According to the weight and worthiness.

Scr. So service shall with steeled sinews toil; And labour shall refresh itself with hope; To do your grace incessant services.

K. Hen. We judge no less.—Uncle of Exeter, Enlarge the man committed yesterday, That rail'd against our person: we consider, It was excess of wine that set him on; And on his more advice we pardon him.

Scroop. That's mercy, but too much security: Let him be punish'd, sovereign; lest example Breed, by his sufferance, more of such a kind.

¹ Broken.

² Force.

³ Recompense.

K. Hen. O, let us yet be merciful.

Cam. So may your highness, and yet punish too.

G. You show great mercy, if you give him life, After the taste of much correction.

K. Hen. Alas, your too much love and care of me Are heavy orisons¹ 'gainst this poor wretch. If little faults, proceeding on distemper, Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,

[digested] When capital crimes, chew'd, swallow'd, and Appear before us?—We'll yet enlarge that man, Though Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey,—in their dear care,

And tender preservation of our person, Would have him punish'd. And now to our French Who are the late² commissioners? [causes;

Cam. I one, my lord;

Your highness bade me ask for it to-day.

Scroop. So did you me, my liege.

Grey. And me, my royal sovereign.

K. Hen. Then, Richard, earl of Cambridge, there is yours:— [knight]

There yours, lord Scroop of Masham;—and, sir Grey of Northumberland, this same is yours:— Read them, and know, I know your worthiness.— My lord of Westmoreland,—and uncle Exeter,— We will aboard to-night.—Why, how now, gentlemen?

What see you in those papers that you lose So much complexion?—look ye, how they change! Their cheeks are paper.—Why, what read you there,

That hath so cowarded and chas'd your blood Out of appearance?

Cam. I do confess my fault:

And do submit me to your highness' mercy.

Grey, Scroop. To which we all appeal.

K. H. The mercy, that was quick³ in us but late, By your own counsel is suppress'd and kill'd: You must not dare for shame, to talk of mercy; For your own reasons turn into your bosoms, As dogs upon their masters, worrying them.— See you, my princes, and my noble peers, These English monsters! My lord of Cambridge here,—

You know, how apt our love was, to accord To furnish him with all appertinents Belonging to his honour; and this man Hath, for a few light crowns, lightly conspir'd And sworn unto the practices of France, To kill us here in Hampton [to the which, This knight, no less for bounty bound to us Than Cambridge is,—hath likewise sworn.—But O! What shall I say to thee, lord Scroop? thou cruel, Ingrateful, savage, and inhuman creature! Thou, that didst bear the key of all my counsels, That knew'st the very bottom of my soul, That almost might'st have coin'd me into gold, Wouldst thou have practis'd on me for thy use? May it be possible, that foreign hire Could out of thee extract one spark of evil, That might annoy my finger? 'tis so strange, That though the truth of it stands off as gross As black from white, my eye will scarcely see it. Treason, and murder, ever kept together, As two yoke-devils sworn to either's purpose, Working so grossly in a natural cause,

1 Prayers. 2 Lately appointed. 3 Living.

That admiration did not whoop at them:—

[But] thou, 'gainst all proportion, didst bring in Wonder, to wait on treason, and on murder:

And whatsoever cunning fiend it was, That wrought upon thee so preposterously, Gave thee no instance why thou shouldst do treason— Unless to dub thee with the name of traitor. [son, If that same daemon, that hath gull'd thee thus, Should with his lion gait, walk the whole world, He might return to vasty Tartar¹ back, And tell the legions—I can never win A soul so easy as that Englishman's.]

O, how hast thou with jealous infected The sweetness of affiance! Show men dutiful?

Why, so didst thou: Seem they grave and learned?

Why, so didst thou: Come they of noble family?

Why, so didst thou: Seem they religious?

Why, so didst thou: [Or are they spare in diet;

Free from gross passion, or of mirth, or anger;

Constant in spirit, not swerving with the blood;

Garnish'd and deck'd in modest complement²;

Not working with the eye, without the ear,

And, but in purged judgment, trusting neither?

Such and so finely bolted,³ didst thou seem:

And thus thy fall hath left a kind of blot,

To mark the full-fraught man, and best indued,

With some suspicion. I will weep for thee;

For this revolt of thine, methinks, is like

Another fall of man.—Their faults are open,

Arrest them to the answer of the law:—

And heaven acquit them of their practices!

Eze. I arrest thee of high treason, by the name

of Richard earl of Cambridge.

I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of

Henry lord Scroop of Masham.

I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of

Thomas Grey, knight of Northumberland.

Ser. Our purposes God justly hath discover'd;

And I repent my fault, more than my death;

Which I beseech your highness to forgive,

Although my body pay the price of it.

Cam. For me,—the gold of France did not se—

Although I did admit it as a motive, [duce;

The sooner to effect what I intended:

But heaven be thanked for prevention;

Which I in suffrage heartily will rejoice,

Beseeching God, and you, to pardon me.

Grey. Never did faithful subject more rejoice

At the discovery of most dangerous treason,

Than I do at this hour joy o'er myself,

Prevented from a damned enterprise:

My fault, but not my body, pardon, sovereign.

K. Hen. God quit you in his mercy! Hear

your sentence.

You have conspir'd against our royal person,

Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd, and from his

Receiv'd the golden earnest of our death; [coffers

Wherein you would have sold your king to slaugh—

His princes and his peers to servitude, [ter,

His subjects to oppression and contempt,

And his whole kingdom unto desolation.

Touching our person, seek we no revenge;

But we our kingdom's safety must so tender,

Whose ruin you three sought, that to her laws

We do deliver you. Get you therefore hence,

Poor miserable wretches, to your death:

The taste whereof, God, of his mercy, give you

1 Tartarus. 2 Accomplishments. 3 Sifted.

Patience to endure, and true repentance
Of all your dear offences!—Bear them hence.

[*Exeunt Conspirators, guarded.*]

Now, lords, for France; the enterprise whereof
Shall be to you, as us, like glorious.
We doubt not of a fair and lucky war;
Since heaven so graciously hath brought to light
This dangerous treason, lurking in our way,
To hinder our beginnings, we doubt not now,
But every rub is smoothed on our way.
Then forth, dear countrymen; let us deliver
Our puissance into the hand of God,
Putting it straight in expedition.
Cheerly to sea; the signs of war advance:
No king of England, if not king of France.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

MRS QUICKLY'S HOUSE IN EASTCHEAP.

Enter Pistol, Mrs Quickly, Nym, Bardolph, and Boy.

Quick. Pr'ythee, honey-sweet husband, let me bring thee to Staines.

Pist. No; for my manly heart doth yearn.¹
Bardolph, be blithe;—Nym, rouse thy vaunting veins; [dead,

Boy, bristle thy courage up; for Falstaff he is
And we must yearn therefore.

Bard. 'Would, I were with him, wheresome'er he is.

Quick. Nay, sure, he's in Arthur's bosom, if ever man went to Arthur's bosom. 'A made a finer end, and went away, an it had been any christom² child; 'a parted even just between twelve and one, e'en at turning o' the tide: for after I saw him fumble with the sheets, and play with flowers, and smile upon his finger's ends, I knew there was but one way; for his nose was as sharp as a pen, and 'a babbled of green fields. How now, Sir John? quoth I: what, man! be of good cheer. So 'a cried out—God, God, God! three or four times: now I, to comfort him, bid him, 'a should not think of God; I hoped, there was no need to trouble himself with any such thoughts yet: So, 'a bade me lay more clothes on his feet; I put my hand into the bed, and felt them, and they were as cold as any stone; then I felt to his knees, and all was as cold as any stone.

Nym. They say, he cried out of sack.

Quick. Ay, that 'a did.

Bard. And of women.

Quick. Nay, that 'a did not.

Boy. Yes, that 'a did; and said, they were devils incarnate.

Quick. 'A could never abide carnation; 'twas a colour he never liked.

Bard. Well, he is gone, and all the riches I got in his service.

Nym. Shall we shog³ off? the king will be gone from Southampton.

Pist. Come, let's away.—My love, give me thy Look to my chattels, and my moveables: [lips. Let senses rule; the word is, *Fitch and pay*; Trust none; [cakes, For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer And hold-fast is the only dog, my duck;

1 Grieve. 2 A month old. 3 Begone.

Therefore, *caveto*¹ be thy counsellor.

Go, clear thy crystals.—Yoke-fellows in arms,
Let us to France! like horse-leeches, my boys;
To suck, to suck, the very blood to suck!

Boy. And that is but unwholesome food, they

Pist. Touch her soft mouth and march. [say.

Bard. Farewell, hostess. [Kissing her.

Nym. I cannot kiss, that is the humour of it; but, adieu.

Pist. Let housewifery appear; keep close, I thee command.

Quick. Farewell; adieu. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—FRANCE. A ROOM IN THE FRENCH KING'S PALACE.

Enter the French King attended; the Dauphin, the Duke of Burgundy, the Constable, and others.

Fr. King. Thus come the English with full power upon us;

And more than carefully it us concerns,
To answer royally in our defences.

Therefore the dukes of Berry, and of Bretagne,
Of Brabant, and of Orleans, shall make forth.—
And you, prince dauphin,—with all swift despatch,

To line, and new repair, our towns of war,
With men of courage, and with means defendant:

For England his approaches makes as fierce,
As waters to the sucking of a gulf.

It fits us then, to be as provident
As fear may teach us, out of late examples
Left by the fatal and neglected English
Upon our fields.

Dau. My most redoubted father

It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe:

For peace itself should not so dull² a kingdom,
(Though war, nor no known quarrel, were in ques-
But that defences, musters, preparations, (tion,)
Should be maintain'd, assembled, and collected,
As were a war in expectation.

Therefore, I say, 'tis meet we all go forth,

To view the sick and feeble parts of France:

And let us do it with no show of fear;

No, with no more, than if we heard that England
Were busied with a Whitsun morrice-dance:

For, my good liege, she is so idly king'd,

Her scepter so fantastically borne

By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth,
That fear attends her not.

Con. O peace, prince dauphin!

You are too much mistaken in this king:

Question your grace the late ambassadors,—

With what great state he heard their embassy,

How well supplied with noble counsellors,

How modest in exception,³ and, withal,

How terrible inconstant resolution,—

And you shall find, his vanities fore-spent

Were but the outside of the Roman Brutus,

Covering discretion with a coat of folly;

As gardeners do with ordure hide those roots

That shall first spring, and be most delicate.

Dau. Well, 'tis not so, my lord high constable,

But though we think it so, it is no matter:

In cases of defence, 'tis best to weigh

The enemy more mighty than he seems,

So the proportions of defence are fill'd;

1 Beware. 2 Render it insensible. 3 Objections.

Which, of a weak, and niggardly projection,
Doth, like a miser, spoil his coat, with scanting
A little cloth.

Fr. King. Think we king Harry strong;
And, princes, look you strongly arm to meet him.
The kindred of him hath been flesh'd upon us;
And he is bred out of that bloody strain,¹
That haunted us in our familiar paths:
Witness our too much memorable shame,
When Cressy battle fatally was struck,
And all our princes captiv'd, by the hand
Of that black name, Edward black prince of

Wales; [standing,
Whiles that his mountain sire—on mountain
Up in the air, crown'd with the golden sun,—
Saw his heroical seed, and smil'd to see him
Mangle the work of nature, and deface
The patterns that by God and by French fathers
Had twenty years been made. This is a stem
Of that victorious stock; and let us fear
The native mightiness and fate of him.

Enter a Messenger.

M. Ambassadors from Henry king of England
Do crave admittance to your majesty.

Fr. King. We'll give them present audience.
Go, and bring them.

[*Exeunt Mess. and certain Lords.*

You see this chase is hotly follow'd, friends.

D. Turn head, and stop pursuit: for coward dogs
Most spend their mouths, when what they seem
to threaten,

Runs far before them. Good my sovereign,
Take up the English short; and let them know
Of what a monarchy you are the head:
Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin
As self-neglecting.

Re-enter Lords, with Exeter and Train.

Fr. King. From our brother England!

E. From him: and thus he greets your majesty.
He wills you, in the name of the Almighty,
That you divest yourself, and lay apart
The borrowed glories, that, by gift of heaven,
By law of nature, and of nations, 'long
To him, and to his heirs; namely, the crown,
And all wide-stretched honours that pertain,
By custom and the ordinance of times,
Unto the crown of France. That you may know,
'Tis no sinister, nor no awkward claim, [days,
Pick'd from the worm-holes of long-vanish'd
Nor from the dust of old oblivion rak'd,
He sends you this most memorable line,

[*Gives a paper.*

In every branch truly demonstrative;
Willing you overlook this pedigree:
And, when you find him evenly deriv'd
From his most fam'd of famous ancestors,
Edward the third, he bids you then resign
Your crown and kingdom, indirectly held
From him, the native and true challenger.

Fr. King. Or else, what follows?

E. Bloody constraint; for if you hide the crown
Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it:
And therefore in fierce tempest is he coming,
In thunder, and in earthquake, like a Jove;
(That, if requiring fail, he will compel;)

1 Lineage.

And bids you, in the bowels of the Lord,
Deliver up the crown; and to take mercy
On the poor souls, for whom this hungry war
Opens his vasty jaws; and on your head
Turns he the widows' tears, the orphans' cries,
The dead men's blood, the pining maidens'
groans,

For husbands, fathers, and betrothed lovers,
That shall be swallow'd in this controversy.
This is his claim, his threat'ning, and my message;
Unless the dauphin be in presence here,
To whom expressly I bring greeting too.

Fr. King. For us, we will consider of this fur-
to-morrow shall you bear our full intent [ther:
Back to our brother England.

Daup. For the dauphin,
I stand here for him: What to him from England?

E. Scorn and defiance; slight regard, contempt,
And any thing that may not misbecome
The mighty sender, doth he prize you at.
Thus says my king: and, if your father's highness
Do not, in grant of all demands at large,
Sweeten the bitter mock you sent his majesty,
He'll call you to so hot an answer for it,
That caves and womby vaultages of France
Shall chide! your trespass, and return your mock
In second accent of his ordinance.

Daup. Say, if my father render fair reply,
It is against my will: for I desire
Nothing but odds with England: to that end,
As matching to his youth and vanity,
I did present him with those Paris balls.

E. He'll make your Paris Louvre shake for it,
Were it the mistress court of mighty Europe:
And, be assur'd, you'll find a difference,
(As we, his subjects, have in wonder found,)
Between the promise of his greener days,
And these he masters now: now he weighs time,
Even to the utmost grain; which you shall read
In your own losses, if he stay in France.

Fr. King. To-morrow shall you know our
mind at full.

E. Despatch us with all speed, lest that our king
Come here himself to question our delay;
For he is footed in this land already.

Fr. King. You shall be soon despatch'd with
fair conditions:

A night is but small breath, and little pause,
To answer matters of this consequence.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Third.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Thus with imagin'd wing our swift scene
In motion of no less celerity [flies,
Than that of thought. Suppose, that you have
The well-appointed king at Hampton pier [seen
Embark his royalty; and his brave fleet [ning,
With silken streamers the young Phoebus fan-
Play with your fancies; and in them behold,
Upon the hempen tackle, ship-boys climbing;
Hear the shrill whistle, which doth order give
To sounds confused: behold the thredden sails,
Borne with the invisible and creeping wind,
Draw the huge bottoms through the furrow'd sea,
Breasting the lofty surge: O, do but think,

1 Echo.

You stand upon the rivage,¹ and behold
A city on the inconstant billows dancing;
For so appears this fleet majestic,
Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow!
Grapple your minds to sternage² of this navy;
And leave your England, as dead midnight, still,
Guarded with grandsires, babies, and old women,
Or past, or not arriv'd to, pith and puissance!
For who is he, whose chin is but enrich'd
With one appearing hair, that will not follow
These cull'd and choice-drawn cavaliers to
France? [siege:]

Work, work your thoughts, and therein see a
Behold the ordnance on their carriages,
With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur.
Suppose, the ambassador from the French comes
Tells Harry—that the king doth offer him [back;
Katharine his daughter; and with her, to dowry,
Some petty and unprofitable dukedoms.
The offer likes not; and the nimble gunner,
With linstock³ now the dreadful cannon touches,
[Alarum, and Chambers⁴ go off.
And down goes all before them. Still be kind,
And eke out our performance with your mind. [Exit.]

SCENE I.—BEFORE HARFLEUR.

Alarums. Enter King Henry, Exeter, Bedford, Gloster, and Soldiers, with Scaling Ladders.

K. Hen. Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;

Or close the wall up with our English dead!
In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man,
As modest stillness and humility:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage;
Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;
Let it pry through the portage of the head,
Like the brass cannon; let the brow o'erwhelm it,
As fearfully, as doth a galled rock
O'erhang and jutty⁵ his confounded⁶ base,
Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean.
Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide;
Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit
To his full height!—On, on, you noblest English,
Whose blood is fet⁷ from fathers of war-proof!
Fathers, that, like so many Alexanders,
Have, in these parts, from morn till even fought,
And sheath'd their swords for lack of argument.⁸
Dishonour not your mothers; now attest, [you!]
That those, whom you call'd fathers, did beget
Be copy now to men of grosser blood, [yeomen,
And teach them how to war!—And you, good
Whose limbs were made in England, show us here
The mettle of your pasture; let us swear [not;
That you are worth your breeding; which I doubt
For there is none of you so mean and base,
That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot;
Follow your spirit: and, upon this charge,
Cry—God for Harry! England! and Saint George!
[Exeunt. Alarum, and Chambers go off.]

1 Shore.

2 Follow in thought.

3 The staff which holds the match. 7 Fetched.

4 Small cannons.

5 A mole or jetty.

6 Worn.

7 Fetched.

8 Object to fight for.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Forces pass over; then enter Nym, Bardolph, Pistol, and Boy.

Bard. On, on, on, on, on! to the breach, to the breach!

Nym. 'Pray thee, corporal, stay; the knocks are too hot; and, for mine own part, I have not a case of lives; the humour of it is too hot, that is the very plain-song of it.

Pist. The plain-song is most just; for humours do abound;

Knocks go and come; God's vassals drop and die;
And sword and shield,

In bloody field,

Doth win immortal fame.

Boy. 'Would I were in an alehouse in London!
I would give all my fame for a pot of ale and

Pist. And I: [safety.

If wishes would prevail with me,

My purpose should not fail with me,

But thither would I hie.

Boy. As duly, but not as truly, as bird doth sing on bough.

Enter Fluellen.

Flu. Up to the preaches, you rascals! will you not up to the preaches? [Driving them forward.

Pist. Be merciful, great duke, to men of mould!

Abate thy rage, abate thy manly rage!

Abate thy rage, great duke! [chuck!

Good bawcock,¹ bate thy rage! use lenity, sweet

Nym. These be good humours!—your honour wins bad humours.

[Exeunt Nym, Pistol, and Bardolph, followed by Fluellen.

Boy. As young as I am, I have observed these three swashers. I am boy to them all three: but all they three, though they would serve me, could not be man to me; for, indeed, three such anticks do not amount to a man. For Bardolph,—he is white-livered, and red-faced; by the means whereof, 'a faces it out, but fights not. For Pistol,—he hath a killing tongue, and a quiet sword; by the means whereof 'a breaks words, and keeps whole weapons. For Nym,—he hath heard that men of few words art the best² men: and therefore he scorns to say his prayers, lest 'a should be thought a coward: but his few bad words are matched with as few good deeds; for 'a never broke any man's head but his own; and that was against a post, when he was drunk. They will steal anything, and call it—purchase. Bardolph stole a lute-case; bore it twelve leagues, and sold it for three halfpence.—Nym and Bardolph, are sworn brothers in filching; and in Calais they stole a fire-shovel: I knew, by that piece of service, the men would carry coals.³ They would have me as familiar with men's pockets, as their gloves or their handkerchiefs: which makes much against my manhood, if I should take from another's pocket, to put into mine; for it is plain pocketing up of wrongs. I must leave them, and seek some better service: their villainy goes against my weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up. [Exit Boy.]

1 Fine fellow.

2 Bravest.

3 Endure affronts.

Re-enter Fluellen, Gower following.

Gow. Captain Fluellen, you must come presently to the mines; the duke of Gloster would speak with you.

Flu. To the mines! tell you the duke, it is not so good to come to the mines: For, look you, the mines is not according to the disciplines of the war; the concavities of it is not sufficient; for, look you, th' athversary (you may discuss unto the duke, look you,) is dight¹ himself four yards under the countermines: I think, 'a will plow up all, if there is not better directions.

Gow. The duke of Gloster, to whom the order of the siege is given, is altogether directed by an Irishman: a very valiant gentleman i' faith.

Flu. It is Captain Macmorris, is it not?

Gow. I think it be.

Flu. He is an ass, as in the 'orld: I will verify as much in his peard: he has no more directions in the true disciplines of the wars, look you, of the Roman disciplines, than is a puppy-dog.

Enter Macmorris and Jamy, at a distance.

Gow. Here 'a comes; and the Scots captain, Captain Jamy, with him.

Flu. Captain Jamy is a marvellous falorous gentleman, that is certain; and of great expedition, and knowledge, in the ancient wars, upon my particular knowledge of his directions: he will maintain his argument as well as any military man in the 'orld, in the disciplines of the pristine wars of the Romans.

Jamy. I say, gud-day, Captain Fluellen.

F. God-den to your worship, goot Captain Jamy.

Gow. How now, Captain Macmorris? have you quit the mines? have the pioneers given o'er?

Mac. Tish ill done: the work ish give over, the trumpet sound the retreat. By my hand, I swear, and by my father's soul, the work ish ill done; it ish give over: I would have blowed up the town in an hour. O, tish ill done, tish ill done; by my hand, tish ill done!

Flu. Captain Macmorris, I pesech you now, will you voutsafe me, look you, a few disputations with you, as partly touching or concerning the disciplines of the war, the Roman wars, in the way of argument, look you, and friendly communication; partly, to satisfy my opinion, and partly, for the satisfaction, look you, of my mind, as touching the direction of the military discipline; that is the point.

Jamy. It sall be very gud, gud feith, gud captains bath: and I sall quit² you with gud leve, as I may pick occasion: that sall I, marry.

Mac. It is no time to discourse, the day is hot, and the weather, and the wars, and the king, and the dukes: it is no time to discourse. The town is beseeched, and the trumpet calls us to the breach; and we talk, and do nothing; 'tis shame for us all: 'tis shame to stand still; it is shame, by my hand: and there is throats to be cut, and works to be done; and there ish nothing done.

Jamy. By the mess, ere theise eyes of mine take themselves to slumber, aile do gude service, or aile ligge i' the grund³ for it; ay, or go to death; and aile pay it as valorously as I may,

1 Digged. 2 Answer. 3 Lie in the ground.

that sal I surely do, that is the breff and the long: Mary, I wad full fain heard some question 'tween you tway.

Flu. Captain Macmorris, I think, look you, under your correction, there is not many of your nation—

Mac. Of my nation? What ish my nation? ish a villain, and a bastard, and a knave, and a rascal? What ish my nation? Who talks of my nation?

Flu. Look you, if you take the matter otherwise than is meant, Captain Macmorris, per-adventure, I shall think you do not use me with that affability as in discretion you ought to use me, look you; being as goot a man as yourself, both in the disciplines of wars, and in the derivation of my birth, and in other particularities.

Mac. I do not know you so good a man as myself: I will cut off your head.

Gow. Gentlemen both, you will mistake each other.

Jamy. Au! that's a foul fault.

[A Parley sounded.]

Gow. The town sounds a parley.

Flu. Captain Macmorris, when there is more better opportunity to be required, look you, I will be so bold as to tell you, I know the disciplines of war; and there is an end. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—BEFORE THE GATES OF HARFLEUR.

The Governor and some Citizens on the Walls; the English Forces below. Enter King Henry and his Train.

K. Hen. How yet resolves the governor of the town!

This is the latest parle we will admit:

Therefore, to our best mercy give yourselves?

Or, like to men proud of destruction,

Defy us to our worst: for, as I am a soldier, (A name, that, in my thoughts, becomes me best,)

If I begin the battery once again,

I will not leave the half-achieved Harfleur,

Till in her ashes she lie buried.

The gates of mercy shall be all shut up;

And the flesh'd soldier—rough and hard of heart,—

In liberty of bloody hand shall range.

With conscience wide as hell; mowing like grass

Your fresh fair virgins, and your flowering in-

What is it then to me, if impious war,— [faints.

Array'd in flames, like to the prince of fiends,—

Do, with his smirch'd¹ complexion, all fell² feats

Enlink'd to waste and desolation?

What is't to me, when you yourselves are cause?

If your pure maidens fall into the hand

Of hot and forcing violation?

What rein can hold licentious wickedness,

When down the hill he holds his fierce career?

We may as bootless³ spend our vain command

Upon the enraged soldiers in their spoil,

As send precepts to the Leviathan

To come ashore. Therefore, you men of Harfleur,

Take pity of your town, and of your people,

Whiles yet my soldiers are in my command;

Whiles yet the cool and temperate wind of grace

O'erblows the filthy and contagious clouds

Of deadly murder, spoil, and villainy.

If not, why, in a moment, look to see

1 Smear'd.

2 Cruel.

3 Successless.

The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand
Defile the locks of your shrill-shrieking daugh-
Your fathers taken by the silver beards, [ters;
And their most reverend heads dash'd to the
Your naked infants spitted upon pikes; [walls;
Whiles the mad mothers with their howls confus'd
Do break the clouds, as did the wives of Jewry
At Herod's bloody-hunting slaughtermen.
What say you? will you yield, and this avoid?
Or, guilty in defence, be thus destroy'd?

Gov. Our expectation hath this day an end:
The dauphin, whom of succour we entreated,
Returns us—that his powers are not yet ready
To raise so great a siege. Therefore, dread king,
We yield our town, and lives to thy soft mercy:
Enter our gates; dispose of us, and ours;
For we no longer are defensible.

K. Hen. Open your gates.—Come, uncle Exeter,
Go you and enter Harfleur; there remain,
And fortify it strongly 'gainst the French:
Use mercy to them all. For us, dear uncle,—
The winter coming on, and sickness growing
Upon our soldiers,—we'll retire to Calais.
To-night in Harfleur will we be your guest;
To-morrow for the march are we address'd.¹

[Flourish. The King, &c., enter the Town.]

SCENE IV.—ROUEN. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Katharine and Alice.

Kath. Alice, tu as été en Angleterre, et tu parles bien le language.

Alice. Un peu, madame.

Kath. Je te prie, m'enseigne; il faut que j'apprenne à parler. Comment appelez vous la main, en Anglois?

Alice. La main? elle est appelée, de hand.

Kath. De hand. Et les doigts?

Alice. Les doigts? mu foy, j'oublie les doigts; mais je me souviendray. Les doigts? je pense, qu'ils sont appelé de fingres; ouy, de fingres.

Kath. La main, de hand; les doigts, de fingres. Je pense, que je suis le bon escolier. J'ay gagné deux mots d'Anglois vistement. Comment appelez vous les ongles?

Alice. Les ongles? les appellons, de nails.

Kath. De nails. Escoutez: dites moy, si je parle bien: de hand, de fingres, de nails.

Alice. C'est bien dit, madame; il est fort bon Anglois.

Kath. Dites moy en Anglois, le bras.

Alice. De arm, madame.

Kath. Et le coude.

Alice. De elbow.

Kath. De elbow. Je me'en fais la repetition de tous les mots, que vous m'avez appris dès a present.

Alice. Il est trop difficile, madame, comme je pense.

Kath. Excusez moy, Alice; escoutez: De hand, de fingre, de nails, de arm, de bilbow.

Alice. De elbow, madame.

Kath. O! je m'en oublie; De elbow. Comment appelez vous le col?

Alice. De neck, madame.

Kath. De neck: Et le menton?

Alice. De chin.

1 Prepared.

Kath. Desin. Le col, de neck: le menton, desin.
Alice. Ouy. Sauz vostre honneur; en verité, vous prononcez les mots aussi droict que les natifs d'Angleterre.

Kath. Je ne doute point d'apprendre; et en peu de temps.

Alice. N'avez vous pas deja oublié ce que je vous ay enseigné?

Kath. Non, je reciteray à vous promptement.

De hand, de fingre, de mails,—

Alice. De nails, madame.

Kath. De nails, de arme, de ilbow.

Alice. Sauz vostre honneur, de elbow.

Kath. Ainsy dis je; de elbow, de neck, et de sin.

Alice. Excellent, madame!

Kath. C'est assez pour une fois; allons nous a diner. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.

THE SAME. ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter the French King, the Dauphin, Duke of Bourbon, the Constable of France, and others.

Fr. King. 'Tis certain, he hath pass'd the river Some.

Con. And if he be not fought withal, my lord, Let us not live in France: let us quit all, And give our vineyards to a barbarous people.

Dau. Shall a few sprays of us,—

Our scions, put in wild and savage stock, Spirt up so suddenly into the clouds, And overlook their grafters?

Bour. Normans, but bastard Normans, Norman Mort de ma vie! if they march along [bastards! Unfought withal, but I will sell my dukedom, To buy a slobbery and a dirty farm In that nook-shotten¹ isle of Albion.

Con. Dieu de batailles! where have they this Is not their climate foggy, raw, and dull? [mettle? On whom, as in despite, the sun looks pale, Killing their fruit with frowns? Can sodden water, A drench for sur-rein² d'2jades, their barley broth, Decoct their cold blood to such valiant heat? And shall our quick blood, spirited with wine, Seem frosty? O, for honour of our land, Let us not hang like roping icicles [people Upon our houses' thatch, whiles a more frosty Sweat drops of gallant youth in our rich fields; Poor—we may call them, in their native lords.

Dau. By faith and honour,

Our madams mock at us, and plainly say, Our mettle is bred out. [schools,

Bour. They bid us—to the English dancing— And teach lavoltas high, and swift corantos³; Saying, our grace is only in our heels, And that we are most lofty runaways.

Fr. King. Where is Montjoy, the herald? speed him hence;

Let him greet England with our sharp defiance.— Up, princes; and, with spirit of honour edg'd, More sharper than your swords, hie to the field: Charles De-la-bret, high constable of France; You dukes of Orleans, Bourbon, and of Berry, Alençon, Brabant, Bar, and Burgundy; Jacques Chatillon, Rambures, Vaudemont, Beaumont, Grandpré, Roussi, and Fauconberg,

1 Shooting into bays.

2 Over-ridden.

3 Lively dances.

Foix, Lestrale, Bouciqualt, and Charolois;
High dukes, great princes, barons, lords, and
knights, [shames,
For your great seats, now quit you of great
Bar Harry England, that sweeps through our land
With pennons painted in the blood of Harfleur:
Rush on his host, as doth the melted snow
Upon the vallies;—
Go down upon him,—you have power enough,—
And in a captive chariot, into Rouen
Bring him our prisoner.

Con. This becomes the great.
Sorry am I, his numbers are so few,
His soldiers sick, and famish'd in their march;
For, I am sure when he shall see our army,
He'll drop his heart into the sink of fear,
And, for achievement, offer us his ransom.

Fr. King. Therefore, lord constable, haste on
Montjoy:

And let him say to England, that we send
To know what willing ransom he will give.—
Prince dauphin, you shall stay with us in Rouen.

Dau. Not so, I do beseech your majesty.

F. K. Be patient, for you shall remain with us.—
Now forth, lord constable and princes all;
And quickly bring us word of England's fall.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—THE ENGLISH CAMP IN PICARDY.

Enter Gower and Fluellen.

Gow. How now, captain Fluellen? come you
from the bridge?

Flu. I assure you, there is very excellent service
committed at the bridge.

Gow. Is the duke of Exeter safe?

Flu. The duke of Exeter is as magnanimous
as Agamemnon; and a man that I love and
honour with my soul, and my heart, and my duty,
and my life, and my livings, and my uttermost
powers; he is not (God be praised, and
plessed!) any hurt in the 'orld; but keeps the
pridge most valiantly, with excellent discipline.
There is an ensign there at the pridge,—I think,
in my very conscience, he is as valiant as Mark
Antony; and he is a man of no estimation in the
'orld: but I did see him do gallant service.

Gow. What do you call him?

Flu. He is called—ancient Pistol.

Gow. I know him not.

Enter Pistol.

F. Do you not know him? Here comes the man.

Pist. Captain, I thee beseech to do me favours:
The duke of Exeter doth love thee well.

Flu. Ay, and I have merited some love at
his hands.

Pist. Bardolph, a soldier, firm and sound of
Of buxom valour, hath,—by cruel fate, [heart,
And giddy fortune's furious fickle wheel,
That goddess blind,
That stands upon the rolling restless stone,—

Flu. By your patience, ancient Pistol. For-
tune is painted blind, with a muffler before her
eyes; to signify to you that fortune is blind:
And she is painted also with a wheel; to signify
to you, which is the moral of it, that she is
turning, and inconstant and variations, and mu-

tabilities; and her foot, look you, is fixed upon
a spherical stone, which rolls, and rolls, and
rolls;—In good truth the poet is make a most
excellent description of fortune: fortune, look
you, is an excellent moral.

Pist. Fortune is Bardolph's foe, and frowns
on him;

For he hath stol'n a *pix*,¹ and hanged must 'a be.
Let gallows gape for dog, let man go free,
And let not hemp his windpipe suffocate:
But Exeter hath given the doom of death,
For *pix* of little price.

Therefore, gospeak, the duke will hear thy voice;
And let not Bardolph's vital breath be cut
With edge of penny cord, and vile reproach:
Speak, captain, for his life, and I will thee
requite.

Flu. Ancient Pistol, I do partly understand
your meaning.

Pist. Why then rejoice therefore.

Flu. Certainly, ancient, it is not a thing to
rejoice at: for if, look you, he were my brother,
I would desire the duke to use his good plea-
sure, and put him to executions; for disciplines
ought to be used.

Pist. Die! a *figo* for thy friendship!

Flu. It is well.

Pist. The fig of Spain!² [*Exit Pistol.*]

Flu. Very good.

Gow. Why this is an arrant counterfeit rascal;
I remember him now; a cutpurse.

Flu. I'll assure you, 'a utter'd as prave 'ords
at the pridge, as you shall see in a summer's day:
But it is very well; what he has spoke to me,
that is well, I warrant you, when time is serve.

Gow. Why, 'tis a gull, a fool, a rogue; that
now and then goes to the wars, to grace himself,
at his return into London, under the form of a
soldier. And such fellows are perfect in great
commanders' names: and they will learn you by
rote where services were done;—at such and such
a sconce,³ at such a breach, at such a convoy:
who came off bravely, who was shot, who dis-
graced, what terms the enemy stood on: and this
they can perfectly in the phrase of war, which
they trick up with new-tuned oaths: And what
a beard of the general's cut, and a horrid suit of
the camp, will do among foaming bottles and
ale-wash'd wits, is wonderful to be thought on!
but you must learn to know such slanders of the
age, or else you may be marvellous mistook.

Flu. I tell you what, Captain Gower;—I do
perceive, he is not the man that he would gladly
make show to the 'orld he is; if I find a hole
in his coat, I will tell him my mind. [*Drum
heard.*] Hark you, the king is coming; and I
must speak with him from the pridge.

Enter King Henry, Gloster, and Soldiers.

Flu. Cot pless your majesty!

K. Hen. How now, Fluellen? camest thou
from the bridge?

Flu. Ay, so please your majesty. The duke
of Exeter has very gallantly maintained the
pridge: The French is gone off, look you; and
there is gallant and most brave passages: Marry,

1 A box in which were kept the consecrated wafers.

2 A poisoned fig.

3 Entrenchment.

th' athversary was have possession of the pridge; but he is enforced to retire, and the duke of Exeter is master of the pridge: I can tell your majesty, the duke is a prave man.

K. Hen. What men have you lost, Fluellen?

Flu. The perdition of th' athversary hath been very great, very reasonable great: marry, for my part, I think the duke hath lost never a man, but one that is like to be executed for robbing a church, one Bardolph, if your majesty know the man: his face is all bubukles, and whelks, and knobs, and flames of fire; and his lips plows at his nose, and it is like a coal of fire, sometimes plue, and sometimes red; but his nose is executed and his fire's out.

K. Hen. We would have all such offenders so cut off: and we give express charge, that in our marches through the country, there be nothing compelled from the villages, nothing taken but paid for; none of the French upbraided, or abused in disdainful language; For when lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner.

Tucket sounds. Enter Montjoy.

Mont. You know me by my habit.

K. Hen. Well then, I know thee; What shall I know of thee?

Mont. My master's mind.

K. Hen. Unfold it.

Mont. Thus says my king: say thou to Harry of England, Though we seemed dead, we did but sleep; Advantage is a better soldier, than rashness. Tell him, we could have rebuked him at Harfleur; but that we thought not good to bruise an injury, till it were full ripe:—now we speak upon our cue,¹ and our voice is imperial: England shall repent his folly, see his weakness, and admire our sufferance. Bid him, therefore, consider of his ransom; which must proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we have lost, the disgrace we have digested; which in weight to re-answer, his pettiness would bow under. For our losses his exchequer is too poor; for the effusion of our blood, the muster of his kingdom too faint a number; and for our disgrace, his own person, kneeling at our feet, but a weak and worthless satisfaction. To this add—defiance: and tell him, for conclusion, he hath betrayed his followers, whose condemnation is pronounced. So far my king and master; so much my office.

K. H. What is thy name? I know thy quality.

Mont. Montjoy. *[Back.]*

K. Hen. Thou dost thy office fairly. Turn thee And tell thy king,—I do not seek him now; But could be willing to march on to Calais Without impeachment²: for, to say the sooth, (Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much Unto an enemy of craft and vantage), My people are with sickness much enfeebled; My numbers lessen'd; and those few I have Almost no better than so many French; Who, when they were in health, I tell thee, herald, I thought upon one pair of English legs Did march three Frenchmen.—Yet, forgive me,

heaven,

1 In our turn.

2 Hinderance.

That I do brag thus!—this your air of France Hath blown that vice in me; I must repent. Go, therefore, tell thy master here I am; My ransom, is this frail and worthless trunk; My army, but a weak and sickly guard; Yet God before, tell him we will come on, [bour, Though France himself, and such another neigh- Stand in our way. There's forth thy labour, Mont- Go, bid thy master well advise himself: [joy; If we may pass, we will; if we be hinder'd, We shall your tawny ground with your red blood Discolour: and so, Montjoy, fare you well. The sum of all our answer is but this: We would not seek a battle, as we are; Yet, as we are, we say, we will not shun it So tell your master.

Mont. I shall deliver so. Thanks to your highness, &c. *[Exit Montjoy.]*

Glo. I hope they will not come upon us now.

K. Hen. We are in God's hand, brother, not in theirs.

March to the bridge; it now draws toward night:— Beyond the river we'll encamp ourselves; And on to-morrow bid them march away.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.

THE FRENCH CAMP NEAR AGINCOURT.

Enter the Constable of France, the Lord Ram- bures, the Duke of Orleans, Dauphin, and others.

Con. Tut! I have the best armour of the world.—'Would it were day.

Orl. You have an excellent armour; but let my horse have his due.

Con. It is the best horse of Europe.

Orl. Will it never be morning?

Dau. My lord of Orleans, and my lord high constable, you talk of horse and armour.—

Orl. You are as well provided of both, as any prince in the world.

Dau. What a long night is this!—I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four pasterns.¹ *Ca, ha!* He bounds from the earth, as if his entrails were hairs!² *le cheval volant, the Pegasus, qui a les narines de feu!* When I bestride him, I soar, I am a hawk: he treads the air; the earth sings when he touches it; the basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes.

Orl. He's of the colour of the nutmeg.

Dau. And of the heat of the ginger. It is a beast for Perseus; he is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him, but only in patient stillness, while his rider mounts him: he is, indeed, a horse; and all other jades you may call—beasts.

Con. Indeed, my lord, it is a most absolute and excellent horse.

Dau. It is the prince of palfreys; his neigh is like the bidding of a monarch, and his countenance enforces homage.

Orl. No more, cousin.

Dau. Nay, the man hath no wit, that cannot, from the rising of the lark to the lodging of the

1 Legs.

[with head.

2 Alluding to the bounding of tennis-balls, stuffed

lamb, vary deserved praise on my palfrey : it is a theme as fluent as the sea ; turn the sands into eloquent tongues, and my horse is argument for them all : 'tis a subject for a sovereign to reason on, and for a sovereign's sovereign to ride on ; and for the world (familiar to us, and unknown,) to lay apart their particular functions, and wonder at him. I once writ a sonnet in his praise, and began thus : *Wonder of nature,*—

Orl. I have heard a sonnet begin so to one's mistress.

Dau. Then did they imitate that which I composed to my courser ; for my horse is my mistress.

Con. You have good judgment in horsemanship.

Ram. My lord constable, the armour, that I saw in your tent to-night, are those stars, or suns, upon it ?

Con. Stars, my lord.

Dau. Some of them will fall to-morrow, I hope.

Con. And yet my sky shall not want.

Dau. That may be, for you bear a many superfluously ; and 'twere more honour, some were away.

Con. Even as your horse bears your praises ; who would trot as well, were some of your brags dismounted.

Dau. 'Would I were able to load him with his desert ! Will it never be day ? I will trot to-morrow a mile, and my way shall be paved with English faces.

Con. I will not say so, for fear I should be faced out of my way ; But I would it were morning, for I would fain be about the ears of the English.

Ram. Who will go to hazard with me for twenty English prisoners ?

Con. You must first go yourself to hazard, ere you have them.

Dau. 'Tis midnight ; I'll go arm myself. [*Exit.*]

Orl. The dauphin longs for morning.

Ram. He longs to eat the English.

Con. I think, he will eat all he kills.

Orl. By the white hand of my lady, he's a gallant prince.

Con. Swear by her foot, that she may tread out the oath.

Orl. He is simply, the most active gentleman of France.

C. Doing is activity ; and he will still be doing.

Orl. He never did harm, that I heard of.

Con. Nor will do none to-morrow ; he will keep that good name still.

Orl. I know him to be valiant.

Con. I was told that, by one that knows him better than you.

Orl. What's he ?

Con. Marry, he told me so himself ; and he said, he cared not who knew it.

Orl. He needs not, it is no hidden virtue in him.

Con. By my faith, sir, but it is ; never any body saw it, but his lackey : 'tis a hooded valour ; and, when it appears, it will bate.¹

Orl. Ill-will never said well.

Con. I will cap that proverb with—There is flattery in friendship.

¹ When unhooded it will only flutter.

Orl. And I will take up that with—Give the devil his due.

Con. Well placed ; there stands your friend for the devil.

Orl. You are the better at proverbs, by how much—A fool's bolt is soon shot.

Con. You have shot over.

Orl. 'Tis not the first time you were overshot.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord high constable, the English lie within fifteen hundred paces of your tent.

Con. Who hath measured the ground ?

Mess. The lord Grandpré.

Con. A valiant and most expert gentleman.—Would it were day !—Alas, poor Harry of England !—he longs not for the dawning, as we do.

Orl. What a wretched and peevish¹ fellow is this king of England, to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge !

Con. If the English had any apprehension, they would run away.

Orl. That they lack ; for if their heads had any intellectual armour, they could never wear such heavy head-pieces.

Ram. That island of England breeds very valiant creatures ; their mastiffs are of unmatchable courage.

Orl. Foolish curs ! that run winking into the mouth of a Russian bear, and have their heads crushed like rotten apples : You may as well say,—that's a valiant flea, that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.

Con. Just, just ; and the men do sympathize with the mastiffs, in robustious and rough coming on, leaving their wits with their wives : and then give them great meals of beef, and iron and steel, they will eat like wolves, and fight like devils.

Orl. Ay, but these English are shrewdly out of beef.

Con. Then we shall find to-morrow—they have only stomachs to eat, and none to fight. Now is it time to arm : Come, shall we about it ?

Orl. It is now two o'clock : but, let me see,—by ten,

We shall have each a hundred Englishmen. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Now entertain conjecture of a time,
When creeping murmur, and the poring dark,
Fills the wide vessel of the universe.
From camp to camp, through the foul womb of
The hum of either army stilly sounds, [night,
That the fix'd sentinels almost receive
The secret whispers of each other's watch :
Fire answers fire ; and through their paly flames
Each battle sees the other's umber'd² face :
Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful neighs
Piercing the night's dull ear ; and from the tents,
The armourers, accomplishing the knights,
With busy hammers closing rivets up,
Give dreadful note of preparation.
The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll,
And the third hour of drowsy morning name.

¹ Foolish.

² (By the fire gleams.)

Proud of their numbers, and secure in soul,
 The confident and over-lusty¹ French
 Do the low-rated English play at dice;
 And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night,
 Who, like a foul and ugly witch, doth limp
 So tediously away. The poor condemned English,
 Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires
 Sit patiently, and inly ruminate
 The morning's danger; and their gesture sad,
 Investing lank-lean cheeks, and war-worn coats,
 Presenteth them unto the gazing moon
 So many horrid ghosts. O, now, who will behold
 The royal captain of this ruin'd band,
 Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,
 Let him cry—Praise and glory on his head!
 For forth he goes, and visits all his host;
 Bids them good-morrow, with a modest smile;
 And calls them—brothers, friends, and country-
 Upon his royal face there is no note, [men.
 How dread an army hath enrounded him;
 Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour
 Unto the weary and all-watched night;
 But freshly looks, and over-bears attaint,
 With cheerful semblance, and sweet majesty;
 That every wretch, pining and pale before,
 Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks;
 A largess universal, like the sun,
 His liberal eye doth give to every one,
 Thawing cold fear. Then, mean and gentle all,
 Behold, as may unworthiness define,
 A little touch of Harry in the night:
 And so our scene must to the battle fly:
 Where, (O for pity!) we shall much disgrace—
 With four or five most vile and ragged foils,
 Right ill-dispos'd, in brawl ridiculous,—
 The name of Agincourt: Yet sit and see;
 Minding² true things, by what their mockeries
 be. [Exit.

SCENE I.—THE ENGLISH CAMP AT AGINCOURT.

Enter King Henry, Bedford, and Gloster.

K. Hen. Gloster, 'tis true, that we are in great danger;

The greater therefore should our courage be.—
 Good morrow, brother Bedford.—Now we find
 There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
 Would men observingly distil it out;
 For our bad neighbour makes us early stirrers,
 Which is both healthful, and good husbandry
 Besides, they are our outward consciences,
 And preachers to us all; admonishing,
 That we should dress us fairly for our end.
 Thus may we gather honey from the weed,
 And make a moral of the devil himself.

Enter Erpingham.

Good morrow, old Sir Thomas Erpingham:
 A good soft pillow for that good white head.
 Were better than a churlish turf of France.

Erp. Not so, my liege; this lodging likes me
 Since I may say—now lie I like a king. [better,

K. Hen. 'Tis good for men to love their present
 Upon example; so the spirit is eased: [pains,
 And, when the mind is quicken'd, out of doubt,
 The organs, though defunct and dead before,
 Break up their drowsy grave, and newly move

With casted slough¹ and fresh legerity.²
 Lend me thy cloak, Sir Thomas.—Brothers both,
 Commend me to the princes in our camp;
 Do my good-morrow to them; and anon,
 Desire them all to my pavilion.

Glo. We shall, my liege.

[Exeunt Gloster and Bedford.

Erp. Shall I attend your grace?

K. Hen. No, my good knight;

Go with my brothers to my lords of England:
 I and my bosom must debate a while,
 And then I would no other company.

Erp. The Lord in heaven bless thee, noble
 Harry. [Exit Erpingham.

K. Hen. Worthy old heart! thou speakest
 cheerfully.

Enter Pistol.

Pist. Qui va là?

K. Hen. A friend.

Pist. Discuss unto me; Art thou officer;
 Or art thou base, common, and popular?

K. Hen. I am a gentleman of a company.

Pist. Trailest thou the puissant pike?

K. Hen. Even so: what are you?

Pist. As good a gentleman as the emperor.

K. Hen. Then you are a better than the king.

Pist. The king's a bawcock,³ and a heart of gold,
 A lad of life, an imp of fame;

Of parents good, of fist most valiant:

I kiss his dirty shoe, and from my heart-strings
 I love the lovely bully. What's thy name?

K. Hen. Harry le Roy.

Pist. Le Roy! a Cornish name: art thou of
 Cornish crew?

K. Hen. No, I am a Welshman.

Pist. Knowest thou Fluellen?

K. Hen. Yes.

Pist. Tell him, I'll knock his leek about his
 Upon Saint David's day. [pate,

K. Hen. Do not you wear your dagger in your
 cap that day, lest he knock that about yours.

Pist. Art thou his friend?

K. Hen. And his kinsman too.

Pist. The figo for thee then!

K. Hen. I thank you: Heaven be with you.

Pist. My name is Pistol called. [Exit.

K. Hen. It sorts well with your fierceness.

Enter Fluellen and Gower, severally.

Gow. Captain Fluellen!

Flu. So! speak lower. It is the greatest ad-
 miration in the universal 'orld, when the true
 and ancient prerogatives and laws of the wars
 is not kept: if you would take the pains but to
 examine the wars of Pompey the Great, you
 shall find, I warrant you, that there is no tiddle
 taddle, or pibble pabble in Pompey's camp; I
 warrant you, you shall find the ceremonies of
 the wars, and the cares of it, and the forms of it,
 and the sobriety of it, and the modesty of it, to
 be otherwise.

Gow. Why, the enemy is loud; you heard
 him all night.

Flu. If the enemy is an ass and a fool, and a
 prating coxcomb, is it meet, think you, that we

¹ The skin which serpents annually throw off.

² Lightness.

³ Fine fellow.

¹ Overweening.

² Recall.

should also, look you, be an ass, and a fool, and a prating coxcomb; in your own conscience now? Gow. I will speak lower.

Flu. I pray you, and beseech you, that you will. [*Exeunt Gower and Fluellen.*]

K. Hen. Though it appear a little out of fashion, There is much care and valour in this Welshman.

Enter Bates, Court, and Williams.

Court. Brother John Bates, is not that the morning which breaks yonder?

Bates. I think it be: but we have no great cause to desire the approach of day.

Will. We see yonder the beginning of the day, but, I think, we shall never see the end of it.—Who goes there?

K. Hen. A friend.

Will. Under what captain serve you?

K. Hen. Under Sir Thomas Erpingham.

Will. A good old commander, and a most kind gentleman: I pray you, what thinks he of our estate?

K. Hen. Even as men wrecked upon a sand, that look to be washed off the next tide.

Bates. He hath not told his thought to the king?

K. Hen. No: nor it is not meet he should. For, though I speak it to you, I think, the king is but a man, as I am: the violet smells to him, as it doth to me; the element shows to him, as it doth to me; all his senses have but human conditions: his ceremonies laid by, he appears but a man; and though his affections are higher mounted than ours, yet, when they stoop, they stoop with the like wing; therefore when he sees reason of fears, as we do, his fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish as ours are: Yet, in reason, no man should possess him with any appearance of fear, lest he, by showing it, should dishearten his army.

Bates. He may show what outward courage he will: but, I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, he could wish himself in the Thames up to the neck: and so I would he were, and I by him, at all adventures, so we were quit here.

K. Hen. By my troth, I will speak my conscience of the king; I think, he would not wish himself any where but where he is.

Bates. Then, 'twould he were here alone; so should he be sure to be ransomed, and a many poor men's lives saved.

K. Hen. I dare say, you love him not so ill, to wish him here alone: howsoever you speak this, to feel other men's minds: Methinks, I could not die any where so contented, as in the king's company; his cause being just, and his quarrel honourable.

Will. That's more than we know.

Bates. Ay, or more than we should seek after; for we know enough, if we know we are the king's subjects; if his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

Will. But, if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make; when all those legs, and arms, and heads, chopped off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry all—We died at such a place; some swearing; some, crying for a surgeon; some,

1 Qualities.

upon their wives left poor behind them; some, upon the debts they owe; some, upon their children rawly¹ left. I am afraid there are few die well, that die in battle; for how can they charitably dispose of any thing, when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it; whom to disobey, were against all proportion of subjection.

K. Hen. So, if a son, that is by his father sent about merchandise, do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the imputation of his wickedness, by your rule, should be imposed upon his father that sent him: or if a servant, under his master's command, transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers, and die in many irreconcilable iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of the servant's perdition:—But this is not so: the king is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant: for they purpose not their death, when they purpose their services. Besides, there is no king, be his cause never so spotless, if it come to the arbitrement of swords, can try it out with all unspotted soldiers. Some, peradventure, have on them the guilt of premeditated and contrived murder; some, of beguiling virgins with the broken seals of perjury; some, making the wars their bulwark, that have before gored the gentle bosom of peace with pillage and robbery. Now, if these men have defeated the law, and outrun native punishment,² though they can outstrip men, they have no wings to fly from God: war is his vengeance; so that here men are punished, for before-breach of the king's laws, in now the king's quarrel: where they feared the death, they have borne life away; and where they would be safe, they perish: Then if they die unprovided, no more is the king guilty of it, than he was before guilty of those impieties for the which they are now visited. Every subject's duty is the king's; but every subject's soul is his own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick man in his bed, wash every mote out of his conscience: and dying so, death is to him advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost, wherein such preparation was gained: and, in him that escapes, it were not sin to think, that making God so free an offer, he let him outlive that day to see his greatness, and to teach others how they should prepare.

Will. 'Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill is upon his own head, the king is not to answer for it.

Bates. I do not desire he should answer for me; and yet I determine to fight lustily for him.

K. Hen. I myself heard the king say, he would not be ransomed.

Will. Ay, he said so, to make us fight cheerfully; but when our throats are cut, he may be ransomed, and we ne'er the wiser.

K. Hen. If I live to see it, I will never trust his word after.

Will. 'Mass, you'll pay³ him then! That's a perilous shot out of an elder gun, that a poor

1 Suddenly.

2 (In their own country.)

3 Bring to account.

and private displeasure can do against a monarch! you may as well go about to turn the sun to ice, with fanning in his face with a peacock's feather. You'll never trust his word after! come, 'tis a foolish saying.

K. Hen. Your reproof is something too round; I should be angry with you, if the time were convenient.

Will. Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

K. Hen. I embrace it.

Will. How shall I know thee again.

K. Hen. Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet: then, if ever thou dar'st acknowledge it, I will make it my quarrel.

W. Here's my glove; give me another of thine.

K. Hen. There.

Will. This will I also wear in my cap: if ever thou come to me and say, after to-morrow, *This is my glove*, by this hand, I will take thee a box on the ear.

K. Hen. If ever I live to see it, I will challenge

Will. Thou dar'st as well be hanged. [it.]

K. Hen. Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the king's company.

Will. Keep thy word: fare thee well.

Bates. Be friends, you English fools, be friends; we have French quarrels enough, if you could tell how to reckon.

K. Hen. Indeed, the French may lay twenty French crowns to one, they will beat us; for they bear them on their shoulders: But it is no English treason to cut French crowns; and, to-morrow the king himself will be a clipper.

[*Exeunt Soldiers.*]

Upon the king! let us our lives, our souls, Our debts, our careful wives, our children, and Our sins, lay on the king;—we must bear all. O hard condition! twin-born with greatness, Subjected to the breath of every fool, [ing!] Whose sense no more can feel but his own wringing! What infinite heart's ease must kings neglect, That private men enjoy?

And what have kings, that privates have not too, Save ceremony, save general ceremony? And what art thou, thou idle ceremony?

What kind of god art thou, that suffer'st more Of mortal griefs, than do thy worshippers? What are thy rents? what are thy comings-in? O ceremony, show me but thy worth!

What is the soul of adoration? Art thou aught else but place, degree, and form, Creating awe and fear in other men? Wherein thou art less happy being fear'd Than they in fearing.

What drink'st thou oft, instead of homage sweet, But poison'd flattery? O, besick, great greatness, And bid thy ceremony give thee cure! Think'st thou, the fiery fever will go out With titles blown from adulation?

Will it give place to flexure and low bending? Canst thou, when thou command'st the beggar's knee,

[dream, Command the health of it? No, thou proud That play'st so subtly with a king's repose; I am a king, that find thee; and I know,

'Tis not the balm, the scepter, and the ball, The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,

The enter-tissued robe of gold and pearl,

The farced¹ title running 'fore the king, The throne he sits on, nor the tide of pomp That beats upon the high shore of this world, No, not all these, thrice-gorgeous ceremony, Not all these, laid in bed majestical, Can sleep so soundly as the wretched slave; Who, with a body fill'd, and vacant mind, Gets him to rest, cramm'd with distressful bread; Never sees horrid night, the child of hell; But, like a lackey, from the rise to set, Sweats in the eye of Phoebus, and all night, Sleeps in Elysium; next day, after dawn, Doth rise, and help Hyperion² to his horse; And follows so the ever-running year With profitable labour, to his grave: And, but for ceremony, such a wretch, Winding up days with toil, and nights with sleep, Had the fore-hand and vantage of a king. The slave, a member of the country's peace, Enjoys it; but in gross brain little wots, [peace, What watch the king keeps to maintain the Whose hours the peasant best advantages.

Enter Erpingham.

E. My lord, your nobles, jealous of your absence, through your camp to find you. [sense,

K. Hen. Good old knight, Collect them altogether at my tent: I'll be before thee.

Erp. I shall do't, my lord. [*Exit.*]

K. Hen. O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts!

Possess them not with fear; take from them now The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers

Pluck their hearts from them!—Not to-day, O O not to-day, think not upon the fault [Lord, My father made in compassing the crown!

I Richard's body have interred new, And on it have bestowed more contrite tears,

Than from it issued forced drops of blood. Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay,

Who twice a day their wither'd hands hold up Toward heaven, to pardon blood; and I have built

Two chantries, where the sad and solemn priests Sing still for Richard's soul. More will I do:

Though all that I can do, is nothing worth; Since that my penitence comes after all,

Imploping pardon.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. My liege!

K. Hen. My brother Gloster's voice?—Ay; I know thy errand, I will go with thee:—

The day, my friends, and all things stay for me. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE FRENCH CAMP.

Enter Dauphin, Orleans, Rambures, and others.

Orl. The sun doth gild our armour; up, my lords!

Dau. Montez à cheval:—My horse! valet! laquay! ha!

Orl. O brave spirit!

Dau. Via!—les eaux et la terre—

Orl. Rien puis? l'air et le feu—

Dau. Ciel! cousin Orleans.—

¹ The inflated titles with which a king's name is introduced.

² The sun.

Enter Constable.

Now, my lord constable!

Con. Hark, how our steeds for present service neigh. [hides;

Dau. Mount them, and make incision in their That their hot blood may spin in English eyes, And doubt them with superfluous courage: Ha!

Ram. What, will you have them weep our horses' blood?

How shall we then behold their natural tears?

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The English are embattled, you French peers. [horse!

Con. To horse, you gallant princes! straight to Do but behold you poor and starved band, And your fair show shall suck away their souls, Leaving them but the shales² and husks of men. There is not work enough for all our hands; Scarce blood enough in all their sickly veins, To give each naked curtle-ax a stain, That our French gallants shall to-day draw out, And sheath for lack of sport: let us but blow on them,

The vapour of our valour will o'erturn them. 'Tis positive 'gainst all exceptions, lords, That our superfluous lackeys, and our peasants,— Who, in unnecessary action, swarm About our squares of battle,—were enough To purge this field of such a hilding³ foe; Though we, upon this mountain's basis by, Took stand for idle speculation: But that our honours must not. What's to say? A very little little let us do, And all is done. Then let the trumpets sound The tucket-sonnance,⁴ and the note to mount: For our approach shall so much dare the field, That England shall couch down in fear, and yield.

Enter Grandpré.

Grand. Why do you stay so long, my lords of France?

Yon island carrions, desperate of their bones, Ill-favour'dly become the morning field: Their ragged curtains⁵ poorly are let loose, And our air shakes them passing scornfully, Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggar'd host, And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps. Their horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks, With torch-staves in their hand: and their poor jades [hips; Lob down their heads, dropping the hides and The gum down-roping from their pale-dead eyes; And in their pale dull mouths the gimmal⁶ bit Lies foul with chew'd grass, still and motionless; And their executors, the knavish crows, Fly o'er them all, impatient for their hour. Description cannot suit itself in words, To demonstrate the life of such a battle In life so lifeless as it shows itself.

Con. They have said their prayers, and they stay for death.

Dau. Shall we go send them dinners, and fresh And give their fasting horses provender, [suits, And after fight with them?

Con. I stay but for my guard; On, to the field: I will the banner from a trumpet take,

1 Extinguish.

4 An introductory flourish.

2 Shells.

5 Colours.

3 Despicable

6 Ring.

And use it for my haste. Come, come away! The sun is high, and we outwear the day.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—THE ENGLISH CAMP.

Enter the English Host; Gloster, Bedford, Exeter, Salisbury, and Westmoreland.

Glo. Where is the king?

B. The king himself is rode to view their battle.

West. Of fighting men they have full three-score thousand. [fresh.

E. There's five to one; besides, they all are

S. God's arm strike with us! 'tis a fearful odds.

God be wi' you, princes all; I'll to my charge:

If we no more meet, till we meet in heaven,

Then joyfully,—my noble lord of Bedford,—

My dear lord Gloster,—and my good lord Exe-

ter,—

And my kind kinsman,—warriors all, adieu!

Bed. Farewell, good Salisbury: and good luck

go with thee!

Ex. Farewell, kind lord; fight valiantly to-day:

And yet I do thee wrong, to mind thee of it,

For thou art fram'd of the firm truth of valour.

[*Exit Salisbury.*

Bed. He is as full of valour as of kindness;

Princely in both.

West. O that we now had here

Enter King Henry.

But one ten thousand of those men in England,

That do no work to-day!

K. Hen. What's he that wishes so?

My cousin Westmoreland?—No, my fair cousin:

If we are mark'd to die, we are enough

To do our country loss; and if to live,

The fewer men, the greater share of honour.

O no, I pray thee, wish not one man more.

By Jove, I am not covetous for gold;

Nor care I, who doth feed upon my cost;

It yearns¹ me not, if men my garments wear;

Such outer things dwell not in my desires:

But, if it be a sin to covet honour,

I am the most offending soul alive.

No, 'faith, my coz, wish not a man from England:

By heaven! I would not lose so great an honour,

As one man more, methinks, would share from me,

For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one

more: [host,

Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my

That he, which hath no stomach to this fight,

Let him depart; his passport shall be made,

And crowns for convoy put into his purse:

We would not die in that man's company,

That fears his fellowship to die with us.

This day is call'd—the feast of Crispian:

He, that outlives this day, and comes safe home,

Will stand a tip-foe when this day is nam'd,

And rouse him at the name of Crispian:

He, that shall live this day, and see old age,

Will yearly on the vigil feast his friends,

And say—to-morrow is Saint Crispian:

Then will he strip his sleeve, and show his scars,

And say, these wounds I had on Crispin's day.

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,

But he'll remember, with advantages,

What feats hedid that day: Then shall our names,
Familiar in their mouths as household words,—
Harry the king, Bedford, and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster,—
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd:
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remember'd:
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he, to-day that sheds his blood with me,
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition¹:
And gentlemen in England, now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd, they were not
here; [speaks]
And hold their manhoods cheap, while any
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Enter Salisbury.

Sal. My sovereign lord, bestow yourself with speed:

The French are bravely in their battles set,
And will with all expedience charge on us.

K. Hen. All things are ready, if our minds be so.

West. Perish the man, whose mind is backward now!

K. Hen. Thou dost not wish more help from England, cousin?

W. By heaven, my liege, 'would you and I alone,
Without more help, might fight this battle out!

K. Hen. Why, now thou hast unwish'd five thousand men;

Which likes me better, than to wish us one.—
You know your places: God be with you all!

Tucket. Enter Montjoy.

Mont. Once more I come to know of thee,
king Harry,

If for thy ransom thou wilt now compound,
Before thy most assured overthrow:

For, certainly, thou art so near the gulf,
Thou needs must be engulft. Besides, in mercy,
The Constable desires thee—thou wilt mind²
Thy followers of repentance; that their souls
May make a peaceful and a sweet retire
From off these fields, where (wretches) their poor
Must lie and fester. [bodies]

K. Hen. Who hath sent thee now?

Mont. The Constable of France.

K. H. I pray thee, bear my former answer back;
Bid them achieve me, and then sell my bones.
Good heaven! why should they mock poor fel-
lows thus?

The man, that once did sell the lion's skin
While the beast lived, was killed with hunting
A many of our bodies shall, no doubt, [him]
Find native graves; upon the which, I trust,
Shall witness live in brass of this day's work;
And those that leave their valiant bones in
France, [hills],

Dying like men, though buried in your dung—
They shall be fam'd; for there the sun shall
greet them,

And draw their honours reeking up to heaven;
Leaving their earthly parts to choke your clime,
The smell whereof shall breed a plague in France.
Mark then abounding valour in our English;

1 Advance him to the rank of gentleman. 2 Remind.

That, being dead, like to the bullet's grazing,
Break out into a second course of mischief,
Killing in relapse of mortality.

Let me speak proudly:—Tell the Constable,
We are but warriors for the working-day:
Our gayness, and our gilt¹ are all besmirch'd²
With rainy marching in the painful field;
There's not a piece of feather in our host,
(Good argument, I hope, we shall not fly,)
And time hath worn us into slovenly:
But, by the mass, our hearts are in the trim:
And my poor soldiers tell me—yet ere night
They'll be in fresher robes; or they will pluck
The gay new coats o'er the French soldiers' heads;
And turn them out of service. If they do this,
(As, if God please, they shall,) my ransom then
Will soon be believ'd. Herald, save thou thy labour:
Come thou no more for ransom, gentle herald;
They shall have none, I swear, but these my joints:
Which if they have as I will leave 'em to them,
Shall yield them little, tell the Constable.

Mon. I shall, king Harry. And so fare thee well:
Thou never shalt hear herald any more. [Exit.]

K. Hen. I fear thou'lt once more come again
for ransom.

Enter the Duke of York.

York. My lord, most humbly on my knees I beg
The leading of the vaward.³

K. Hen. Take it, brave York.—Now, soldiers,
march away;—

And how thou pleasest, God, dispose the day!
[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

*Alarums: Excursions. Enter French Soldier,
Pistol, and Boy.*

Pist. Yield, cur.

Fr. Sol. Je pense, que vous estes le gentilhomme
de bonne qualité.

Pist. Quality, call you me?—Construe me, art
thou a gentleman? What is thy name? discuss.

Fr. Sol. O Seigneur Dieu!

Pist. O, Signieur Dew should be a gentleman:—
Perpend my words, O signieur Dew, and mark;—
O signieur Dew, thou diest on point of fox,⁴
Except, O signieur, thou do give to me
Egregious ransome.

Fr. Sol. O, prenez misericorde! ayez pitie de
moy.

P. Moy shall not serve, I will have forty moys⁵;
For I will fetch thy rim⁶ out at thy throat,
In drops of crimson blood.

Fr. Sol. Est il impossible d'eschapper la force
de ton bras.

Pist. Brass! cur!

Thou luxurious mountain goat,
Offer'st me brass?

Fr. Sol. O, pardonnez moy!

Pist. Say'st thou me so? is that a ton of moys?—
Come hither, boy; Ask me this slave in French,
What is his name.

Boy. Escoutez; Comment estes vous appelle?

Fr. Sol. Monsieur le Fer.

1 Gilding.

4 Sword.

2 Soiled.

5 A piece of money—moi d'or or

3 Vanguard.

6 Ransom. [moldore.]

Boy. He says, his name is—master Fer.

Pist. Master Fer, I'll fer him, and fir^k him, and ferret him:—discuss the same in French unto him.

Boy. I do not know the French for fer, and ferret, and fir^k.

Pist. Bid him préparé, for I will cut his throat.

Fr. Sol. *Que dit-il, monsieur?*

Boy. *Il me commande de vous dire que vous faites vous prest; car ce soldat icy est disposé toute à cette heure de couper vostre gorge.*

Pist. Ouy, couper gorge, par may foy, pesant. Unless thou give me crowns, brave crowns; Or mangled shalt thou be by this my sword.

Fr. Sol. *O, je vous supplie pour l'amour de Dieu, me pardonner! Je suis gentilhomme de bonne maison: gardez ma vie, et je vous donneray deux cents escus.*

Pist. What are his words?

Boy. He prays you to save his life; he is a gentleman of a good house, and, for his ransome, he will give you two hundred crowns.

Pist. Tell him,—my fury shall abate, and I The crowns will take.

Fr. Sol. *Petit monsieur, que dit-il?*

Boy. *Encore, qu'il est contre son jurement, de pardonner aucun prisonnier; néanmoins, pour les escus que vous l'avez promis, il est content de vous donner la liberté, le franchisement.*

Fr. Sol. *Sur mes genoux, je vous donne mille remerciemens; et je m'estime heureux que je suis tombé entre les mains d'un chevalier, je pense, le plus brave, valiant, et très distingué, seigneur d'Angleterre.*

Pist. Expound unto me, boy.

Boy. He gives you, upon his knees, a thousand thanks: and he esteems himself happy that he hath fallen into the hands of (as he thinks) the most brave, valorous, and thrice-worthy signieur of England.

P. As I suck blood, I will some mercy show.— Follow me, cur. [Exit Pistol.

Boy. *Suivez vous le grand capitaine.*

[Exit French Soldier.

I did never know so full a voice issue from so empty a heart: but the saying is true,—The empty vessel makes the greatest sound. Bar-dolph, and Nym, had ten times more valour than this roaring devil i' the old play, that every one may pare his nails with a wooden dagger; and they are both hanged; and so would this be, if he durst steal any thing adventurously. I must stay with the lackeys, with the luggage of our camp: the French might have a good prey of us, if he knew of it; for there is none to guard it but boys. [Exit.

SCENE V.

ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

Alarums. Enter Dauphin, Orleans, Bourbon, Constable, Rambures, and others.

Con. *O diable!* [perdu!

Orl. *O seigneur! — le jour est perdu, tout est*

perdu. Mort de ma vie! all is confounded, all!

Reproach and everlasting shame

1 Chastise.

Sits mocking in our plumes.—*O meschante fortune!*

Do not run away. [A short alarum.

Con. Why all our ranks are broke.

D. *O perdurable!* shame!—let's stab ourselves.

Be these the wretches that we play'd at dice for?

Orl. Is this the king we sent to for his ransome?

Bour. Shame and eternal shame, nothing but shame!

Let us die instant: Once more back again;

And he that will not follow Bourbon now,

Let him go hence, like a base pander.

Con. Disorder that hath spoil'd us, friend us

Let us, in heaps, go offer up our lives [now!

Unto these English, or else die with fame.

Orl. We are enough, yet living in the field,

To smother up the English in our throngs,

If any order might be thought upon.

B. The devil take order now; I'll to the throng;

Let life be short; else, shame will be too long.

[Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarums. Enter King Henry, and Forces; Exeter, and others.

K. Hen. Well, have we done, thrice valiant countrymen:

But all's not done, yet keep the French the field.

Exe. The duke of York commends him to your majesty. [this hour,

K. Hen. Lives he, good uncle? thrice within I saw him down; thrice up again, and fighting; From helmet to the spur, all blood he was.

E. In which array, (brave soldier,) doth he lie, Larding the plain: and, by his bloody side, (Yoke-fellow to his honour-owing wounds,)

The noble earl of Suffolk also lies,

Suffolk first died: and York, all haggled over,

Comes to him, where in gore he lay insteep'd,

And takes him by the beard; kisses the gashes,

That bloodily did yawn upon his face;

And cries aloud,—Tarry, dear cousin Suffolk!

My soul shall thine keep company to heaven:

Tarry, sweet soul, for mine, then fly a-breast;

As, in this glorious and well-foughten field,

We kept together in our chivalry!

Upon these words I came, and cheer'd him up:

He smil'd me in the face, rought² me his hand,

And, with a feeble gripe, says,—Dear my lord,

Commend my service to my sovereign.

So did he turn, and over Suffolk's neck

He threw his wounded arm, and kiss'd his lips;

And so, espous'd to death, with blood he seal'd

A testament of noble-ending love.

The pretty and sweet manner of it forc'd

Those waters from me, which I would have

But I had not so much of man in me, [stopp'd

But all my mother came into mine eyes,

And gave me up to tears.

K. Hen. I blame you not;

For, hearing this, I must perforce compound

With mistful eyes, or they will issue too.—

[Alarum.

But, hark! what new alarum is this same?

The French have reinforc'd their scatter'd

Then every soldier kill his prisoner; [men:—

Give the word through. [Exeunt.

1 Lasting.

2 Reached.

SCENE VII. ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarums. Enter Fluellen and Gower.

Flu. Kill the poys and the luggage! 'tis expressly against the law of arms: 'tis as arrant a piece of knavery, mark you now, as can be offer'd in the 'orld: In your conscience now, is it not?

Gow. 'Tis certain, there's not a boy left alive; and the cowardly rascals, that ran from the battle, have done this slaughter: besides, they have burned and carried away all that was in the king's tent; wherefore the king most worthily, hath caused every soldier to cut his prisoner's throat. O, 'tis a gallant king!

Flu. Ay, he was porn at Monmouth, Captain Gower. What call you the town's name, where Alexander the pig was born?

Gow. Alexander the great.

Flu. Why, I pray you, is not pig, great? The pig, or the great, or the mighty, or the huge, or the magnanimous, are all one reckonings, save the phrase is a little variations.

Gow. I think, Alexander the great was born in Macedon; his father was called—Philip of Macedon; as I take it.

Flu. I think it is in Macedon, where Alexander is porn. I tell you, captain,—If you look in the maps of the 'orld, I warrant, you shall find, in the comparisons between Macedon and Monmouth, that the situations, look you, is both alike. There is a river in Macedon; and there is also moreover a river at Monmouth: It is called Wye, at Monmouth; but it is out of my prains, what is the name of the other river; but 'tis all one, 'tis so like as my fingers is to my fingers, and there is salmons in both. If you mark Alexander's life well, Harry of Monmouth's life is come after it indifferent well; for there is figures in all things. Alexander, you know, in his rages, and his furies, and his wraths, and his cholers, and his moods, and his displeasures, and his indignations, and also being a little intoxicates in his prains, did, in his ales and his angers, look you, kill his pest friend, Clytus.

Gow. Our king is not like him in that; he never killed any of his friends.

Flu. It is not well done, mark you now, to take tales out of my mouth, ere it is made an end and finished. I speak but in the figures and comparisons of it: As Alexander is kill his friend Clytus, being in his ales and his cups; so also Harry Monmouth, being in his right wits and his goot judgments, is turn away the fat knight with the great pelly-doublet; he was full of jests, and gipes, and knaveries, and mocks; I am forget his name.

Gow. Sir John Falstaff.

Flu. That is he: I can tell you there is goot men born at Monmouth.

Gow. Here comes his majesty.

Alarum. Enter King Henry, with a Part of the English Forces; Warwick, Gloster, Exeter, and others.

K. Hen. I was not angry since I came to France Until this instant.—Take a trumpet, herald; Hide thou unto the horsemen on yon hill; If they will fight with us, bid them come down,

Or void the field; they do offend our sight: If they'll do neither, we will come to them; And make them skirr¹ away as swift as stones Enforced from the old Assyrian slings: Besides, we'll cut the throats of those we have; And not a man of them, that we shall take, Shall taste our mercy:—Go, and tell them so.

Enter Montjoy.

Exc. Here comes the herald of the French, my liege. [be.]

Glo. His eyes are humbler than they us'd to
K. Hen. How now, what means this, herald! know'st thou not,

That I have fin'd these bones of mine for ransom? Com'st thou again for ransom?

Mont. No, great king,

I come to thee for charitable license,
That we may wander o'er this bloody field,
To book our dead, and then to bury them;
To sort our nobles from our common men;
For many of our princes (woe the while!)
Lie drown'd and soak'd in mercenary blood;
(So do our vulgar drench their peasant limbs
In blood of princes;) and their wounded steeds
Fret fetlock deep in gore, and, with wild rage,
Yerk out their armed heels at their dead masters,
Killing them twice. O, give us leave, great king,
To view the field in safety, and dispose
Of their dead bodies.

K. Hen. I tell thee truly, herald,

I know not, if the day be ours or no;
For yet a many of your horsemen peer,
And gallop o'er the field.

Mont. The day is yours.

K. Hen. Praised be God, and not our strength
for it!—

What is this castle call'd, that stands hard by?

Mont. They call it—Agincourt.

K. H. Then call we this—the field of Agincourt,
Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

Flu. Your grandfather of famous memory,
an't please your majesty, and your great uncle
Edward, the plack prince of Wales, as I have
read in the chronicles, fought a most prave pattle
here in France.

K. Hen. They did, Fluellen.

Flu. Your majesty says very true: If your
majesty is remembered of it, the Welshmen did
goot service in a garden where leeks did grow,
wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps; which
your majesty knows, to this hour is an honour-
able padge of the service; and, I do believe,
your majesty takes no scorn to wear the leek
upon Saint Tavy's day.

K. Hen. I wear it for a memorable honour:
For I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.

Flu. All the water in Wye cannot wash your
majesty's Welsh plood out of your pody, I can
tell you that: Got pless it and preserve it, as
long as it pleases his grace, and his majesty too!

K. Hen. Thanks, good my countryman.

Flu. I am your majesty's countryman, I care
not who know it; I will confess it to all the
'orld: I need not be ashamed of your majesty,
so long as your majesty is an honest man.

K. H. God keep me so—our heralds go with him.

Bring me just notice of the numbers dead
On both our parts.—Call yonder fellow hither.

[*Points to Williams. Exeunt Montjoy and others.*]

Exe. Soldier, you must come to the king.

K. Hen. Soldier, why wear'st thou that glove in thy cap?

Will. An't please your majesty, 'tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be alive.

K. Hen. An Englishman?

Will. An't please your majesty, a rascal, that swagger'd with me last night: who, if 'a live, and ever dare to challenge this glove, I have sworn to take him a box o' the ear: or, if I can see my glove in his cap, (which he swore, as he was a soldier, he would wear, if alive,) I will strike it out soundly.

K. Hen. What think you, Captain Fluellen? is it fit this soldier keep his oath?

Flu. He is a craven¹ and a villain else, an't please your majesty, in my conscience.

K. H. It may be, his enemy is a gentleman of great sort,² quite from the answer of his degree.

Flu. Though he be as good a gentleman as the devil is, as Lucifer and Beelzebub himself, it is necessary, look your grace, that he keep his vow and his oath: if he be perjured, see you now, his reputation is as arrant a villain, and a Jack-sauce,³ as ever his plack shoe trod upon the earth, in my conscience.

K. Hen. Then keep thy vow, sirrah, when thou meet'st the fellow.

Will. So I will, my liege, as I live.

K. Hen. Who servest thou under?

Will. Under Captain Gower, my liege.

Flu. Gower is a good captain: and is good knowledge and literature in the wars.

K. Hen. Call him hither to me, soldier.

Will. I will, my liege. [Exit.]

K. Hen. Here, Fluellen; wear thou this favour for me, and stick it in thy cap: When Alençon and myself were down together, I plucked this glove from his helm: if any man challenge this, he is a friend to Alençon, and an enemy to our person; if thou encounter any such, apprehend him, an thou dost love me.

Flu. Your grace does me as great honours as can be desired in the hearts of his subjects: I would fain see the man, that has but two legs, that shall find himself aggrieved at this glove, that is all; but I would fain see it once.

K. Hen. Knowest thou Gower?

Flu. He is my dear friend, an please you.

K. Hen. Pray thee, go seek him, and bring him to my tent.

Flu. I will fetch him. [Exit.]

K. Hen. My lord of Warwick,—and my brother Follow Fluellen closely at the heels: [Gloster, The glove, which I have given him for a favour, May, haply, purchase him a box o' the ear; It is the soldier's; I, by bargain, should Wear it myself. Follow, good cousin Warwick; If that the soldier strike him, (as, I judge By his blunt bearing, he will keep his word,) Some sudden mischief may arise of it; For I do know Fluellen valiant, And, touch'd with choler, hot as gunpowder,

And quickly will return an injury:
Follow, and see there be no harm between them.—
Go you with me, uncle of Exeter. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VIII.

BEFORE KING HENRY'S PAVILION.

Enter Gower and Williams.

Will. I warrant, it is to knight you, captain.

Enter Fluellen.

Flu. Captain, I peseech you now, come apace to the king: there is more goot toward you, peradventure, than is in your knowledge to dream of.

Will. Sir, know you this glove?

Flu. Know the glove; I know the glove is a glove.

Will. I know this; and thus I challenge it. [Strikes him.]

Flu. 'Sblud, an arrant traitor, as any's in the universal 'orld, or in France, or in England,

Gow. How now, sir! you villain!

Will. Do you think I'll be forsworn?

Flu. Stand away, Captain Gower; I will give treason his payment into p lows, I warrant you.

Will. I am no traitor.

Flu. That's a lie in thy throat.—I charge you in his majesty's name, apprehend him; he's a friend of the Duke of Alençon's.

Enter Warwick and Gloster.

War. How now, how now! what's the matter?

Flu. My lord of Warwick, here is (praised be Got for it!) a most contagious treason come to light, look you, as you shall desire in a summer's day. Here is his majesty.

Enter King Henry and Exeter.

K. Hen. How now, what's the matter?

Flu. My liege, here is a villain and a traitor, that, look your grace, has struck the glove which your majesty is take out of the helmet of Alençon.

Will. My liege, this was my glove; here is the fellow of it: and he, that I gave it to in change, promised to wear it in his cap; I promised to strike him, if he did: I met this man with my glove in his cap, and I have been as good as my word.

Flu. Your majesty hear now, (saving your majesty's manhood,) what an arrant, rascally, beggarly, knave it is: I hope your majesty is pear me testimony, and witness, and avouchments, that this is the glove of Alençon, that your majesty is give me, in your conscience now.

K. Hen. Give me thy glove, soldier; Look, here is the fellow of it. 'Twas I, indeed, thou promised'st to strike; and thou hast given me most bitter terms.

Flu. An please your majesty, let his neck answer for it, if there is any martial law in the 'orld.

K. Hen. How canst thou make me satisfaction?

Will. All offences, my liege, come from the heart: never came any from mine, that might offend your majesty.

K. Hen. It was ourself thou didst abuse.

¹ Coward.

² High rank.

³ Saucy Jack.

Will. Your majesty came not like yourself: you appeared to me but as a common man; witness the night, your garments, your lowliness; and what your highness suffered under that shape, I beseech you, take it for your own fault, and not mine: for had you been as I took you for, I made no offence; therefore, I beseech your highness, pardon me.

K. Hen. Here, uncle Exeter, fill this glove with crowns,

And give it to this fellow.—Keep it, fellow; And wear it for an honour in thy cap, Till I do challenge it.—Give him the crowns:—And, captain, you must needs be friends with him.

Flu. By this day and this light, the fellow has mettle enough in his pelly:—Hold, there is twelve pence for you, and I pray you to serve Got, and keep you out of prawls, and prabbles, and quarrels, and dissensions, and, I warrant you, it is the petter for you.

Will. I will none of your money.

Flu. It is with a goot will; I can tell you, it will serve you to mend your shoes: Come, wherefore should you be so pashful? your shoes is not so goot: 'tis a goot silling, I warrant you, or I will change it.

Enter an English Herald.

K. Hen. Now, herald; are the dead number'd?

H. Here is the number of the slaughter'd French. [*Delivers a paper.*]

K. Hen. What prisoners of good sort are taken, uncle?

E. Charles duke of Orleans, nephew to the king; John duke of Bourbon, and lord Bouciqualt; Of other lords, and barons, knights, and 'squires, Full fifteen hundred, besides common men.

K. Hen. This note doth tell me of ten thousand French, [number,

That in the field lie slain: of princes in this And nobles bearing banners, there lie dead, One hundred twenty-six: added to these, Of knights, esquires, and gallant gentlemen, Eight thousand and four hundred; of the which, Five hundred were but yesterday dubb'd knights: So that, in these ten thousand they have lost, There are but sixteen hundred mercenaries; The rest are—princes, barons, lords, knights, And gentlemen of blood and quality. [*'squires,* The names of those their nobles that lie dead,— Charles De-la-bret, high constable of France; Jacques of Chatillon, admiral of France; The master of the cross-bows, lord Rambures; Great-master of France, the brave Sir Guischart Dauphin;

John duke of Alençon; Antony duke of Brabant, The brother to the duke of Burgundy; And Edward duke of Bar; of lusty earls, Grandpré, and Roussi, Fauconberg, and Foix, Beaumont, and Marle, Vaudemont, and Lestrale, Here was a royal fellowship of death!— Where is the number of our English dead?

[*Herald presents another paper.* Edward the duke of York, the earl of Suffolk, Sir Richard Ketly, Davy Gam, esquire: None else of name: and, of all other men, But five-and-twenty. O God, thy arm was here, And not to us, but to thy arm alone,

Ascribe we all.—When, without stratagem, But in plain shock, and even play of battle, Was ever known so great and little loss, On one part and on the other?—Take it, Lord, For it is only thine!

Exe.

'Tis wonderful!

K. H. Come, go we in procession to the village: And be it death proclaimed through our host, To boast of this, or take that praise from God, Which is his only.

Flu. Is it not lawful, an please your majesty, to tell how many is killed?

K. H. Yes, captain, but with this acknowledgment, That God fought for us. [ment,

Flu. Yes, my conscience, he did us great goot.

K. Hen. Do we all holy rites;

Let there be sung *Non nobis*, and *Te Deum*,

The dead with charity enclos'd in clay,

We'll then to Calais; and to England then;

Where ne'er from France arriv'd more happy men. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Vouchsafe to those that have not read the story,

That I may prompt them: and of such as have, I humbly pray them to admit the excuse

Of time, of numbers, and due course of things, Which cannot in their huge and proper life

Be here presented. Now we bear the king Toward Calais: grant him there; there seen,

Heave him away upon your winged thoughts, Athwart the sea: Behold, the English beach

Pales in the flood with men, with wives, and boys, Whose shouts and claps out-voice the deep-

mouth'd sea, Which, like a mighty whifferl' fore the king,

Seems to prepare his way: so let him land; And, solemnly, see him set on to London.

So swift a pace hath thought, that even now You may imagine him upon Blackheath:

Where that his lords desire him, to have borne His bruised helmet, and his bended sword,

Before him, through the city: he forbids it, Being free from vainness and self-glorious pride;

Giving full trophy, signal and ostent, Quite from himself, to God. But now behold,

In the quick forge and working-house of thought, How London doth pour out her citizens!

The mayor, and all his brethren, in best sort,— Like to the senators of the antique Rome,

With the plebeians swarming at their heels,— Go forth, and fetch their conquering Cæsar in:

As, by a lower but by loving likelihood,² Were now the general of our gracious empress³

(As, in good time, he may,) from Ireland coming, Bringing rebellion broach'd⁴ on his sword,

How many would the peaceful city quit, To welcome him? much more, and much more

cause, Did they this Harry. Now in London place him; (As yet the lamentation of the French

1 An officer who walks first in processions.

2 In like manner.

3 The earl of Essex in the reign of Q. Elizabeth,

4 Transfixed.

Invites the king of England's stay at home:
The emperor's coming in behalf of France,
To order peace between them;) and omit
All the occurrences, whatever chanc'd,
Till Harry's back-return again to France;
There must we bring him; and myself have play'd
The interim, by remembering you—'tis past.
Then brook abridgement; and your eyes advance
After your thoughts, straight back again to
France. [Exit.]

SCENE I.

FRANCE. AN ENGLISH COURT OF GUARD.

Enter Fluellen and Gower.

Gow. Nay, that's right; but why wear you your leek to day? Saint Davy's day is past.

Flu. There is occasions and causes why and wherefore in all things; I will tell you, as my friend, Captain Gower. The rascally, beggarly, prugging knave, Pistol,—which you and yourself, and all the 'orld, know to be no petter than a fellow, look you now, of no merits,—he is come to me, and prings me pread and salt yesterday, look you, and bid me eat my leek; it was in a place where I could not breed no contentions with him; but I will be so sold as to wear it in my cap till I see him once again, and then I will tell him a little piece of my desires.

Enter Pistol.

Gow. Why, here he comes, swelling like a turkey-cock.

Flu. 'Tis no matter for his swellings, nor his turkey-cocks.—Pless you, ancient Pistol! you scurvy knave, pless you!

Pist. Ha! art thou Bedlam? dost thou thirst, base Trojan,

To have me fold up Parca's fatal web?

Hence! I am qualmish at the smell of leek.

Flu. I peseech you heartily, scurvy knave, at my desires, and my requests, and my petitions, to eat, look you, this leek; because, look you, you do not love it, nor your affections, and your appetites, and your digestions, does not agree with it, I would desire you to eat it.

Pist. Not for Cadwallader and all his goats.

Flu. There is one goat for you. [Strikes him.] Will be so goot, scald knave, as eat it?

Pist. Base Trojan, thou shalt die.

Flu. You say very true, scald knave, when Got's will is: I will desire you to live in the mean time, and eat your victuals; come, there is sauce for it. [Striking him again.] You called me yesterday, mountain-squire; but I will make you to-day a squire of low degree. I pray you, fall to: if you can mock a leek, you can eat a leek. [him.]

Gow. Enough, captain; you have astonished

Flu. I say, I will make him eat some part of my leek, or I will peat his pate four days:—Pite, I pray you; it is goot for your green wound, and your ploody coxcomb.

Pist. Must I bite?

Flu. Yes, certainly; and out of doubt, and out of questions too, and ambiguities.

Pist. By this leek, I will most horribly revenge; I eat, and eke I swear—

Flu. Eat, I pray you: Will you have some more sauce to your leek? there is not enough leek to swear by.

Pist. Quiet thy cudgel; thou dost see, I eat.

Flu. Much goot do you, scald knave, heartily. Nay, 'pray you, throw none away; the skin is goot for your proken coxcomb. When you take occasions to see leeks hereafter, I pray you mock at them; that is all.

Pist. Good.

Flu. Ay, leeks is goot:—Hold you, there is a groat to heal your pate.

Pist. Me a groat.

Flu. Yes, verily, and in truth, you shall take it; or I have another leek in my pocket, which you shall eat.

Pist. I take thy groat, in earnest of revenge.

Flu. If I owe you anything, I will pay you in cudgels; you shall be a woodmonger, and buy nothing of me but cudgels. Heaven be wi' you, and keep you, and heal your pate. [Exit.]

Pist. All hell shall stir for this.

Gow. Go, go; you are a counterfeit cowardly knave. Will you mock at an ancient tradition,—begun upon an honourable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour,—and dare not avouch in your deeds any of your words? I have seen you gleeking! and galling at this gentleman twice or thrice. You thought, because he could not speak English in the native garb, he could not therefore handle an English cudgel: you find it otherwise; and henceforth, let a Welsh correction teach you a good English condition.² Fare ye well. [Exit.]

Pist. Doth fortune play the huswife³ with me now?

News have I that my Nell is dead i' the spittal,⁴ And there my rendezvous is quite cut off.

Old I do wax; and from my weary limbs Honour is cudgell'd. Well, pimp will I turn, And something lean to cutpurse of quick hand. To England will I steal, and there I'll steal: And patches will I get unto these scars, And swear, I got them in the Gallia wars. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

TROYES IN CHAMPAGNE. AN APARTMENT IN THE FRENCH KING'S PALACE.

Enter at one door, King Henry, Bedford, Gloucester, Exeter, Warwick, Westmoreland, and other Lords; at another, the French King, Queen Isabel, the Princess Katharine, Lords, Ladies, &c., the Duke of Burgundy, and his Train.

K. Hen. Peace to this meeting, wherefore we are met!

Unto our brother France,—and to our sister, Health and fair time of day:—joy and good wishes To our most fair and princely cousin Katharine; And (as a branch and member of this royalty, By whom this great assembly is contriv'd,) We do salute you, duke of Burgundy;

And, princes French, and peers, health to you all!

Fr. K. Right joyous are we to behold your face,

1 Scoffing.

3 Jilt.

2 Disposition.

4 Hospital.

Most worthy brother England; fairly met:—
So are you, princes English, every one.

Q. Isa. So happy be the issue, brother England,
Of this good day, and of this gracious meeting,
As we are now glad to behold your eyes;
Your eyes, which hitherto have borne in them
Against the French, that met them in their bent,
The fatal balls of murdering basilisks;
The venom of such looks, we fairly hope,
Have lost their quality; and that this day
Shall change all griefs, and quarrels, into love.

K. Hen. To cry amen to that, thus we appear.

Q. Isa. You English princes all, I dosalute you.

Bur. My duty to you both, on equal love,
Great kings of France and England! That I
have labour'd

With all my wits, my pains, and strong endea-
To bring your most imperial majesties [yours,
Unto this bar¹ and royal interview,
Your mightiness on both parts best can witness,
Since then my office hath so far prevail'd,
That face to face, and royal eye to eye,
You have congreeted; let it not disgrace me,
If I demand, before this royal view,

What rub, or what impediment, there is,
Why, that the naked, poor, and mangled peace,
Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births,
Should not, in this best garden of the world,
Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?
Alas! she hath from France too long been chas'd;
And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps,
Corrupting in its own fertility,

Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart,
Unpruned dies: her hedges even-pleach'd,²—
Like prisoners wildly over-grown with hair,
Put forth disorder'd twigs: her fallow leas,
The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory,
Doth root upon; while that the coulter³ rusts,
That should deracinate⁴ such savagery:

The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth
The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover,
Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected rank,
Conceives by idleness; and nothing teems,
But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burs,
Losing both beauty and utility.

And as our vineyards, fallows, meads, and
hedges,

Defective in their natures, grow to wildness;
Even so our houses, and ourselves, and children,
Have lost, or do not learn, for want of time,
The sciences that should become our country;
But grow, like savages,—as soldiers will,
That nothing do but meditate on blood,—
To swearing, and stern looks, diffus'd⁵ attire,
And every thing that seems unnatural,
Which to reduce into our former favour,⁶
You are assembled: and my speech entreats,
That I may know the let,⁷ why gentle peace
Should not expel these inconveniences,
And bless us with her former qualities.

K. Hen. If, duke of Burgundy, you would the
peace,

Whose want gives growth to the imperfections
Which you have cited, you must buy that peace

With full accord to all our just demands;
Whose tenours and particular effects
You have, enschedul'd briefly, in your hands.

Bur. The king hath heard them; to the which,
There is no answer made. [as yet,

K. Hen. Well then, the peace,
Which you before so urg'd, lies in his answer.

Fr. King. I have but with a cursory eye
O'er-glanced the articles: pleaseth your grace
To appoint some of your council presently
To sit with us once more, with better heed
To re-survey them, we will, suddenly,
Pass our accept and peremptory answer.

K. H. Brother, we shall.—Go, uncle Exeter,—
And brother Clarence,—and you, brother Glos-
ter,—

[king:
Warwick,—and Huntingdon,—go with the
And take with you free power to ratify,
Augment, or alter, as your wisdoms best
Shall see advantageous for our dignity,
Any thing in, or out of, our demands;
And we'll consign thereto.—Will you, fair sister,
Go with the princes, or stay here with us?

Q. I. Our gracious brother, I will go with them;
Haply, a woman's voice may do some good,
When articles, too nicely urg'd, be stood on.

K. Hen. Yet leave our cousin Katharine
here with us;

She is our capital demand, compris'd
Within the fore-rank of our articles.

Q. Isa. She hath good leave.

[*Exeunt all but Henry, Katharine,
and her Gentlewoman.*

K. Hen. Fair Katharine, and most fair!
Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms,
Such as will enter at a lady's ear,
And plead his love-suit to her gentle heart?

Kath. Your majesty shall mock at me; I
cannot speak your England.

K. Hen. O fair Katharine, if you will love
me soundly with your French heart, I will be
glad to hear you confess it brokenly with your
English tongue. Do you like me, Kate?

Kath. *Pardonnez moy*, I cannot tell vat is—
like me.

K. Hen. An angel is like you, Kate; and you
are like an angel.

Kath. *Que dit-il? que je suis semblable à les
anges?*

Alice. *Ouy, vrayment (sauf vostre grace),
ainsi dit-il.*

K. Hen. I said so, dear Katharine; and I
must not blush to affirm it.

Kath. *O! les langues des hommes sont pleines
des tromperies.*

K. Hen. What says she, fair one? that the
tongues of men are full of deceits?

Alice. *Ouy; dat de tongues of de mans is be
full of deceits: dat is de princess.*

K. Hen. The princess is the better English-
woman. I'faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy
understanding: I am glad, thou canst speak no
better English; for, if thou couldst, thou wouldst
find me such a plain king, that thou wouldst
think, I had sold my farm to buy my crown. I
know no ways to mince it in love, but directly
to say—I love you: then, if you urge me further
than to say—Do you, in faith? I wear out my

1 Barrier.

2 Smooth interwoven hedges.

3 Ploughshare.

4 Root up.

5 Extravagant.

6 Appearance.

7 Hindrance.

suit. Give me your answer ; i'faith, do ; and so clap hands and a bargain : How say you, lady?

Kath. *Sauf votre honneur*, me understand well.

K. Hen. Marry, if you would put me to verses, or to dance for your sake, Kate, why you undid me : for the one, I have neither words nor measure ; and for the other, I have no strength in measure,¹ yet a reasonable measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leap-frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on my back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken, I should quickly leap for a wife. Or, if I might buffet for my love, or bound my horse for her favours, I could lay on like a butcher, and sit like a jack-an-apes, never off ; but, I cannot look greenly,² nor gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in protestation ; only down-right oaths, which I never use till urged, nor never break for urging. If thou canst love a fellow of this temper, Kate, whose face is not worth sun-burning, that never looks in his glass for love of any thing he sees there, let thine eye be thy cook. I speak to thee plain soldier : If thou canst love me for this, take me : if not, to say to thee—that I shall die, is true ; but—for thy love, no ; yet I love thee too. And while thou livest, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy³ ; for he perforce must do thee right, because he hath not the gift to woo in other places : for these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favours—they do always reason themselves out again. What ! a speaker is but a prater ; a rhyme is but a ballad. A good leg will fall⁴ ; a straight back will stoop ; a black beard will turn white ; a curled pate will grow bald ; a fair face will wither ; a full eye will wax hollow : but a good heart, Kate, is the sun and moon ; or rather the sun, and not the moon ; for it shines bright, and never changes, but keeps his course truly. If thou would have such a one, take me : And take me, take a soldier ; take a soldier, take a king : And what sayest thou then to my love ? speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.

Kath. Is it possible dat I should love de enemy of France ?

K. Hen. No ; it is not possible, you should love the enemy of France, Kate ; but in loving me, you should love the friend of France ; for I love France so well, that I will not part with a village of it ; I will have it all mine : and, Kate, when France is mine, and I am yours, then yours is France, and you are mine.

Kath. I cannot tell vat is dat.

K. Hen. No, Kate ? I will tell thee in French ; which, I am sure, will hang upon my tongue like a new-married wife about her husband's neck, hardly to be shook off. *Quand j'ay la possession de France, & quand vous avez la possession de moi*, (let me see, what then ? "Saint Dennis be my speed !)—*donc vostre est France, & vous estes mienne*. It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom, as to speak so much more French : I shall never move thee in French, unless it be to laugh at me.

Kath. *Sauf votre honneur, le François que vous parlez, est meilleur que l'Anglois lequel je parle*.

K. Hen. No, 'faith, is't not, Kate : but thy speaking of my tongue, and I thine, most truly falsely, must needs be granted to be much at one. But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English ? Canst thou love me ?

Kath. I cannot tell.

K. Hen. Can any of your neighbours tell, Kate ? I'll ask them. Come, I know thou lovest me : and at night when you come into your closet, you'll question this gentlewoman about me ; and I know, Kate, you will to her, dispraise those parts in me, that you love with your heart : but, good Kate, mock me mercifully ; the rather, gentle princess, because I love thee truly. How answer you, *la plus belle Catharine du monde, mon très chere et divine déesse* ?

Kath. Your majesté ave fausse French enough to deceive de most sage demoiselle dat is en France.

K. Hen. Now, fie upon my false French ! By mine honour, in true English, I love thee, Kate : by which honour I dare not swear, thou lovest me ; yet my blood begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding the poor and untempering effect of my visage. Now beshrew my father's ambition ! he was always thinking of civil wars ; therefore was I created with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that, when I come to woo ladies, I fright them. But, in faith, Kate, the elder I wax, the better I shall appear : my comfort is, that old age, that ill layer-up of beauty, can do no more spoil upon my face : thou hast me, if thou hast me, at the worst ; and thou shalt wear me, if thou wear me, better and better ; and therefore tell me, most fair Katharine, will you have me ? Put off your maiden blushes ; avouch the thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress ; take me by the hand, and say—Harry of England, I am thine : which word thou shalt no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud—England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Henry Plantagenet is thine ; who, though I speak it before his face, if he be not fellow with the best king, thou shalt find the best king of good fellows. Come, your answer in broken musick ; for thy voice is musick, and thy English broken : therefore, queen of all, Katharine, break thy mind to me in broken English, Wilt thou have me ?

Kath. Dat is, as it shall please de roy mon pere.

K. Hen. Nay, it will please him well, Kate ; it shall please him, Kate.

Kath. Den it shall also content me.

K. Hen. Upon that I will kiss your hand, and I call you—my queen.

Kath. *Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez ma foy, je ne veux point que vous abaissez vostre grandeur, en baissant la main d'une vostre indigne serviteur ; excusez moy, je vous supplie, mon très puissant seigneur*.

K. Hen. Then I will kiss your lips, Kate.

Kath. *Les dames, & demoiselles, pour estre baisées devant leur nopces, il n'est pas la coutume de France*.

1 In dancing.

3 Who had never before loved.

2 Awkwardly.

4 Fall away.

K. Hen. Madam my interpreter, what says she?

Alice. Dat it is not be de fashion pour les ladies of France,—I cannot tell what is *baiser*, en English.

K. Hen. To kiss.

Alice. Your majesty *entendre* better que moy.

K. Hen. It is not the fashion for the maids in France to kiss before they are married, would she say?

Alice. Ouy, vrayment.

K. Hen. O, Kate, nice customs curt'sy to great kings. Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined within the weak list¹ of a country's fashion: we are the makers of manners, Kate; and the liberty that follows our places, stops the mouths of all find-faults; as I will do yours, for upholding the nice fashion of your country, in denying me a kiss: therefore, patiently, and yielding. [*Kissing her.*] You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate: there is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them, than in the tongues of the French council; and they should sooner persuade Harry of England, than a general petition of monarchs. Here comes your father.

Enter the French King and Queen, Burgundy, Bedford, Gloster, Exeter, Westmoreland, and other French and English Lords.

Bur. God save your majesty! my royal cousin, teach you our princess English?

K. Hen. I would have her learn, my fair cousin, how perfectly I love her; and that is good English.

Bur. Is she not apt?

K. Hen. Our tongue is rough, coz; and my condition² is not smooth: so that, having neither the voice nor the heart of flattery about me, I cannot so conjure up the spirit of love in her, that he will appear in his true likeness.

Bur. Pardon the frankness of my mirth, if I answer you for that. If you conjure up love in her in his true likeness, he must appear blind: Can you blame her then, being a maid yet rosed over with the virgin crimson of modesty, if she deny the appearance of a blind boy in her seeing self?

K. Hen. This moral ties me over to time; and so I will catch the fly, your cousin, in the latter end, and she must be blind too.

Bur. As love is, my lord, before it loves.

K. Hen. It is so: and you may, some of you, thank love for my blindness; who cannot see, many a fair French city, for one fair French maid that stands in my way. Shall Kate be my wife?

Fr. King. So please you.

K. Hen. I am content.

Fr. King. We have consented to all terms of reason.

K. Hen. Is't so, my lords of England?

West. The king hath granted every article: His daughter, first; and then, in sequel, all, According to their firm proposed natures.

Exe. Only, he hath not yet subscribed this:—Where your majesty demands,—That the king of France having any occasion to write for matter

of grant, shall name your highness in this form, and with this addition, in French,—*Notre très cher filz Henry roy d'Angleterre, héritier de France*; and thus in Latin,—*Preclarissimus filius noster Henricus, rex Angliæ, & hæres Franciæ*.

Fr. K. Nor this I have not, brother, so denied, But your request shall make me let it pass.

K. Hen. I pray you, then, in love and dear alliance,

Let that one article rank with the rest:

And, thereupon, give me your daughter.

Fr. King. Take her, fair son; and from her blood raise up

Issue to me: that the contending kingdoms Of France and England, whose very shores look pale

With envy of each other's happiness, [tion
May cease their hatred; and this dear conjunc-
Plant neighbourhood and Christian-like accord
In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance
His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair
France.

All. Amen!

K. Hen. Now welcome, Kate:—and bear me witness all,

That here I kiss her as my sovereign queen.

[*Flourish.*

Q. Isa. God, the best maker of all marriages, Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one! As man and wife, being two, are one in love, So be there 'twixt your kingdoms such a spousal, That never may ill office, or fell jealousy, Which troubles oft the bed of blessed marriage, Thrust in between the paction of these kingdoms, To make divorce of their incorporate league; That English may as French, French English-

men,
Receive each other!—God speak this Amen!

All. Amen!

K. Hen. Prepare we for our marriage:—on which day,

My lord of Burgundy, we'll take your oath, And all the peers', for surety of our leagues.—Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me! And may our oaths well kept and prosp'rous be!

[*Exeunt.*

Enter Chorus.

Thus far, with rough, and all unable pen,

Our bending author hath pursu'd the story;

In little room confining mighty men,

Mangling by starts the full course of their glory.

Small time, but, in that small, most greatly liv'd

This star of England: fortune made his sword;

By which the world's best garden¹ he achiev'd,

And of it left his son imperial lord.

Henry the Sixth, in infant bands crown'd king

Of France and England, did this king succeed;

Whose state so many had the managing,

That they lost France, and made his England bleed:

Which oft our stage hath shown; and for their sake,

In your fair minds let this acceptance take.

[*Exit.*

First Part of King Henry VI.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE SIXTH.
DUKE OF GLOSTER, *Uncle to the King, and Protector.*
DUKE OF BEDFORD, *Uncle to the King, and Regent of France.*
THOMAS BEAUFORT, *Duke of Exeter, great Uncle to the King.*
HENRY BEAUFORT, *great Uncle to the King, Bishop of Winchester, and afterwards Cardinal.*
JOHN BEAUFORT, *Earl of Somerset; afterwards Duke.*
RICHARD PLANTAGENET, *eldest Son of Richard, late Earl of Cambridge; afterwards Duke of York.*
EARL OF WARWICK.
EARL OF SALISBURY.
EARL OF SUFFOLK.
LORD TALBOT, *afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury.*
JOHN TALBOT, *his Son.*
EDWARD MORTIMER, *Earl of March.*
Mortimer's Keeper, and a Lawyer.
SIR JOHN FASTOLFE.
SIR WILLIAM LUCY.
SIR WILLIAM GLANSDALE.
SIR THOMAS GARGRAVE.

Mayor of London.
WOODVILLE, *Lieutenant of the Tower.*
VERNON, *of the White Rose, or York Faction.*
BASSET, *of the Red Rose, or Lancaster Faction.*
CHARLES, *Dauphin, and afterwards King of France.*
REIGNIER, *Duke of Anjou, and titular King of Naples.*
DUKE OF BURGUNDY.
DUKE OF ALENÇON.
Governor of Paris.
Bastard of Orleans.
Master-Gunner of Orleans, and his Son.
General of the French Forces in Bourdeaux.
A French Sergeant.
A Porter.

MARGARET, *Daughter to Reignier; afterwards married to King Henry.*
COUNTESS OF AUVERGNE.
JOAN LA PUELLE, *commonly called JOAN OF ARC.*

Lords, Warders of the Tower, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and several Attendants, both on the English and French.

SCENE.—Partly in England, and partly in France.

Act First.

SCENE I.—WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Dead March. Corpse of King Henry the Fifth discovered, lying in state; attended on by the Dukes of Bedford, Gloster, and Exeter; the Earl of Warwick, the Bishop of Winchester, Heralds, &c.

Bed. Hung be the heavens with black, yield day to night!

Comets, importing change of times and states,
Brandish your crystal tresses in the sky;
And with them scourge the bad revolting stars,
That have consented unto Henry's death!
Henry the Fifth, too famous to live long!
England ne'er lost a king of so much worth.

Glo. England ne'er had a king until his time.
Virtue he had, deserving to command: [beams;
His brandish'd sword did blind men with his
His arms spread wider than a dragon's wings;
His sparkling eyes replete with wrathful fire,
More dazzled and drove back his enemies,
Than mid-day sun, fierce bent against their faces.
What should I say? his deeds exceed all speech,
He ne'er lift up his hand, but conquered.

E. We mourn in black; Why mourn we not in
Henry is dead, and never shall revive: [blood?
Upon a wooden coffin we attend;
And death's dishonourable victory

We with our stately presence glorify,
Like captives bound to a triumphant car.
What? shall we curse the planets of mishap,
That plotted thus our glory's overthrow?
Or shall we think the subtle-witted French
Conjurers and sorcerers, that, afraid of him,
By magick verses¹ have contrived his end?

Win. He was a king bless'd of the King of kings.
Unto the French, the dreadful judgment day
So dreadful will not be, as was his sight.
The battles of the Lord of Hosts he fought:
The church's prayers made him so prosperous.

Glo. The church! where is it? Had not churchmen pray'd,

His thread of life had not so soon decay'd:
None do you like but an effeminate prince,
Whom like a schoolboy, you may overawe.

Win. Gloster, whate'er we like, thou art protector;

And lookest to command the prince, and realm.
Thy wife is proud; she holdeth thee in awe,
More than religion or than churchmen may.

Glo. Name not religion, for thou lov'st the flesh,
And ne'er throughout the year to church thou
Except it be to pray against thy foes. [go'st,

Bed. Cease, cease, these jars, and rest your
minds in peace!

Let's to the altar:—Heralds, wait on us:—
Instead of gold, we'll offer up our arms;

¹ Metrical charms.

Since arms avail not, now that Henry's dead.—
 Posterity, await for wretched years, [suck ;
 When at their mother's moist eyes babes shall
 Our isle be made a nourish¹ of salt tears,
 And none but women left to wail the dead.—
 Henry the Fifth ! thy ghost I invoke ;
 Prosper this realm, keep it from civil broils !
 Combat with adverse planets in the heavens !
 A far more glorious star thy soul will make,
 Than Julius Cæsar, or bright—

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My honourable lords, health to you all !
 Sad tidings bring I to you out of France,
 Of loss, of slaughter, and discomfiture ;
 Guienne, Champagne, Rheims, Orleans,
 Paris, Guysors, Poitiers, are all quite lost.

Bed. What say'st thou, man, before dead
 Henry's corse ?

Speak softly ; or the loss of those great towns
 Will make him burst his lead, and rise from
 death.

Glo. Is Paris lost ? is Rotien yielded up ?
 If Henry were recall'd to life again, [ghost.
 These news would cause him once more yield the
Ewe. How were they lost ? what treachery was
 us'd ?

M. No treachery ; but want of men and money.
 Among the soldiers this is muttered,—
 That here you maintain several factions ;
 And, whilst a field should be despatch'd and
 You are disputing of your generals. [fought,
 One would have ling'ring wars with little cost ;
 Another would fly swift, but wanteth wings ;
 A third man thinks, without expence at all,
 By guileful fair words peace may be obtain'd.
 Awake, awake, English nobility !
 Let not sloth dim your honours, new-begot :
 Cropp'd are the flower-de-luces in your arms ;
 Of England's coat one half is cut away.

Ewe. Were our tears wanting to this funeral,
 These tidings would call forth her flowing tides.

Bed. Me they concern ; regent I am of France :—
 Give me my steel'd coat, I'll fight for France.—
 Away with these disgraceful wailing robes !
 Wounds I will lend the French, instead of eyes,
 To weep their intermissive² miseries.

Enter another Messenger.

2 Mess. Lords, view these letters, full of bad
 mischance,

France is revolted from the English quite ;
 Except some petty towns of no import :
 The dauphin Charles is crowned king in Rheims ;
 The bastard of Orleans with him is join'd ;
 Reignier, duke of Anjou, doth take his part ;
 The duke of Alençon flieth to his side.

Ewe. The dauphin crowned king ! all fly to him !
 O, whither shall we fly from this reproach ?

Glo. We will not fly, but to our enemies'
 throats :—

Bedford, if thou be slack, I'll fight it out. [ness ?
Bed. Gloster, why doubt'st thou of my forward-
 An army have I muster'd in my thoughts,
 Wherewith already France is over-run.

Enter a third Messenger.

3 Mess. My gracious lords,—to add to your
 laments,

1 Nurse. *2 With short intermission.*

Wherewith you now bedew king Henry's hearse,—
 I must inform you of a dismal fight,
 Betwixt the stout lord Talbot and the French.
Win. What ! wherein Talbot overcame ? is't so ?
3 Mess. O, no ; wherein lord Talbot was o'er-
 thrown ;

The circumstance I'll tell you more at large.
 The tenth of August last, this dreadful lord,
 Retiring from the siege of Orleans,
 Having full scarce six thousand in his troop,
 By three and twenty thousand of the French
 Was round encompassed and set upon ;
 No leisure had he to enrank his men ;
 He wanted pikes to set before his archers ;
 Instead whereof, sharp stakes, pluck'd out of
 They pitched in the ground confusedly [hedges,
 To keep the horsemen off from breaking in.
 More than three hours the fight continued ;
 Where valiant Talbot, above human thought,
 Enacted wonders with his sword and lance.
 Hundreds he sent to death, and none durst
 stand him ;

Here, there, and every where, enrag'd he slew ;
 The French exclaim'd, the devil was in arms ;
 All the whole army stood agaz'd on him :
 His soldiers, spying his undaunted spirit,
 A Talbot ! a Talbot ! cried out amain,
 And rush'd into the bowels of the battle.
 Here had the conquest fully been sealed up,
 If Sir John Fastolfe had not play'd the coward.
 He being in the vaward (plac'd behind
 With purpose to relieve and follow them),
 Cowardly fled, not having struck one stroke.
 Hence grew the general wreck and massacre ;
 Enclosed were they with their enemies :
 A base Walloon, to win the dauphin's grace,
 Thrust Talbot with a spear into the back ;
 Whom all France, with their chief assembled
 strength,

Durst not presume to look once in the face.

Bed. Is Talbot slain ? then will I slay myself,
 For living idly here, in pomp and ease,
 Whilst such a worthy leader, wanting aid,
 Unto his dastard foe-men is betray'd.

3 Mess. Oh no, he lives ; but is took prisoner,
 And lord Scales with him, and lord Hungerford ;
 Most of the rest slaughter'd, or took likewise.

Bed. His ransom there is none but I shall pay :
 I'll hale the dauphin headlong from his throne,
 His crown shall be the ransom of my friend ;
 Four of their lords I'll change for one of ours.—
 Farewell, my masters ; to my task will I ;
 Bonfires in France forthwith I am to make,
 To keep our great saint George's feast withal :
 Ten thousand soldiers with me I will take,
 Whose bloody deeds shall make all Europe quake.

3 Mess. So you had need ; for Orleans is besieg'd ;
 The English army is grown weak and faint :
 The Earl of Salisbury craveth supply,
 And hardly keeps his men from mutiny,
 Since they, so few, watch such a multitude.

Ewe. Remember, lords, your oaths to Henry
 Either to quell the dauphin utterly, [sworn ;
 Or bring him in obedience to your yoke.

Bed. I do remember it ; and here take leave,
 To go about my preparation. [Exit.

Glo. I'll to the Tower, with all the haste I can,
 To view the artillery and munition ;

And then I will proclaim young Henry king.

[Exit.

Eve. To Eltham will I, where the young king is,
Being ordain'd his special governor;
And for his safety there I'll best devise. [Exit.

W. Each hath his place and function to attend:
I am left out; for me nothing remains.
But long I will not be Jack-out-of-office;
The king from Eltham I intend to send,
And sit at chiefest stern of public weal. [Exit.

SCENE II.—FRANCE. BEFORE ORLEANS.

*Enter Charles, with his Forces; Alençon,
Reignier, and others.*

C. Mars his true moving, even as in the heavens,
So in the earth, to this day is not known:
Late did he shine upon the English side;
Now we are victors, upon us he smiles.
What towns of any moment, but we have?
At pleasure here we lie, near Orleans;
The whiles, the famish'd English, like pale ghosts,
Faintly besiege us one hour in a month.

A. They want their porridge, and their fat bull—
Either they must be dieted like mules, [beeves:
And have their provender tyed to their mouths,
Or piteous they will look, like drowned mice.

Reig. Let's raise the siege: Why live we idly
Talbot is taken, whom we wont to fear: [here?
Remaineth none but mad-brain'd Salisbury;
And he may well in fretting spend his gall,
Nor men, nor money, hath he to make war.

C. Sound, sound alarum; we will rush on them.
Now for the honour of the forlorn French:
Him I forgive my death, that killeth me,
When he sees me go back one foot, or fly. [Exit.

Alarums; Excursions; afterwards a Retreat.

Re-enter Charles, Alençon, Reignier, and others.

Ch. Who ever saw the like? what men have I?—
Dogs! cowards! dastards!—I would ne'er have
But that they left me 'midst my enemies. [fled,

Reig. Salisbury is a desperate homicide;
He fighteth as one weary of his life.
The other lords, like lions wanting food,
Do rush upon us as their hungry prey.¹

Al. Froissard, a countryman of ours, records,
England all Olivers and Rowlands bred,
During the time Edward the Third did reign.
More truly now may this be verified;
For none but Samsons and Goliasses,
It sendeth forth to skirmish. One to ten!
Lean raw-bon'd rascals! who would e'er suppose
They had such courage and audacity?

Char. Let's leave this town; for they are
hair-brain'd slaves,

And hunger will enforce them to be more eager:
Of old I know them; rather with their teeth
They'll tear down, than forsake the siege.

Reig. I think by some odd gimmals² or device,
Their arms are set, like clocks, still to strike on;
Else ne'er could they hold out so, as they do.
By my consent, we'll e'en let them alone.

Alen. Be it so.

Enter the Bastard of Orleans.

Bast. Where's the prince dauphin? I have
news for him.

1 & c. The prey for which they are hungry. *2* Machine.

Char. Bastard of Orleans, thrice welcome to us.
Bast. Methinks, your looks are sad, your cheer
appall'd;

Hath the late overthrow wrought this offence?
Be not dismay'd, for succour is at hand:
A holy maid hither with me I bring,
Which, by a vision sent to her from heaven,
Ordained is to raise this tedious siege,
And drive the English forth the bounds of
The spirit of deep prophecy she hath, [France.
Exceeding the nine sibyls of old Rome;
What's past, and what's to come, she can descry.
Speak, shall I call her in? Believe my words,
For they are certain and unfallible.

Char. Go, call her in: [Exit Bastard.] But,
first, to try her skill,
Reignier, stand thou as dauphin in my place:
Question her proudly, let thy looks be stern:—
By this means shall we sound what skill she
hath. [Retires.

Enter La Pucelle, Bastard of Orleans, and others.

Reig. Fair maid, is't thou wilt do these won-
d'rous feats? [me?—

Puc. Reignier, is't thou that thinkest to beguile
Where is the dauphin?—come, come from behind;
I know thee well, though never seen before.
Be not amaz'd, there's nothing hid from me:
In private will I talk with thee apart:—
Stand back, you lords, and give us leave a while.

Reig. She takes upon her bravely at first dash.

Puc. Dauphin, I am by birth a shepherd's
My wit untrain'd in any kind of art. [daughter,
Heaven, and our lady gracious, hath it pleas'd
To shine on my contemptible estate:

Lo, whilst I waited on my tender lambs,
And to sun's parching heat display'd my cheeks,
Our lady deigned to appear to me;

And, in a vision full of majesty,
Will'd me to leave my base vocation,
And free my country from calamity:

Her aid she promis'd and assur'd success:
In complete glory she reveal'd herself;

And, whereas I was black and swart before,
With those clear rays which she infus'd on me,
That beauty am I bless'd with, which you see.

Ask me what question thou canst possible,
And I will answer unprenudicated:

My courage try by combat, if thou dar'st,
And thou shalt find that I exceed my sex.
Resolve on this²: Thou shalt be fortunate,
If thou receive me for thy warlike mate.

Char. Thou hast astonish'd me with thy high
Only this proof I'll of thy valour make,— [terms;
In single combat thou shalt buckle with me:

And, if thou vanquishest, thy words are true;
Otherwise, I renounce all confidence. [sword,

Puc. I am prepared: here is my keen-edg'd
Deck'd with five flower-de-luces on each side;
The which at Touraine, in saint Katharine's
churchyard,

Out of a deal of old iron I chose forth.

Char. Then come on, damsel, I fear no woman.

Puc. And, while I live, I'll ne'er fly from a
man. [They fight.

Ch. Stay, stay thy hands; thou art an amazon,
And fightest with the sword of Deborah.

1 Countenance.

2 Be persuaded of.

Puc. Christ's mother helps me, else I were too weak. [help me:]

Char. Whoe'er helps thee, 'tis thou that must My heart and hands thou hast at once subdu'd. Excellent Pucelle, if thy name be so, Let me thy servant, and not sovereign, be; 'Tis the French dauphin sueth to thee thus.

Puc. I must not yield to any rites of love, For my profession's sacred from above: When I have chased all thy foes from hence, Then will I think upon a recompence. [thrall.

Char. Meantime, look gracious on thy prostrate

Reig. My lord, methinks, is very long in talk.

Alen. He may mean more than we poor men do know.

R. My lord, where are you? what devise you on? Shall we give over Orleans, or no?

Puc. Why, no, I say, distrustful recreants! Fight till the last gasp; I will be your guard.

Char. What she says, I'll confirm; we'll fight it out.

Puc. Assign'd am I to be the English scourge. This night the siege assuredly I'll raise:

Expect saint Martin's summer¹ halcyon days, Since I have entered into these wars,

Glory is like a circle in the water, Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself,

Till, by broad spreading, it disperse to nought. With Henry's death, the English circle ends;

Dispersed are the glories it included. Now am I like that proud insulting ship,

Which Caesar and his fortune bare at once. *Char.* Was Mahomet inspired with a dove?

Thou with an eagle art inspired then. Helen, the mother of great Constantine,

Nor yet saint Philip's daughters,² were like thee. Bright star of Venus, fall'n down on the earth,

How may I reverently worship thee?

Alen. Leave off delays, and let us raise the siege.

Reig. Woman, do what thou canst to save our honours;

Drive them from Orleans, and be immortaliz'd. *Char.* Presently we'll try:—Come, let's away about it:

No prophet will I trust if she prove false. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

LONDON. HILL BEFORE THE TOWER.

Enter, at the Gates, the Duke of Gloster, with his Serving-men, in blue coats.

Glo. I am come to survey the Tower this day; Since Henry's death, I fear, there is conveyance.³

Where be these warders, that they wait not here? Open the gates; Gloster it is that calls.

[Serving-men knock.

1 *Ward.* [Within.] Who is there that knocks so imperiously?

1 *Serv.* It is the noble duke of Gloster.

2 *Ward.* [Within.] Whoe'er he be, you may not be let in.

Ser. Answer you so the lord protector, villains?

1 *Ward.* [Within.] Heaven protect him! so we answer him:

We do no otherwise than we are will'd.

Glo. Who will'd you? or whose will stands, but mine:

There's none protector of the realm but I. Break up the gates, I'll be your warrantize: Shall I be flouted thus by dunghill grooms?

Servants rush at the Tower Gates. Enter, to the Gates, Woodville, the Lieutenant.

Wood. [Within.] What noise is this? what traitors have we here?

Glo. Lieutenant, is it you, whose voice I hear? Open the gates; here's Gloster, that would enter.

Wood. [Within.] Have patience, noble duke; I may not open;

The Cardinal of Winchester forbids: From him I have express commandment,

That thou, nor none of thine, shall be let in. *Glo.* Faint-hearted Woodville, prizest him fore

Arrogant Winchester? that haughty prelate, [me: Whom Henry, our late sovereign, ne'er could brook?

Thou art no friend to Heaven, or to the king: Open the gates, or I'll shut thee out shortly.

1 *Serv.* Open the gates unto the lord protector; Or we'll burst them open, if that you come not quickly.

Enter Winchester, attended by a Train of Servants in tawny coats.

Win. How now, ambitious Humphrey? what means this? [shut out?

Gl. Piel'd¹ priest, dost thou command me to be *Win.* I do, thou most usurping proditor,²

And not protector of the king or realm. *Glo.* Stand back: thou manifest conspirator;

Thou that contriv'dst to murder our dead lord: I'll canvass³ thee in thy broad cardinal's hat,

If thou proceed in this thy insolence. [foot. *Win.* Nay, stand thou back, I will not budge a

This be Damascus, be thou curs'd Cain, To slay thy brother Abel, if thou wilt.

G. I will not slay thee, but I'll drive thee back: Thy scarlet robes, as a child's bearing cloth

I'll use, to carry thee out of this place. *W.* Do what thou dar'st; I beard thee to thy face.

G. What? am I dar'd, and bearded to my face?— Draw, men, for all this privileged place.

Blue-coats to tawny coats. Priest, beware your beard;

[Gloster and his men attack the Bishop. I mean to tug it, and to cuff you soundly:

Under my feet I stamp thy cardinal's hat; In spite of pope or dignities of church,

Here by the cheeks I'll drag thee up and down. *W.* Gloster, thou'lt answer this before the pope.

Glo. Winchester goose, I cry—a rope! a rope! Now beat them hence, Why do you let them stay?—

Thee I'll chase hence, thou wolf in sheep's array.— Out, tawny coats!—out, scarlet hypocrite!

Here a great Tumult. In the midst of it, enter the Mayor of London and Officers.

May. Fie, lords! that you, being supreme magistrates,

Thus contumeliously should break the peace! *Glo.* Peace, mayor; thou know'st little of my wrongs:

1 Bald. 2 Traitor. 3 Shake.

1 Prosperity after misfortune.

2 The four daughters of Philip mentioned in the Acts.

3 Theft.

Here's Beaufort, that regards nor God nor king,
Hath here distrain'd the Tower to his use.

Win. Here's Gloster too, a foe to citizens;
One that still motions war, and never peace,
O'ercharging your free purses with large fines;
That seeks to overthrow religion,
Because he is protector of the realm;
And would have armour here out of the Tower,
To crown himself king, and suppress the prince.

Glo. I will not answer thee with words, but blows. [*Here they skirmish again.*]

May. Nought rests for me, in this tumultuous
But to make open proclamation:— [strife,
Come, officer; as loud as e'er thou canst.

Off. All manner of men, assembled here in arms
this day, against God's peace and the king's,
we charge and command you, in his highness'
name, to repair to your several dwelling-
places; and not to wear, handle, or use, any
sword, weapon, or dagger, henceforward,
upon pain of death.

Glo. Cardinal, I'll be no breaker of the law:
But we shall meet, and break our minds at large.
Win. Gloster, we'll meet; to thy dear cost,
be sure:

Thy heart-blood I will have, for this day's work.

M. I'll call for clubs,¹ if you will not away:—
This cardinal is more haughty than the devil.

Glo. Mayor, farewell; thou dost but what
thou may'st.

Win. Abominable Gloster! guard thy head;
For I intend to have it ere long. [*Exeunt.*]

May. See the coast clear, and then we will
depart.—

Good Heaven! that nobles should such stomachs
bear!

I myself fight not once in forty year. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—FRANCE. BEFORE ORLEANS.

*Enter on the Walls, the Master Gunner and
his Son.*

M. Gun. Sirrah, thou know'st how Orleans
is besieg'd;

And how the English have the suburbs won.

Son. Father, I know; and oft have shot at
Howe'er, unfortunate, I miss'd my aim, [them,

M. Gun. But now thou shalt not. Be thou
rul'd by me:

Chief master-gunner am I of this town;

Something I must do, to procure me grace:

The prince's espials² have informed me,
How the English, in the suburbs close intrench'd,

Wont, through a secret grate of iron bars

In yonder tower, to overpeer the city;

And thence discover, how, with most advantage,
They may vex us, with shot, or with assault.

To intercept this inconvenience,

A piece of ordnance 'gainst it I have plac'd;

And fully even these three days have I watch'd,
If I could see them. Now, boy, do thou watch,

For I can stay no longer.

If thou spy'st any, run and bring me word;

And thou shalt find me at the governor's. [*Exit.*]

Son. Father, I warrant you; take you no care;
I'll never trouble you, if I may spy them.

¹ Peace-officers armed with clubs. ² Spies.

*Enter, in an upper Chamber of a Tower, the
Lords Salisbury and Talbot, Sir William
Glensdale, Sir Thomas Gargrave, and others.*

Sal. Talbot, my life, my joy, again return'd!

How wert thou handled, being prisoner?

Or by what means got'st thou to be releas'd?

Discourse, I prythee, on this turret's top.

Tal. The duke of Bedford had a prisoner,
Called—the brave lord Ponton de Sentrailles:
For him I was exchang'd and ransom'd.

But with a baser man of arms by far,

Once, in contempt, they would have barter'd me:

Which I, disdainingly, scorn'd; and craved death

Rather than I would be so pil'd esteem'd.¹

In fine, redeem'd I was as I desir'd. 'Tis heart!

But, O! the treacherous Fastolf wounds my

Whom with my bare fists I would execute,

If I now had him brought into my power.

Sal. Yet tell'st thou not, how thou wert enter-
tain'd. [*Talbot tells of his treatment.*] [taunts.

Tal. With scoffs, and scorns, and contumelious
In open market-place produc'd they me,
To be a public spectacle to all;

Here, said they, is the terror of the French,
The scare-crow that affrights our children so.

Then broke I from the officers that led me;

And with my nails digg'd stones out of the

To hurl at the beholders of my shame. [ground,

My grisly countenance made others fly;

None durst come near for fear of sudden death.

In iron walls they deem'd me not secure; [spread,

So great fear of my name 'mongst them was

That they suppos'd, I could rend bars of steel,

And spurn in pieces posts of adamant;

Wherefore a guard of chosen shot I had,

That walk'd about me every minute-while;

And if I did but stir out of my bed,

Ready they were to shoot me to the heart.

S. I grieve to hear what torments you endur'd;

But we will be reveng'd sufficiently.

Now is it supper-time in Orleans:

Here through this grate, I can count every one,

And view the Frenchmen how they fortify;

Let us look in, the sight will much delight thee.—

Sir Thomas Gargrave, and Sir William Glans-

Let me have your express opinions, [dale,

Where is best place to make our battery next.

Gar. I think at the north gate; for there stand
lords.

Glan. And I, here, at the bulwark of the bridge.

Tal. For aught I see, this city must be famish'd,
Or with light skirmishes enfeebled.

[*Shot from the Town. Salisbury and
Sir Thomas Gargrave fall.*]

S. O Lord, have mercy on us, wretched sinners!

Gar. O Lord, have mercy on me, woeful man!

Tal. What chance is this, that suddenly hath
cross'd us?

Speak, Salisbury; at least, if thou canst speak;

How far'st thou, mirror of all martial men?

One of thy eyes, and thy cheek's side struck

Accurs'd tower! accurs'd fatal hand, [off!—

That hath contriv'd this woeful tragedy!

In thirteen battles Salisbury o'ercame:

Henry the fifth he first train'd to the wars,

Whilst any trump did sound, or drum struck up,

His sword did ne'er leave striking in the field.

¹ So stripped of honours.

Yet liv'st thou, Salisbury? though thy speech doth fail,

One eye thou hast, to look to heaven for grace:
The sun with one eye vieweth all the world.—
Heaven, be thou gracious to none alive,
If Salisbury wants mercy at thy hands:—
Bear hence his body, I will help to bury it.—
Sir Thomas Gargrave, hast thou any life?
Speak unto Talbot; nay, look up to him.
Salisbury, cheer thy spirit with this comfort;
Thou shalt not die, whiles—

He beckons with his hand, and smiles on me;
As who should say, *When I am dead and gone,
Remember to avenge me on the French.*—
Plantagenet, I will; and Nero-like,
Play on the lute, beholding the towns burn:
Wretched shall France be only in my name.

[*Thunder heard; afterwards an Alarum.*
What stir is this? What tumult's in the heavens?
Whence cometh this alarum, and the noise?

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, my lord, the French have gathered head:

The dauphin, with one Joan la Pucelle joined,—
A holy prophetess, new risen up,—
Is come with a great power to raise the siege.

[*Salisbury groans.*

Tal. Hear, hear, how dying Salisbury doth
It irks his heart, he cannot be reveng'd. [*groan!*
Frenchmen, I'll be a Salisbury to you:—

Pucelle or puzzel, dolphin or dogfish,
Your hearts I'll stamp out with my horse's heels,
And make a quagmire of your mingled brains.
Convey me Salisbury into his tent,
And then we'll try what dastard Frenchmen dare.

[*Exeunt, bearing out the Bodies.*

SCENE V.

BEFORE ONE OF THE GATES OF ORLEANS.

Alarum. Skirmishings. Talbot pursueth the Dauphin, and driveth him in: then enter Joan la Pucelle, driving Englishmen before her. Then enter Talbot.

Tal. Where is my strength, my valour, and my force?

Our English troops retire, I cannot stay them;
A woman, clad in armour, chaseth them.

Enter La Pucelle.

Here, here she comes:—I'll have a bout with thee;

Blood will I draw on thee, I thou art a witch,
And straightway give thy soul to him thou serv'st.

Puc. Come, come, 'tis only I that must disgrace thee. [*They fight.*

Tal. Heavens, can you suffer hell so to prevail?
My breast I'll burst with straining of my courage,
And from my shoulders crack my arms asunder,
But I will chāstise this high-minded strumpet.

Puc. Talbot, farewell; thy hour is not yet
I must go victual Orleans forthwith. [*come:*
O'ertake me, if thou canst; I scorn thy strength.
Go, go, cheer up thy hunger-starved men;
Help Salisbury to make his testament:

1 A superstition that drawing a witch's blood released the person from her power.

This day is ours, as many more shall be.

[*Pucelle enters the Town, with Soldiers.*

Tal. My thoughts are whirled like a potter's wheel;

I know not where I am, nor what I do:
A witch, by fear, not force, like Hannibal,
Drives back our troops, and conquers as she lists;
So bees with smoke, and doves with noisome stench,

Are from their hives, and houses, driven away.
They called us, for our fierceness, English dogs;
Now, like to whelps, we crying run away.

[*A short Alarum.*

Hark, countrymen! either renew the fight,
Or tear the lions out of England's coat;
Renounce your soil, give sheep in lions' stead:
Sheep run not half so timorous from the wolf,
Or horse, or oxen, from the leopard,
As you fly from your oft-subdued slaves.

[*Alarum. Another Skirmish.*

It will not be:—Retire into your trenches:
You all consented unto Salisbury's death,
For none would strike a stroke in his revenge.—
Pucelle is entered into Orleans,

In spite of us, or aught that we could do.
O, would I were to die with Salisbury!

The shame hereof will make me hide my head.

[*Alarum. Retreat. Exeunt Talbot and his Forces, &c.*

SCENE VI.—THE SAME.

Enter on the Walls, Pucelle, Charles, Reignier, Alençon, and Soldiers.

Puc. Advance our waving colours on the walls;
Rescu'd is Orleans from the English wolves:—
Thus Joan la Pucelle hath perform'd her word.

C. Divinest creature, bright Astrea's daughter,
How shall I honour thee for this success?

Thy promises are like Adonis' gardens,
That one day bloom'd, and fruitful were the next.
France, triumph in thy glorious prophetess!—
Recover'd is the town of Orleans:

More blessed hap did ne'er befall our state.

Reig. Why ring not out the bells throughout the town?

Dauphin, command the citizens make bonfires,
And feast and banquet in the open streets,
To celebrate the joy that heaven hath given us.

Alen. All France will be replete with mirth and joy, [*men.*

When they shall hear how we have played the

C. 'Tis Joan, not we, by whom the day is won;
For which, I will divide my crown with her:
And all the priests and friars in my realm

Shall, in procession, sing her endless praise.
A stately pyramid to her I'll rear,

Than Rhodope's, or Memphis', ever was:
In memory of her, when she is dead,

Her ashes, in an urn more precious
Than the rich jewel'd coffer of Darius,
Transported shall be at high festivals
Before the kings and queens of France.

No longer on saint Denis will we cry,
But Joan la Pucelle shall be France's saint.

Come in; and let us banquet royally,
After this golden day of victory.

[*Flourish. Exeunt.*

Act Second.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter to the Gates, a French Sergeant, and two Sentinels.

Serg. Sirs, take your places, and be vigilant: If any noise, or soldier, you perceive, Near to the walls, by some apparent sign, Let us have knowledge at the court of guard.¹

1 Sent. Sergeant, you shall. [*Exit Sergeant.*]

Thus are poor servitors

(When others sleep upon their quiet beds) Constrain'd to watch in darkness, rain, and cold.

Enter Talbot, Bedford, Burgundy, and Forces, with Scaling-ladders; their Drums beating a dead March.

T. Lord regent,—and redoubted Burgundy,— By whose approach, the regions of Artois, Walloon, and Picardy, are friends to us.—

This happy night the Frenchmen are secure, Having all day carous'd and banqueted:

Embrace we then this opportunity; As fitting best to quittance their deceit, Contriv'd by art and baleful sorcery.

Bed. Coward of France!—how much he wrongs Despairing of his own arm's fortitude, [his fame, To join with witches, and the help of hell.

Bur. Traitors have never other company.— But what's that Pucelle, whom they term so pure?

Tal. A maid, they say.

Bed. A maid! and be so martial!

Bur. Pray heaven, she prove not masculine ere If underneath the standard of the French, [long; She carry armour, as she hath begun.

Tal. Well, let them practice and converse with spirits:

God is our fortress; in whose conquering name, Let us resolve to scale their flinty bulwarks.

Bed. Ascend, brave Talbot; we will follow thee.

Tal. Not all together; better far, I guess, That we do make our entrance several ways; That, if it chance the one of us do fail, The other yet may rise against their force.

Bed. Agreed; I'll to yon corner.

Bur. And I to this.

Tal. And here will Talbot mount, or make his grave.—

Now, Salisbury! for thee, and for the right Of English Henry, shall this night appear How much in duty I am bound to both.

[*The English scale the walls, crying St George! a Talbot! and all enter by the Town.*]

Sent. [Within.] Arm, arm! the enemy doth make assault!

The French leap over the Walls in their shirts. Enter, several ways, Bastard, Alençon, Reigner, half ready, and half unready.

Al. How now, my lords? what, all unready so?

Bast. Unready? ay, and glad we 'scap'd so well.

Reig. 'Twas time, I trow, to wake and leave our beds,

Hearing alarums at our chamber doors.

Alen. Of all exploits since first I follow'd arms, Ne'er heard I of a warlike enterprise

¹ Guard-room.

More venturous or desperate than this.

Bast. I think, this Talbot be a fiend of hell.

R. If not of hell, the heavens, sure, favour him.

A. Here cometh Charles; I marvel how he sped.

Enter Charles and La Pucelle.

Bast. Tut! holy Joan was his defensive guard.

Char. Is this thy cunning, thou deceitful dame?

Didst thou at first, to flatter us withal,

Make us partakers of a little gain,

That now our loss might be ten times so much?

Puc. Wherefore is Charles impatient with his friend?

At all times will you have my power alike?

Sleeping, or waking, must I still prevail,

Or will you blame and lay the fault on me?—

Improvident soldiers, had your watch been good,

This sudden mischief never could have fall'n.

Char. Duke of Alençon, this was your default;

That, being captain of the watch to-night,

Did look no better to that weighty charge.

Al. Had all your quarters been as safely kept,

As that whereof I had the government,

We had not been thus shamefully surpris'd.

Bast. Mine was secure.

Reig. — And so was mine, my lord.

Ch. And, for myself, most part of all this night,

Within her quarter, and mine own precinct,

I was employed in passing to and fro,

About relieving of the sentinels: — [in?] —

Then how, or which way, should they first break

Puc. Question, my lords, no further of the case,

How, or which way; 'tis sure, they found some

place

But weakly guarded, where the breach was made.

And now there rests no other shift but this,—

To gather our soldiers, scatter'd and dispers'd,

And lay new platforms¹ to endamage them.

Alarm. *Enter an English soldier, crying*

A Talbot! A Talbot! They fly, leaving their clothes behind.

Sold. I'll be so bold to take what they have left.

The cry of Talbot serves me for a sword;

For I have loaden me with many spoils,

Using no other weapon but his name. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—ORLEANS. WITHIN THE TOWN.

Enter Talbot, Bedford, Burgundy, a Captain, and others.

Bed. The day begins to break, and night is fled, Whose pitchy mantle over-veil'd the earth.

Here sound retreat, and cease our hot pursuit.

[*Retreat sound.*]

Tal. Bring forth the body of old Salisbury;

And here advance it in the market-place,

The middle centre of this cursed town.—

Now I have paid my vow unto his soul

For every drop of blood was drawn from him,

There hath at least five Frenchmen died to-night.

And, that hereafter ages may behold

What ruin happen'd in revenge of him,

Within their chiefest temple I'll erect

A tomb, wherein his corpse shall be interr'd:

Upon the which, that every one may read,

Shall be engrav'd the sack of Orleans;

The treacherous manner of his mournful death,

And what a terror he had been to France.

¹ Plans.

But, lords, in all our bloody massacre,
I muse we met not with the dauphin's grace;
His new-come champion, virtuous Joan of Arc;
Nor any of his false confederates. [began,

Bed. 'Tis thought, lord Talbot, when the fight
Rous'd on the sudden from their drowsy beds,
They did, amongst the troops of armed men,
Leap o'er the walls for refuge in the field.

Bur. Myself (as far as I could well discern,
For smoke, and dusky vapours of the night,)
Am sure I scar'd the dauphin and his trull;
When arm in arm they both came swiftly run-
Like to a pair of loving turtle-doves, [ning,
That could not live asunder day or night.
After that things are set in order here,
We'll follow them with all the power we have.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. All hail, my lords! which of this princely
Call ye the warlike Talbot, for his acts [train
So much applauded through the realm of France?

Tal. Here is the Talbot; who would speak
with him?

Mess. The virtuous lady, countess of Auvergne,
With modesty admiring thy renown,
By me entreats, good lord, thou would vouchsafe
To visit her poor castle where she lies¹;
That she may boast she hath beheld the man
Whose glory fills the world with loud report.

Bur. Is it even so? Nay, then I see, our wars
Will turn into a peaceful comick sport,
When ladies crave to be encounter'd with—
You may not, my lord, despise her gentle suit.

Tal. Ne'er trust me then; for, when a world of
Could not prevail with all their oratory, [men
Yet hath a woman's kindness over-rul'd:—
And therefore tell her, I return great thanks;
And in submission will attend on her.—
Will not your honours bear me company?

Bed. No, truly, it is more than manners will:
And I have heard it said,—Unbidden guests
Are often welcomest when they are gone.

Tal. Well then, alone, since there's no remedy,
I mean to prove this lady's courtesy.
Come hither, captain. [*Whispers.*—You per-
ceive my mind.

Capt. I do, my lord, and mean accordingly.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

AUVERGNE. COURT OF THE CASTLE.

Enter the Countess and her Porter.

Count. Porter, remember what I gave in
charge; [me.
And, when you have done so, bring the keys to
Port. Madam, I will. [*Exit.*

Count. The plot is laid; if all things fall out
I shall as famous be by this exploit, [right,
As Scythian Thomyris by Cyrus' death.
Great is the rumour of this dreadful knight,
And his achievements of no less account:
Fain would mine eyes be witness with mine ears,
To give their censure² of these rare reports.

Enter Messenger and Talbot.

Mess. Madam,
According as your ladyship desir'd,
By message crav'd, so is lord Talbot come.

1 Dwells.

2 Opinion.

C. And he is welcome. What! is this the man?
Mess. Madam, it is.

Count. Is this the scourge of France?
Is this the Talbot, so much fear'd abroad,
That with his name the mothers still their
I see report is fabulous and false: [babes?
I thought I should have seen some Hercules,
A second Hector, for his grim aspect,
And large proportion of his strong-knit limbs.
Alas! this is a child, a silly dwarf:
It cannot be, this weak and writhled¹ shrimp
Should strike such terror to his enemies.

Tal. Madam, I have been bold to trouble you:
But, since your ladyship is not at leisure,
I'll sort some other time to visit you.

Count. What means he now?—Go, ask him
whither he goes.

Mess. Stay, my lord Talbot; for my lady craves
To know the cause of your abrupt departure.

Tal. Marry, for that she's in a wrong belief,
I go to certify her, Talbot's here.

Re-enter Porter with Keys.

Count. If thou be he, then art thou prisoner.

Tal. Prisoner! to whom?

Count. To me, blood-thirsty lord;
And for that cause I train'd² thee to my house.
Long time thy shadow hath been thrall to me,
For in my gallery thy picture hangs:

But now the substance shall endure the like;
And I will chain these legs and arms of thine,
That hast by tyranny, these many years,
Wasted our country, slain our citizens,
And sent our sons and husbands captive.

Tal. Ha, ha, ha!

Count. Laughest thou, wretch? thy mirth
shall turn to moan.

Tal. I laugh to see your ladyship so fond,³
To think that you have aught but Talbot's sha-
Whereon to practise your severity. [dow,

Count. Why, art not thou the man?

Tal. I am indeed.

Count. Then have I substance too.

Tal. No, no, I am but shadow of myself:
You are deceiv'd, my substance is not here;
For what you see, is but the smallest part
And least proportion of humanity:
I tell you, madam, were the whole frame here,
It is of such a spacious lofty pitch,
Your roof were not sufficient to contain it.

C. This is a riddling merchant for the nonce;
He will be here, and yet he is not here:
How can these contrarieties agree?

Tal. That will I show you presently.

*He winds a Horn. Drums heard; then a Peal
of Ordnance. The Gates being forced, enter
Soldiers.*

How say you, madam? are you now persuaded,
That Talbot is but shadow of himself? [strength,
These are his substance, sinews, arms, and
With which he yoketh your rebellious necks;
Razeth your cities, and subverts your towns,
And in a moment makes them desolate.

Count. Victorious Talbot! pardon my abuse:
I find thou art no less than fame hath bruted,⁵
And more than may be gather'd by thy shape.

1 Wrinkled.

3 Foolish.

5 Reported.

2 Drew.

4 Occasion.

Let my presumption not provoke thy wrath :
For I am sorry, that with reverence
I did not entertain thee as thou art.

Tal. Benot dismay'd, fair lady; nor misconstrue
The mind of Talbot, as you did mistake
The outward composition of his body.
What you have done, hath not offended me:
No other satisfaction do I crave,
But only (with your patience) that we may
Taste of your wine, and see what cates you have;
For soldiers' stomachs always serve them well.
Co. With all my heart: and think me honoured
To feast so great a warrior in my house. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—LONDON. THE TEMPLE GARDEN.

Enter the Earls of Somerset, Suffolk, and Warwick; Richard Plantagenet, Vernon, and another Lawyer.

Plant. Great lords, and gentlemen, what means this silence?

Dare no man answer in a case of truth?

Su. Within the Temple hall we were too loud;
The garden here is more convenient.

Pl. Thensay at once, if I maintain'd the truth;
Or, else, was wrangling Somerset in the error?

Suf. Faith, I have been a truant in the law;
And never yet could frame my will to it;
And, therefore, frame the law unto my will.

Som. Judge you, my lord of Warwick, then,
between us. [pitch,

W. Between two hawks, which flies the higher
Between two dogs, which hath the deeper mouth,
Between two blades, which bears the better
temper,

Between two horses, which doth bear him best,
Between two girls, which hath the merriest eye,
I have, perhaps, some shallow spirit of judgment:
But in these nice sharp quilllets¹ of the law,
Good faith, I am no wiser than a daw.

Pl. Tut, tut, here is a mannerly forbearance:
The truth appears so naked on my side,
That any purblind eye may find it out.

Som. And on my side it is so well apparell'd,
So clear, so shining, and so evident,
That it will glimmer through a blind man's eye.

Plant. Since you are tongue-ty'd and so loath
to speak,

In dumb significants proclaim your thoughts:
Let him, that is a true-born gentleman,
And stands upon the honour of his birth,

If he suppose that I have pleaded truth,
From off this briar pluck a white rose with me.

Som. Let him that is no coward, nor no flatterer,
But dare maintain the party of the truth,
Pluck a red rose from off this thorn with me.

War. I love no colours²; and, without all
Of base insinuating flattery, [colour

I pluck this white rose with Plantagenet. [set;

Suf. I pluck this red rose, with young Somers-
And say withal, I think he held the right. [more,

Vern. Stay, lords and gentlemen: and pluck no
Till you conclude—that he, upon whose side
The fewest roses are cropp'd from the tree,
Shall yield the other in the right opinion.

Som. Good master Vernon, it is well objected;
If I have fewest I subscribe in silence.

¹ Subtillies. ² Deceits. ³ Proposed.

Plant. And I.

V. Then, for the truth and plainness of the case,
I pluck this pale and maiden blossom here,
Giving my verdict on the white rose side.

Som. Prick not your finger as you pluck it off;
Lest, bleeding, you do paint the white rose red,
And fall on my side so against your will.

V. If I, my lord, for my opinion bleed,
Opinion shall be surgeon to my hurt,
And keep me on the side where still I am.

Som. Well, well, come on: Who else?

Law. Unless my study and my books be false,
The argument you held was wrong in you;
[To Somerset.

In sign whereof, I pluck a white rose too.

Pl. Now, Somerset, where is your argument?

Som. Here, in my scabbard, meditating that,
Shall dye your white rose in a bloody red.

Pl. Mean time, your cheeks do counterfeit our
For pale they look with fear, as witnessing [roses;
The truth on our side.

Som. No, Plantagenet,
'Tis not for fear; but anger,—that thy cheeks
Blush for pure shame, to counterfeit our roses;

And yet thy tongue will not confess thy error.

Plant. Hath not thy rose a canker, Somerset?
Som. Hath not thy rose a thorn, Plantagenet?

Plant. Ay, sharp and piercing, to maintain
his truth;

Whiles thy consuming canker eats his falsehood.

Som. Well, I'll find friends to wear my bleed-
ing roses,

That shall maintain what I have said is true,
Where false Plantagenet dare not be seen.

Pl. Now, by this maiden blossom in my hand,
I scorn thee and thy fashion, peevish boy.

Suf. Turn not thy scorn this way, Plantagenet.

Plant. Proud Poole, I will; and scorn both
him and thee.

Suf. I'll turn my part thereof into thy throat.

Som. Away, away, good William De-la-Poole!
We grace the yeoman, by conversing with him.

War. Now, by my life, thou wrong'st him,
Somerset;

His grandfather was Lionel, duke of Clarence,
Third son to the third Edward king of England;
Spring crestless¹ yeomen from so deep a root?

Plant. He bears him on the place's privilege,²
Or durst not, for his craven heart, say thus.

Som. By him that made me, I'll maintain my
On any plot of ground in Christendom: [words
Was not thy father, Richard, earl of Cambridge,

For treason executed in our late king's days?
And, by his treason, stand'st not thou attainted,
Corrupted, and exempt³ from ancient gentry?

His trespass yet lives guilty in thy blood:
And, till thou be restor'd, thou art a yeoman.

Plant. My father was attached, not attainted;
Condemn'd to die for treason, but no traitor;

And that I'll prove on better men than Somerset,
Were growing time once ripen'd to my will.

For your partaker Poole, and you yourself,
I'll note you in my book of memory,
To scourge you for this apprehension⁴:

Look to it well; and say you are well warn'd.

Som. Ay, thou shalt find us ready for thee still:

¹ Who have no right to coats of arms. ² Excluded.
³ A sanctuary. ⁴ Opinion.

And know us, by these colours, for thy foes;
For these, my friends in spite of thee, shall wear.

Pl. And, by my soul, this pale and angry rose,
As cognizance of my blood-drinking hate,
Will I for ever, and my faction, wear;
Until it wither with me to my grave,
Or flourish to the height of my degree. [tison!]

Suf. Go forward, and bechok'd with thy ambi-
And so farewell, until I meet thee next. [Exit.

Som. Have with thee, Poole.—Farewell, ambi-
tious Richard. [Exit.

Plant. How I am brav'd, and must perforce
endure it! [house,

War. This blot, that they object against your
Shall be wip'd out in the next parliament,
Call'd for the truce of Winchester and Gloster:
And, if thou be not then created York,
I will not live to be accounted Warwick.

Mean time, in signal of my love to thee,
Against proud Somerset, and William Poole,
Will I upon thy party wear this rose:
And here I prophecy.—This brawl to-day,
Grown to this faction, in the Temple garden,
Shall send, between the red rose and the white,
A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

Plant. Good master Vernon, I am bound to you,
That you on my behalf would pluck a flower.

Ver. In your behalf still will I wear the same.
Law. And so will I.

Plant. Thanks, gentle sir.

Come, let us four to dinner: I dare say,
This quarrel will drink blood another day.

[Exitunt.

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN THE TOWER.

*Enter Mortimer, brought in a Chair by two
Keepers.*

Mor. Kind keepers of my weak decaying age,
Let dying Mortimer here rest himself.—
Even like a man new haled from the rack,
So fare my limbs with long imprisonment:
And these grey locks, the pursuivants¹ of death,
Nestor-like aged, in an age of care,
Argue the end of Edmund Mortimer.
These eyes—like lamps whose wasting oil is
Wax dim, as drawing to their exigent²: [spent,
Weak shoulders, overborne with burd'ning grief,
And pitiless arms, like to a wither'd vine
That droops his sapless branches to the ground:—
Yet are these feet—whose strengthless stay is
Unable to support this lump of clay,— [numb,
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave,
As witting I no other comfort have.—
But tell me, keeper, will my nephew come?

1 Ke. Richard Plantagenet, my lord, will come.
We sent unto the Temple, to his chamber;
And answer was return'd, that he will come.

Mor. Enough; my soul shall then be satisfied.—
Poor gentleman! his wrong doth equal mine.
Since Henry Monmouth first began to reign,
(Before whose glory I was great in arms,)
This loathsome sequestration have I had;
And even since then hath Richard been obscur'd,
Depriv'd of honour and inheritance:
But now, the arbitrator of despairs,
Just death, kind umpire of men's miseries,

1 Heralds.

2 End.

With sweet enlargement doth dismiss me hence:
I would, his troubles likewise were expir'd,
That so he might recover what was lost.

Enter Richard Plantagenet.

1 Ke. My lord, your loving nephew now is
come. [come?

*M. Richard Plantagenet, my friend? Is he
Plant.* Ay, noble uncle, thus ignobly us'd,
Your nephew, late-despised Richard, comes.

Mor. Direct mine arms, I may embrace his
And in his bosom spend my latter gasp: [neck,
O, tell me, when my lips do touch his cheeks,
That I may kindly give one fainting kiss.—
And now declare, sweet stem from York's great
stock,

Why didst thou say—of late thou wert despis'd?

Pl. First, lean thine aged back against mine
And, in that ease, I'll tell thee my disease.¹ [arm,
This day, in argument upon a case,
Some words there grew 'twixt Somerset and me:
Among which terms he used his lavish tongue,
And did upbraid me with my father's death;
Which obloquy set bars before my tongue,
Else with the like I had requited him:
Therefore, good uncle,—for my father's sake,
In honour of a true Plantagenet,
And for alliance's sake,—declare the cause
My father, earl of Cambridge, lost his head.

M. That cause, fair nephew, that imprison'd me,
And hath detain'd me, all my flowering youth,
Within a loathsome dungeon, there to pine,
Was curs'd instrument of his disease.

Pl. Discover more at large what cause that was:
For I am ignorant, and cannot guess.

Mor. I will; if that my fading breath permit,
And death approach not ere my tale be done.
Henry the fourth, grandfather to this king,
Depos'd his cousin Richard; Edward's son,
The first-begotten, and the lawful heir
Of Edward king, the third of that descent:
During whose reign, the Percies of the north,
Finding his usurpation most unjust,
Endeavour'd my advancement to the throne:
The reason mov'd these warlike lords to this,
Was—for that (young king Richard thus remov'd,
Leaving no heir begotten of his body,)
I was the next by birth and parentage;

For by my mother I deriv'd am
From Lionel duke of Clarence, the third son
To king Edward the third, whereas he,
From John of Gaunt doth bring his pedigree,
Being but fourth of that heroic line.
But mark; as, in this haughty great attempt
They labour'd to plant the rightful heir,
I lost my liberty, and they their lives.

Long after this, when Henry the fifth,—
Succeeding his father Bolingbroke,—did reign,
Thy father, earl of Cambridge,—then deriv'd,
From famous Edmund Langley, duke of York,—
Marrying my sister, that thy mother was,
Again, in pity of my hard distress,
Levied an army; weening² to redeem,
And have installed me in the diadem:
But, as the rest, so fell that noble earl,
And was beheaded. Thus the Mortimers,
In whom the title rested, were suppress'd.

1 Discontent,

2 Thinking.

Pl. Of which, my lord, your honour is the last.
Mor. True; and thou seest, that I no issue have;
 And that my fainting words do warrant death:
 Thou art my heir; the rest, I wish thee gather:
 But yet be wary in thy studious care.

Pl. Thy grave admonishments prevail with me:
 But yet, methinks, my father's execution
 Was nothing less than bloody tyranny.

Mor. With silence, nephew, be thou politic;
 Strong-fixed is the house of Lancaster,
 And, like a mountain, not to be remov'd.
 But now thy uncle is removing hence;
 As princes do their courts, when they are cloy'd
 With long continuance in a settled place.

Pl. O, uncle, 'would some part of my young
 years
 Might but redeem the passage of your age!

Mor. Thou dost then wrong me; as the
 slaught'rer doth,
 Which giveth many wounds, when one will kill.
 Mourn not, except thou sorrow for my good;
 Only, give order for my funeral;
 And so farewell; and fair be all thy hopes!
 And prosperous be thy life, in peace, and war.

[*Dies.*

Pl. And peace, no war, befall thy parting
 soul!

In prison hast thou spent a pilgrimage,
 And like a hermit overpass'd thy days.—
 Well, I will lock his counsel in my breast;
 And what I do imagine, let that rest.—
 Keepers, convey him hence; and I myself
 Will see his burial better than his life.—

[*Exeunt Keepers, bearing out Mortimer.*

Here dies the dusky torch of Mortimer,
 Chok'd with ambition of the meaner sort:—
 And, for those wrongs, those bitter injuries,
 Which Somerset hath offer'd to my house,—
 I doubt not, but with honour to redress;
 And therefore haste I to the parliament;
 Either to be restored to my blood,
 Or make my ill the advantage of my good. [*Exit.*

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Flourish. Enter King Henry, Exeter, Gloster,
 Warwick, Somerset, and Suffolk; the Bishop
 of Winchester, Richard Plantagenet, and
 others. Gloster offers to put up a Bill; Win-
 chester snatches it, and tears it.

Win. Com'st thou with deep premeditated
 lines.

With written pamphlets studiously devis'd,
 Humphrey of Gloster? if thou canst accuse,
 Or aught intend'st to lay unto my charge,
 Do it without invention suddenly;
 As I with sudden and extemporal speech
 Purpose to answer what thou canst object.

Glo. Presumptuous priest! this place com-
 mands my patience,
 Or thou shouldst find thou hast dishonour'd me.
 Think not, although in writing I prefer'd
 The manner of thy vile outrageous crimes,

1 (Articles of accusation.)

That therefore I have forg'd or am not able
Verbatim to rehearse the method of my pen:
 No, prelate; such is thy audacious wickedness,
 Thy vile, pestiferous, and dissentious pranks,
 That very infants prattle of thy pride.

Thou art a most pernicious usurer:
 Froward by nature, enemy to peace;
 Lascivious, wanton, more than well beseems
 A man of thy profession, and degree;
 And for thy treachery, What's more manifest?
 In that thou laid'st a trap to take my life,
 As well at London bridge, as at the tower?
 Beside, I fear me, if thy thoughts were sifted,
 The king, thy sovereign, is not quite exempt
 From envious malice of thy swelling heart.

Win. Gloster, I do defy thee.—Lords, vouch-
 To give me hearing what I shall reply. [safe
 If I were covetous, ambitious, or perverse,
 As he will have me, How am I so poor?
 Or how haps it, I seek not to advance
 Or raise myself, but keep my wonted calling?
 And for dissension, Who preferreth peace
 More than I do,—except I be provok'd?
 No, my good lords, it is not that offends;
 It is not that, that hath incens'd the duke:
 It is, because no one should sway but he;
 No one, but he, should be about the king;
 And that engenders thunder in his breast,
 And makes him roar these accusations forth.
 But he shall know, I am as good—

Glo. As good: Thou bastard of my grandfather!—

Win. Ay, lordly sir; For what are you, I pray,
 But one imperious in another's throne?

Glo. Am I not the protector, saucy priest?

Win. And am I not a prelate of the church?

Glo. Yes, as an outlaw in a castle keeps,
 And useth it to patronage his theft.

Win. Unreverent Gloster!

Glo. Thou art reverent
 Touching thy spiritual function, not thy life.

Win. This Rome shall remedy.

War. Roam thither, then.
Som. My lord, it were your duty to forbear.

War. Ay, see the bishop be not overborne.

Som. Methinks, my lord should be religious,
 And know the office that belongs to such.

War. Methinks, his lordship should be hum-
 It fitteth not a prelate so to plead. [bler]

Som. Yes, when his holy state is touch'd so
 near.

War. State holy, or unhallow'd, what of that?
 Is not his grace protector to the king?

Pl. Plantagenet, I see, must hold his tongue
 Lest it be said, *Speak, sirrah, when you should;*
 Must your bold verdict enter talk with lords?
 Else would I have a fling at Winchester. [*Aside.*

K. Hen. Uncles of Gloster, and of Winchester,
 The special watchmen of our English weal;
 I would prevail, if prayers might prevail,
 To join your hearts in love and amity.
 O, what a scandal is it to our crown,
 That two such noble peers as ye should jar!
 Believe me, lords, my tender years can tell,
 Civil dissension is a viperous worm,
 That gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth.—

[*A noise within;* Down with the tawny coats?
 What tumult's this?

War. An uproar, I dare warrant,
Begun through malice of the bishop's men.

[*A noise again; Stones! Stones!*]

Enter the Mayor of London, attended.

May. O, my good lords,—and virtuous Henry,
Pity the city of London, pity us!

The bishop's and the Duke of Gloster's men,
Forbidden late to carry any weapon,
Have fill'd their pockets full of pebble-stones;
And, banding themselves in contrary parts,
Do pelt so fast at one another's pate,
That many have their giddy brains knock'd out.
Our windows are broke down in every street,
And we, for fear, compell'd to shut our shops.

*Enter, skirmishing, the Retainers of Gloster
and Winchester, with bloody pates.*

K. Hen. We charge you, on allegiance to our-
self, [peace.]

To hold your slaughter'ing hands, and keep the
Pray, uncle Gloster, mitigate this strife.

1 Serv. Nay, if we be

Forbidden stones, we'll fall to it with our teeth.

2 Serv. Do what ye dare, we are as resolute.

[*Skirmish again.*]

G. You of my household, leave this speevish broil,
And set this unaccustom'd fight aside.

3 S. My lord, we know your grace to be a man
Just and upright; and, for your royal birth,
Inferior to none, but to his majesty:

And ere that we will suffer such a prince,
So kind a father of the commonweal,
To be disgraced by an inkhorn mate,
We, and our wives, and children, all will fight,
And have our bodies slaughter'd by thy foes.

1 Serv. Ay, and the very parings of our nails
Shall pitch a field, when we are dead.

[*Skirmish again.*]

Glo. Stay, stay, I say!
And, if you love me, as you say you do,
Let me persuade you to forbear a while.

K. Hen. O, how this discord doth afflict my soul!
Can you, my lord of Winchester, behold
My sighs, and tears and will not once relent?
Who should be pitiful, if you be not?
Or who should study to prefer a peace,
If holy churchmen take delight in broils?

War. My lord protector, yield;—yield Win-
chester;—

Except you mean, with obstinate repulse,
To slay your sovereign, and destroy the realm.
You see what mischief, and what murder too,
Hath been enacted through your enmity;
Then be at peace, except ye thirst for blood.

Win. He shall submit; or I will never yield.

G. Compassion on the king commands me stoop!
Or, I would see his heart out, ere the priest
Should ever get that privilege of me.

War. Behold, my lord of Winchester, the duke
Hath banish'd moody discontented fury,
As by his smoothed brows it doth appear:
Why look you still so stern, and tragical?

Glo. Here, Winchester, I offer thee my hand.

K. Hen. Fie, uncle Beaufort! I have heard
you preach,

That malice was a great and grievous sin:
And will not you maintain the thing you teach,
But proye a chief offender in the same?

War. Sweet king!—the bishop hath a kindly
gird.¹

For shame, my lord of Winchester! relent;
What, shall a child instruct you what to do?

Win. Well, duke of Gloster, I will yield to thee;
Love for thy love, and hand for hand I give.

Glo. Ay; but, I fear me, with a hollow heart.—
See here, my friends, and loving countrymen;
This token serveth for a flag of truce,
Betwixt ourselves, and all our followers;
So help me God, as I dissemble not!

W. [*Aside.*] So help me God, as I intend it not!

K. Hen. O loving uncle, kind duke of Gloster,
How joyful am I made by this contract!—
Away, my masters! trouble us no more;
But join in friendship, as your lords have done.

1 Serv. Content! I'll to the surgeon's.

2 Serv. And so will I.

3 Serv. And I will see what physick the tavern
affords. [*Exeunt Servants, Mayor, &c.*]

Wa. Accept this scroll, most gracious sovereign,
Which in the right of Richard Plantagenet,
We do exhibit to your majesty.

Glo. Well urg'd, my lord of Warwick;—for,
sweet prince,

And if your grace mark every circumstance,
You have great reason to do Richard right:
Especially, for those occasions
At Eltham-place I told your majesty.

K. H. And those occasions, uncle, were of force:
Therefore, my loving lords, our pleasure is,
That Richard be restored to his blood.

War. Let Richard be restored to his blood;
So shall his father's wrongs be recompens'd.

Win. As will the rest, so willet Winchester.

K. Hen. If Richard will be true, not that alone
But all the whole inheritance I give,
That doth belong unto the house of York,
From whence you spring by lineal descent.

Plant. Thy humble servant vows obedience,
And humble service, till the point of death.

K. Hen. Stoop then, and set your knee against
my foot;

And, in requerd² of that duty done,
I girt thee with the valiant sword of York.
Rise, Richard, like a true Plantagenet;
And rise created princely duke of York.

Pl. And so thrive Richard, as thy foes may fall!
And as my duty springs so perish they
That grudge one thought against your majesty!

All. Welcome, high prince, the mighty duke
of York!

Som. [*Aside.*] Perish, base prince, ignoble
duke of York.

Glo. Now will it best avail your majesty,
To cross the seas, and to be crown'd in France;
The presence of a king engenders love
Amongst his subjects, and his loyal friends;
As it disanimates³ his enemies.

K. Hen. When Gloster says the word, king
Henry goes;

For friendly counsel cuts off many foes.

Glo. Your ships already are in readiness.

[*Exeunt all but Exeter.*]

Ex. Ay, we may march in England, or in France,
Not seeing what is likely to ensue:

This late dissension, grown betwixt the peers,

1 Emotion. *2* Recompense. *3* Disheartens.

Burns under feigned ashes of forg'd love,
And will at last break out into a flame:
As fester'd members rot but by degrees,
Till bones, and flesh, and sinews fall away,
So will this base and envious discord breed.
And now I fear that fatal prophecy,
Which, in the time of Henry, nam'd the fifth,
Was in the mouth of every sucking babe,
That Henry, born at Monmouth, should win all;
And Henry, born at Windsor, should lose all:
Which is so plain, that Exeter doth wish
His days may finish ere that hapless time. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—FRANCE. BEFORE ROUEN.

Enter La Pucelle disguised, and Soldiers dressed like countrymen, with Sacks upon their backs.

P. These are the city gates, the gates of Roüen,
Through which our policy must make a breach:
Take heed, be wary how you place your words;
Talk like the vulgar sort of market-men,
That come to gather money for their corn.
If we have entrance, (as, I hope, we shall,)
And that we find the slothful watch but weak,
I'll by a sign give notice to our friends,
That Charles the dauphin may encounter them.

1 Sol. Our sacks shall be a mean to sack the city,
And we be lords and rulers over Roüen;

Therefore we'll knock. [*Knocks.*]

Guard. [Within.] Qui est là?

Puc. *Paisans, pauvres gens de France:*—
Poor market-folks, that come to sell their corn.

Guard. Enter, go in: the market-bell is rung.

[*Opens the Gates.*]

Puc. Now Rotten, I'll shake thy bulwarks to
the ground.

[*Pucelle, &c., enter the City.*]

Enter Charles, Bastard of Orleans, Alençon, and Forces.

Cha. Saint Denis bless this happy stratagem!
And once again we'll sleep secure in Roüen.

Ba. Here enter'd Pucelle, and her practisants¹;
Now she is there, how will she specify
Where is the best and safest passage in?

Alen. By thrusting out a torch from yonder
tower; [*is,—*]

Which once discern'd shows that her meaning
Now way to that,² for weakness, which she enter'd.

Enter La Pucelle on a Battlement; holding out a Torch burning.

Puc. Behold, this is the happy wedding torch,
That joineth Roüen unto her countrymen;
But burning fatal to the Talbotites.

B. See, noble Charles! the beacon of our friend,
The burning torch in yonder turret stands.

Chor. Now shine it like a comet of revenge,
A prophet to the fall of all our foes!

A. Defer no time, Delays have dangerous ends;
Enter, and cry—*The Dauphin!*—presently,
And then to execution on the watch. [*They enter.*]

Alarums. Enter Talbot, and certain English.

Tal. France, thou shalt rue this treason with
thy tears,

If Talbot but survive thy treachery.—

¹ Confederates.

² (Equal to that.

Pucelle, that witch, that cursed sorceress,
Hath wrought this hellish mischief unawares,
That hardly we escap'd the pride of France.

[*Exeunt to the Town.*]

Alarum: Excursions. Enter from the Town, Bedford, brought in sick, in a Chair, with Talbot, Burgundy, and the English Forces. Then enter, on the Walls, La Pucelle, Charles, Bastard, Alençon, and others.

Puc. Good morrow, gallants! want ye corn
for bread?

I think, the duke of Burgundy will fast,
Before he'll buy again at such a rate:

'Twas full of darnel; Do you like the taste?

Bur. Scoff on, vile fiend, and shameless
courtezian!

I trust, ere long, to choke thee with thine own,
And make thee curse the harvest of that corn.

Char. Your grace may starve, perhaps, before
that time. [*treason!*]

Bed. O, let no words, but deeds, revenge this

Puc. What will you do, good grey-beard?
break a lance,

And run a tilt at death within a chair?

T. Foul fiend of France, and hag of all despite,
Becomes it thee to taunt his valiant age,
And twit with cowardice a man half dead?

Damsel, I'll have a bout with you again,
Or else let Talbot perish with this shame.

Puc. Are you so hot, sir?—Yet, Pucelle, hold
thy peace;

If Talbot do but thunder, rain will follow.—

[*Talbot and the rest consult together.*]

Heaven speed the parliament! who shall be the
speaker? [*field?*]

Tal. Dare ye come forth and meet us in the

Puc. Belike, your lordship takes us then for
To try if that our own be ours, or no. [*fools,*]

Tal. I speak not to that railing Hecaté,

But unto thee, Alençon, and the rest;

Will ye, like soldiers, come and fight it out?

Alen. Signior, no.

Tal. Signior, hang!—base muleteers of France!
Like peasant foot-boys do they keep the walls:
And dare not take up arms like gentlemen.

P. Captains, away: let's get us from the walls;
For Talbot means no goodness, by his looks.—
We came, sir, but to tell you we are here.

[*Exeunt La Pucelle, &c., from the Walls.*]

Tal. And there will we be too, ere it be long,
Or else reproach be Talbot's greatest fame!—

Vow, Burgundy, by honour of thy house,
(Prick'd on by public wrongs, sustain'd in
Either to get the town again, or die: [*France,*])

And I,—as sure as English Henry lives,

And as his father here was conqueror;

As sure as in this late betrayed town
Great Cœur-de-lion's heart was buried;

So sure I swear to get the town, or die.

B. My vows are equal partners with thy vows.

Tal. But, ere we go, regard this dying prince,
The valiant duke of Bedford:—Come, my lord,
We will bestow you in some better place,
Fitter for sickness, and for crazy age.

Bed. Lord Talbot, do not so dishonour me:
Here will I sit before the walls of Roüen,
And will be partner of your weal, or woe.

Bur. Courageous Bedford, let us now persuade you.

Bed. Not to be gone from hence; for once I That stout Pendragon, in his litter, sick, [read, Came to the field, and vanquished his foes: Methings, I should revive the soldiers' hearts, Because I ever found them as myself.

Tal. Undaunted spirit in a dying breast!— Then be it so:—Heavens keep old Bedford safe!— And now no more ado, brave Burgundy, But gather we our forces out of hand, And set upon our boasting enemy.

[*Exeunt Burgundy, Talbot, and Forces, leaving Bedford, and others.*]

Alarums: Excursions. Enter Sir John Fastolfe, and a Captain.

Cap. Whither away, Sir John Fastolfe, in such haste!

Fast. Whither away? to save myself by flight; We are like to have the overthrow again.

Cap. What! will you fly, and leave lord Talbot? *Fast.* Ay.

All the Talbots in the world to save my life. [*Exit.*]

Cap. Cowardly knight! ill fortune follow thee! [*Exit.*]

Retreat: Excursions. Enter from the Town, La Pucelle, Alençon, Charles, &c., and exeunt, flying.

Bed. Now, quiet soul, depart when heaven For I have seen our enemies' overthrow. [please; What is the trust or strength of foolish men? They, that of late were daring with their scoffs, Are glad and fain by flight to save themselves.

[*Dies, and is carried off in his chair.*]

Alarum: Enter Talbot, Burgundy, and others.

Tal. Lost, and recover'd in a day again! This is a double honour, Burgundy:

Yet, heavens have glory for this victory!

Bur. Warlike and martial Talbot, Burgundy Enshrines thee in his heart; and there erects Thy noble deeds, as valour's monument.

Tal. Thanks, gentle duke. But where is Pucelle I think, her old familiar is asleep: [now!]

Now where's the Bastard's braves, and Charles his gleeks!?

What, all a-mort? Rotien hangs her head for That such a valiant company are fled. [grief,

Now will we take some order³ in the town, Placing therein some expert officers;

And then depart to Paris, to the king: For there young Harry, with his nobles, lies.

B. What wills lord Talbot, pleasest Burgundy.

Tal. But yet, before we go, let's not forget The noble duke of Bedford, late deceas'd,

But see his exequies⁴ fulfilled in Rotien; A braver soldier never couched lance,

A gentler heart did never sway in court: But kings, and mightiest potentates, must die;

For that's the end of human misery. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE PLAINS NEAR THE CITY.

Enter Charles, the Bastard, Alençon, La Pucelle, and Forces.

Puc. Dismay not, princes, at this accident, Nor grieve that Rotien is so recovered:

¹ Scoffs.

² Dispirited.

³ Disposition.

⁴ Obsequies.

Care is no cure, but rather corrosive, For things that are not to be remedied. Let frantick Talbot triumph for a while, And like a peacock sweep along his tail; We'll pull his plumes, and take away his train, If dauphin, and the rest, will be but rul'd.

Char. We have been guided by thee hitherto, And of thy cunning had no diffidence; One sudden foil shall never breed distrust.

Bast. Search out thy wit for secret policies, And we will make thee famous through the world.

Alen. We'll set thy statue in some holy place, And have thee reverenc'd like a blessed saint; Employ thee then, sweet virgin, for our good.

P. Then thus it must be; this doth Joan devise: By fair persuasions, mix'd with sugar'd words, We will entice the duke of Burgundy To leave the Talbot, and to follow us.

Char. Ay, marry, sweeting, if we could do that, France were no place for Henry's warriors; Nor should that nation boast it so with us, But be extirp'd from our provinces.

Alen. For ever should they be expul'd¹ from And not have title to an earldom here. [France,

P. Your honours shall perceive how I will work, To bring this matter to the wished end.

[*Drums heard.*]

Hark! by the sound of drum, you may perceive Their powers are marching unto Paris-ward.

An English March. Enter, and pass over at a distance, Talbot and his Forces.

There goes the Talbot, with his colours spread; And all the troops of English after him.

A French March. Enter the Duke of Burgundy, and Forces.

Now in the rearward comes the duke, and his; Fortune, in favour, makes him lag behind.

Summon a parley, we will talk with him.

[*A parley sounded.*]

Char. A parley with the duke of Burgundy.

Bur. Who craves a parley with the Burgundy?

Puc. The princely Charles of France, thy countryman.

Bur. What say'st thou, Charles? for I am marching hence.

Char. Speak, Pucelle; and enchant him with thy words.

Puc. Brave Burgundy, undoubted hope of France!

Stay, let thy humble handmaid speak to thee.

Bur. Speak on; but be not over-tedious.

P. Look on thy country, look on fertile France, And see the cities and the towns defac'd

By wasting ruin of the cruel foe? As looks the mother on her lowly babe,

When death doth close his tender dying eyes, See, see, the pining malady of France;

Behold the wounds, the most unnatural wounds, Which thou thyself hast given her woeful breast!

O, turn thy edged sword another way; Strike those that hurt, and hurt not those that help!

One drop of blood, drawn from thy country's bosom,

Should grieve thee more than streams of foreign gore;

¹ Expelled.

Return thee, therefore, with a flood of tears,
And wash away thy country's stained spots!

Bur. Either she hath bewitch'd me with her
Or nature makes me suddenly relent. [words,

P. Besides, all French and France exclaims on
Doubting thy birth and lawful progeny. [thee,
Who join'st thou with, but with a lordly nation,
That will not trust thee, but for profit's sake?
When Talbot hath set footing once in France,
And fashion'd thee that instrument of ill,
Who then, but English Henry, will be lord,
And thou be thrust out, like a fugitive;
Call we to mind,—and mark but this, for proof;—
Was not the duke of Orleans thy foe?
And was he not in England prisoner?
But, when they heard he was thine enemy,
They set him free, without his ransom paid,
In spite of Burgundy, and all his friends.
See then! thou fight'st against thy countrymen,
And join'st with them will be thy slaughter-men.
Come, come, return; return, thou wandering lord;
Charles, and the rest, will take thee in their arms.

Bur. I am vanquished; these haughty words of
Have batter'd me like roaring cannon shot, [hers
And made me almost yield upon my knees.—
Forgive me, country, and sweet countrymen!
And, lords, accept this hearty kind embrace:
My forces and my power of men are yours;—
So, farewell, Talbot; I'll no longer trust thee.

P. Done like a Frenchman, turn, and turn again!
Char. Welcome, brave duke! thy friendship
makes us fresh. [breasts.
Bast. And doth beget new courage in our
Alen. Pucelle hath bravely play'd her part in
And 'dloth deserve a coronet of gold. [this,
C. Now let us on, my lords, and join our powers;
And seek how we may prejudice the foe. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—PARIS. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

*Enter King Henry, Gloster, and other Lords,
Vernon, Basset, &c. To them Talbot, and
some of his Officers.*

Tal. My gracious prince,—and honourable
Hearing of your arrival in this realm, [peers,—
I have a while given truce unto my wars,
To do my duty to my sovereign:

In sign whereof, this arm—that hath reclaim'd
To your obedience fifty fortresses,
Twelve cities, and seven walled towns of strength,
Besides five hundred prisoners of esteem,—
Lets fall his sword before your highness' feet;
And, with submissive loyalty of heart,
Ascribes the glory of his conquest got,
First to my God, and next unto your grace.

K. H. Is this the fam'd lord Talbot, uncle Gloster,
That hath so long been resident in France?

Glo. Yes, if it please your majesty, my liege.

K. Hen. Welcome, brave captain, and victorious
When I was young, (as yet I am not old,) [lord!
I do remember how my father said,
A stouter champion never handled sword,
Long since we were resolv'd¹ of your truth,
Your faithful service, and your toil in war;
Yet never have you tasted our reward,
Or been requerd² with so much as thanks,
Because till now we never saw your face:

¹ Satisfied.

² Rewarded.

Therefore, stand up: and, for these good deserts,
We here create you earl of Shrewsbury;
And in our coronation take your place.

[Exeunt King Henry, Gloster, Talbot,
and Nobles.

Ver. Now, sir, to you, that were so hot at sea,
Disgracing of these colours that I wear
In honour of my noble lord of York.—
Dar'st thou maintain the former words thou
spak'st?

Bas. Yes, sir; as well as you dare patronage
The envious barking of your saucy tongue
Against my lord the duke of Somerset.

Ver. Sirrah, thy lord I honour as he is.

Bas. Why, what is he? as good a man as York.

Ver. Hark ye; not so: in witness, take ye that.

[Strikes him.

B. Villain, thou know'st the law of arms is such,
That, whoso draws a sword, 'tis present death;
Or else this blow should broach thy dearest blood.
But I'll unto his majesty, and crave
I may have liberty to venge this wrong;

When thou shalt see, I'll meet thee to thy cost.

V. Well, miscreant, I'll be there as soon as you;
And, after, meet you sooner than you would.

[Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—PARIS. A ROOM OF STATE.

*Enter King Henry, Gloster, Exeter, York, Suffolk,
Somerset, Winchester, Warwick, Talbot,
the Governor of Paris, and others.*

Glo. Lord bishop, set the crown upon his head.

Win. God save king Henry, of that name the
sixth!

Glo. Now, governor of Paris, take your oath,—

[Governor kneels.

That you elect no other king but him:

Esteem none friends, but such as are his friends;

And none your foes, but as shall pretend¹

Malicious practices against his state.

This shall ye do, so help you righteous heaven.

[Exeunt Gov. and his Train.

Enter Sir John Fastolfe.

Fast. My gracious sovereign, as I rode from
To hasten unto your coronation, [Calais,

A letter was deliver'd to my hands,

Writ to your grace from the duke of Burgundy.

Tal. Shame to the duke of Burgundy, and thee!

I vow'd, base knight, when I did meet thee next,

To tear the garter from thy craven's² leg.

[Plucking it off.

(Which I have done) because unworthily

Thou wast installed in that high degree.—

Pardon me, princely Henry, and the rest:

This dastard at the battle of Patay,

When but in all I was six thousand strong,

And that the French were almost ten to one,—

Before we met, or that a stroke was given,

Like to a trusty squire, did run away;

In which assault we lost twelve hundred men;

Myself, and divers gentlemen beside,

Were there surpris'd and taken prisoners.

¹ Design.

² Dastardly.

Then judge, great lords, if I have done amiss ;
Or whether that such cowards ought to wear
This ornament of knighthood, yea, or no.

Glo. To say the truth, this fact was infamous,
And ill beseeeming any common man ;
Much more a knight, a captain, and a leader.

Tal. When first this order was ordain'd, my
Knights of the garter were of noble birth ; [lords,
Valiant and virtuous, full of haughtily courage,
Such as were grown to credit by the wars ;
Not fearing death, nor shrinking for distress,
But always resolute in most extremes.

He then, that is not furnish'd in this sort,
Doth but usurp the sacred name of knight,
Profaning this most honourable order ;
And should (if I were worthy to be judge)
Be quite degraded, like a hedge-born swain
That doth presume to boast of gentle blood.

K. Hen. Stain to thy countrymen ! thou hear'st
thy doom :

Be packing, therefore, thou that wast a knight ;
Henceforth we banish thee, on pain of death. —

[*Exit Fastolfe.*]

And now, my lord protector, view the letter
Sent from our uncle duke of Burgundy.

Glo. What means his grace, that he hath chang'd
his style ? [*Viewing the superscription.*]

No more but, plain and bluntly, — *To the king ?*

Hath he forgot, he is his sovereign ?

Or doth this churlish superscription

Pretend some alteration in good will ?

What's here ? *I have, upon especial cause, [Reads.*

*Mov'd with compassion of my country's wreck,
Together with the pitiful complaints
Of such as your oppression feeds upon, —
Forsaken your pernicious faction, [France.
And join'd with Charles, the rightful king of*

O monstrous treachery ! Can this be so ;

That in alliance, amity, and oaths,

There should be found such false dissembling
guile ?

K. H. What ! doth my uncle Burgundy revolt ?

Glo. He doth, my lord ; and is become your foe.

K. H. Is that the worst, this letter doth contain ?

Glo. It is the worst, and all, my lord, he writes.

K. Hen. Why then, lord Talbot there shall talk
with him,

And give him chastisement for this abuse : —

My lord, how say you ? are you not content ?

Tal. Content, my liege ? Yes ; but that I am
prevented,²

I should have begg'd I might have been employ'd.

K. Hen. Then gather strength, and march unto
him straight :

Let him perceive, how ill we brook his treason ;
And what offence it is, to flout his friends.

Tal. I go, my lord ; in heart desiring still,
You may behold confusion of your foes. [*Exit.*]

Enter Vernon and Basset.

Ver. Grant me the combat, gracious sovereign !

Bas. And me, my lord, grant me the combat too !

Yo. This is my servant ; Hear him, noble prince !

So. And this is mine ; Sweet Henry, favour him !

K. Hen. Be patient, lords ; and give them leave
to speak : —

Say, gentlemen, What makes you thus exclaim ?
And wherefore crave you combat ? or with whom ?

Ver. With him, my lord ; for he hath done me
wrong.

Ba. And I with him ; for he hath done me wrong.

K. Hen. What is that wrong whereof you both
complain ?

First let me know, and then I'll answer you.

Ba. Crossing the sea from England into France,
This fellow here, with envious carping tongue,
Upbraided me about the rose I wear ;
Saying — the sanguine colour of the leaves
Did represent my master's blushing cheeks,
When stubbornly he did repugn¹ the truth,
About a certain question in the law,
Argu'd betwixt the duke of York and him ;
With other vile and ignominious terms :
In confutation of which rude reproach,
And in defence of my lord's worthiness,
I crave the benefit of law of arms.

Ver. And that is my petition, noble lord :
For though he seem, with forged quaint conceit,
To set a gloss upon his bold intent,
Yet know, my lord, I was provok'd by him ;
And he first took exceptions at this badge,
Pronouncing — that the paleness of this flower
Bewray'd the faintness of my master's heart.

York. Will not this malice, Somerset, be left ?

S. Your private grudge, my lord of York, will
Though ne'er so cunningly you smother it, [out,

K. Hen. Alas ! what madness rules in brain-
sick men !

When, for so slight and frivolous a cause,
Such factious emulations shall arise !

Good cousins both, of York and Somerset,
Quiet yourselves, I pray, and be at peace.

York. Let this dissension first be tried by fight ;
And then your highness shall command a peace.

Som. The quarrel toucheth none but us alone ;
Betwixt ourselves let us decide it then.

York. There is my pledge ; accept it, Somerset.

Ver. Nay, let it rest where it began at first.

Bas. Confirm it so, mine honourable lord.

Glo. Confirm it so ; confounded be your strife,

And perish ye, with your audacious prate !

Presumptuous vassals ! are you not asham'd,

With this immodest clamorous outrage

To trouble and disturb the king and us ?

And you, my lords, — methinks, you do not well,

To bear with their perverse objections ;

Much less, to take occasion from their mouths

To raise a mutiny betwixt yourselves ;

Let me persuade you take a better course.

Eze. It grieves his highness ; — Good my lords,

be friends. [batants :

K. Hen. Come hither, you that would be com-
Henceforth, I charge you, as you love our favour,

Quite to forget this quarrel, and the cause. —

And you, my lords, remember where we are ;

In France, amongst a fickle wavering nation ;

If they perceive dissension in our looks,

And that within ourselves we disagree,

How will their grudging stomachs be provok'd

To wilful disobedience, and rebel ?

Beside, what infamy will there arise,

When foreign princes shall be certified,

That, for a toy, a thing of no regard,

¹ High.

² Anticipated.

¹ Resist.

King Henry's peers, and chief nobility,
Destroy'd themselves, and lost the realm of
France?

O, think upon the conquest of my father,
My tender years; and let us not forego
That for a trifle, that was bought with blood!
Let me be umpire in this doubtful strife.
I see no reason, if I wear this rose,

[Putting on a red Rose.

That any one should therefore be suspicious
I more incline to Somerset, than York:
Both are my kinsmen, and I love them both:
As well they may upbraid me with my crown,
Because, forsooth, the king of Scots is crown'd.
But your discretions better can persuade,
Than I am able to instruct or teach:
And therefore, as we hither came in peace,
So let us still continue peace and love.—
Cousin of York, we institute your grace
To be our regent in these parts of France:—
And good my lord of Somerset, unite
Your troops of horsemen with his bands of foot:—
And, like true subjects, sons of your progenitors,
Go cheerfully together, and digest
Your angry choler on your enemies.
Ourselves, my lord protector, and the rest,
After some respite, will return to Calais;
From thence to England; where I hope ere long
To be presented, by your victories,
With Charles, Alençon, and that traitorous rout.

[Flourish. *Exeunt King Henry, Glo., Som.,
Win., Suff., and Basset.*

War. My lord of York, I promise you, the king
Prettily, methought, did play the orator.

York. And so he did; but yet I like it not,
In that he wears the badge of Somerset. [not;

War. Tush! that was but his fancy, blame him
I dare presume, sweet prince, he thought no harm.

York. And, if I wist he did,—But let it rest;
Other affairs must now be managed.

[*Exeunt York, Warwick, and Vernon.*

Exe. Well didst thou, Richard, to suppress
thy voice;

For, had the passions of thy heart burst out,
I fear we should have seen decipher'd there
More rancorous spite, more furious raging broils,
Than yet can be imagin'd or suppos'd;
But howsoever, no simple man that sees
This jarring discord of nobility,
This should'ring of each other in the court,
This factious bandying of their favourites,
But that it doth presage some ill event.
'Tis much, when sceptres are in children's hands;
But more, when envy breeds unkind division;
There comes the ruin, there begins confusion.

[Exit.

SCENE II.—FRANCE. BEFORE BOURDEAUX.

Enter Talbot, with his Forces.

Tal. Go to the gates of Bourdeaux, trumpeter,
Summon their general unto the wall.

*Trumpet sounds a Parley. Enter on the Walls,
the General of the French Forces, and others.*

English John Talbot, captains, calls you forth,
Servant in arms to Harry king of England;
And thus he would,—Open your city gates,
Be humble to us; call my sovereign yours,

And do him homage as obedient subjects,
And I'll withdraw me and my bloody power:
But, if you frown upon this proffer'd peace,
You tempt the fury of my three attendants,
Lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing fire;
Who, in a moment, even with the earth
Shall lay your stately and air-braving towers,
If you forsake the offer of their love.

F. Gen. Thou ominous and fearful owl of death,
Our nation's terror, and their bloody scourge!
The period of thy tyranny approacheth.
On us thou canst not enter but by death:
For, I protest, we are well fortified,
And strong enough to issue out and fight:
If thou retire, the dauphin, well appointed,
Stands with the snares of war to tangle thee:
On either hand thee there are squadrons pitch'd,
To wall thee from the liberty of flight;
And no way canst thou turn thee for redress,
But death doth front thee with apparent spoil,
And pale destruction meets thee in the face.
Ten thousand French have ta'en the sacrament,
To rive their dangerous artillery
Upon no Christian soul but English Talbot.
Lo! there thou stand'st, a breathing valiant man,
Of an invincible unconquer'd spirit:
This is the latest glory of thy praise,
That I, thy enemy, due thee withal;
For ere the glass, that now begins to run,
Finish the process of this sandy hour,
These eyes, that see thee now well coloured,
Shall see thee wither'd, bloody, pale, and dead.

[Drum afar off.

Hark! hark! the dauphin's drum, a warning bell,
Sings heavy music to thy timorous soul;
And mine shall ring thy dire departure out.

[*Exeunt F. General, &c., from the Walls.*

Tal. He fables not, I hear the enemy:—
Out, some light horsemen, and peruse their
O, negligent and heedless discipline! [wings.—
How are we park'd, and bounded in a pale;
A little herd of England's timorous deer,
Maz'd with a yelping kennel of French curs!
If we be English deer, be then in blood!
Not rascal-like,¹ to fall down with a pinch;
But rather moody-mad, and desperate stags,
Turn on the bloody hounds with heads of steel,
And make the cowards stand aloof at bay:
Sell every man his life as dear as mine,
And they shall find dear deer of us, my friends.—
God, and saint George! Talbot, and England's
right!

Prosper our colours in this dangerous fight!

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—PLAINS IN GASCONY.

Enter York, with Forces; to him a Messenger.

York. Are not the speedy scouts return'd again,
That dogg'd the mighty army of the dauphin?

M. They are return'd, my lord; and give it out,
That he is march'd to Bourdeaux with his power,
To fight with Talbot: As he march'd along,
By your espials⁴ were discovered
Two mightier troops than that the dauphin led;
Which join'd with him, and made their march
for Bourdeaux.

1 Endue.

2 In high spirits.

3 Hunting term for lean deer.

4 Spies.

York. A plague upon that villain Somerset;
That thus delays my promised supply
Of horsemen, that were levied for this siege!
Renowned Talbot doth expect my aid;
And I am lowted¹ by a traitor villain,
And cannot help the noble chevalier:
God comfort him in his necessity!
If he miscarry, farewell wars in France.

Enter Sir William Lucy.

L. Thou princely leader of our English strength,
Never so needful on the earth of France,
Spur to the rescue of the noble Talbot;
Who now is girdled with a waist of iron,
And henn'd² about with grim destruction:
To Bourdeaux, warlike duke! to Bourdeaux,

York! [honour.

Else, farewell Talbot, France, and England's
York. O, would that Somerset—who in proud
heart

Doth stop my cornets—were in Talbot's place!
So should we save a valiant gentleman,
By forfeiting a traitor and a coward.

*Mad ire, and wrathful fury, makes me weep,
That thus we die, while remiss traitors sleep.*

L. O, send some succour to the distress'd lord!

F. He dies, we lose; I break my warlike word:
We mourn, Frances smiles; we lose, they daily get;
All Tong of this vile traitor Somerset. [soul!

Lucy. Then, God take mercy on brave Talbot's
And on his son, young John; whom two hours
I met in travel toward his warlike father, (since,
These seven years did not Talbot see his son;
And now they meet where both their lives are
done.

York. Alas! what joy shall noble Talbot have,
To bid his young son welcome to his grave?
Away! vexation almost stops my breath,
That sunder'd friends greet in the hour of death.—
Lucy, farewell: no more my fortune can,
But curse the cause I cannot aid the man.—
Maine, Blois, Poitiers, and Tours, are won away.
Long all of Somerset, and his delay. [Exit.

Lucy. Thus, while the vulture of sedition
Feeds in the bosom of such great commanders,
Sleeping neglect doth betray to loss
The conquest of our scarce-cold conqueror,
That ever-living man of memory,
Henry the fifth:—Whiles they each other cross,
Lives, honours, lands, and all, hurry to loss. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—OTHER PLAINS OF GASCONY.

*Enter Somerset, with his Forces; an Officer of
Talbot's with him.*

Som. It is too late; I cannot send them now:
This expedition was by York, and Talbot,
Too rashly plotted; all our general force
Might with a sally of the very town
Be buckled with: the over-daring Talbot
Hath sullied all his gloss of former honour,
By this unheedful, desperate, wild adventure;
York set him on to fight, and die in shame,
That, Talbot dead, great York might bear the
name.

Off. Here is Sir William Lucy, who with me
Set from our o'er-match'd forces forth for aid.

1 Baffled.

Enter Sir William Lucy.

Som. How now, Sir William? whither were
you sent? [lord Talbot:

L. Whither, my lord? from bought and sold
Who, ring'd about¹ with bold adversity,
Cries out for noble York and Somerset,
To beat assailing death from his weak legions,
And whiles the honourable captain there
Drops bloody sweat from his war-wearied limbs,
And, in advantage ling'ring, looks for rescue,
You, his false hopes, the trust of England's
honour,

Keep off aloof with worthless emulation.

Let not your private discord keep away
The levied succours that should lend him aid,
While he, renowned noble gentleman,
Yields up his life unto a world of odds:
Orleans the Bastard, Charles, and Burgundy,
Alençon, Reignier, compass him about,
And Talbot perisheth by your default.

Som. York set him on, York should have sent
him aid. [exclaims:

Lucy. And York as fast upon your grace
Swearing that you withhold his levied horse,
Collected for this expedition.

Som. York lies; he might have sent and had the
I owe him little duty, and less love: [horse:
And take foul scorn, to fawn on him by sending.

Lucy. The fraud of England, not the force of
France,

Hath now entrapp'd the noble-minded Talbot:
Never to England shall he bear his life;
But dies, betray'd to fortune by your strife.

Som. Come, go; I will despatch the horsemen
Within six hours they will be at his aid. [straight:

L. Too late comes rescue: he is ta'en or slain:
For fly he could not, if he would have fled;
And fly would Talbot never, though he might.

Som. If he be dead, brave Talbot then adieu!

Lucy. His fame lives in the world, his shame
in you. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.

THE ENGLISH CAMP, NEAR BOURDEAUX.

Enter Talbot, and John his Son.

Tal. O young John Talbot! I did send for thee,
To tutor thee in stratagems of war;
That Talbot's name might be in thee reviv'd,
When sapless age, and weak unable limbs,
Should bring thy father to his drooping chair.
But,—O malignant and ill-boding stars!—
Now thou art come unto a feast of death,
A terrible and unavoided² danger:
Therefore, dear boy, mount on my swiftest horse;
And I'll direct thee how thou shalt escape
By sudden flight: come, dally not; begone.

John. Is my name Talbot? and am I your son?
And shall I fly? O, if you love my mother,
Dishonour not her honourable name,
To make a bastard, and a slave of me:
The world will say—He is not Talbot's blood,
That basely fled, when noble Talbot stood.

Tal. Fly, to revenge my death, if I be slain.
John. He, that flies so, will ne'er return again.

Tal. If we both stay, we both are sure to die.
John. Then let me stay; and, father, do you fly:

1 Encircled.

2 Unavoidable.

Your loss is great, so your regard¹ should be;
My worth unknown, no loss is known in me.
Upon my death the French can little boast;
In yours they will, in you all hopes are lost.
Flight cannot stain the honour you have won;
But mine it will, that no exploit have done:
You fled for vantage every one will swear;
But, if I bow, they'll say—it was for fear.
There is no hope that ever I will stay,
If, the first hour, I shrink, and run away.
Here, on my knee, I beg mortality,
Rather than life preserv'd with infamy.

Tal. Shall all thy mother's hopes lie in one tomb? [womb.

John. Ay, rather than I'll shame my mother's *Tal.* Upon my blessing, I command thee go.

John. To fight I will, but not to fly the foe.

Tal. Part of thy father may be sav'd in thee.

John. No part of him, but will be shame in me.

Tal. Thou never hadst renown, nor canst not lose it. [abuse it?

J. Yes, your renowned name; Shall flight

Tal. Thy father's charge shall clear thee from that stain.

John. You cannot witness for me, being slain. If death be so apparent, then both fly.

Tal. And leave my followers here, to fight and My age was never tainted with such shame. [die?

J. And shall my youth be guilty of such blame?

No more can I be severed from your side,

Than can yourself yourself in twain divide:

Stay, go, do what you will, the like do I;

For live I will not, if my father die.

Tal. Then here I take my leave of thee, fair Born to eclipse thy life this afternoon. [son,

Come, side by side together live and die;

And soul with soul from France to heaven fly. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A FIELD OF BATTLE.

Alarum: Excursions, wherein Talbot's Son is hemmed about, and Talbot rescues him.

Tal. Saint George and victory! fight, soldiers, fight:

The regent hath with Talbot broke his word, And left us to the rage of France's sword.

Where is John Talbot?—pause, and take thy breath;

I gave thee life, and rescu'd thee from death.

John. O twice my father! twice am I thy son:

The life thou gav'st me first, was lost and done;

Till with thy warlike sword, despite of fate,

To my determin'd² time thou gav'st new date.

Tal. When from the dauphin's crest thy sword struck fire,

It warm'd thy father's heart with proud desire Of bold-fac'd victory. Then leaden age, [rage,

Quickened with youthful spleen, and warlike

Beat down Alençon, Orleans, Burgundy,

And from the pride of Gallia rescu'd thee.

The ireful bastard Orleans—that drew blood

From thee, my boy; and had the maidenhood

Of thy first fight—I soon encountered;

And, interchanging blows, I quickly shed

Some of his bastard blood; and, in disgrace,

Bespoke him thus: Contaminated, base,

¹ Care.

² Finished.

*And misbegotten blood I spill of thine,
Mean and right poor; for that pure blood of mine,
Which thou didst force from Talbot, my brave
boy:—*

Here, purposing the Bastard to destroy,
Came in strong rescue. Speak thy father's care;

Art not thou weary, John? How dost thou fare?

Wilt thou yet leave the battle, boy, and fly,

Now thou art seal'd the son of chivalry?

Fly, to revenge my death, when I am dead;

The help of one stands me in little stead.

O, too much folly is it, well I wot,

To hazard all our lives in one small boat.

If I to-day die not with Frenchmen's rage,

To-morrow I shall die with mickle age:

By me they nothing gain, and if I stay,

'Tis but the short'ning of my life one day:

In thee thy mother dies, our household's name,

My death's revenge, thy youth, and England's fame:

All these, and more, we hazard by thy stay;

All these are sav'd, if thou wilt fly away.

John. The sword of Orleans hath not made me smart, [heart:

These words of yours draw life-blood from my On that advantage bought with such a shame,

(To save a paltry life, and slay bright fame,)

Before young Talbot from old Talbot fly,

The coward horse, that bears me, fall and die:

And like¹ me to the peasant boys of France;

To be shame's scorn, and subject of mischance!

Surely, by all the glory you have won,

An if I fly, I am not Talbot's son:

Then talk no more of flight, it is no boot;

If son to Talbot, die at Talbot's foot.

Tal. Then follow thou thy desperate sire of

Thou Icarus; thy life to me is sweet: [Crete,

If thou wilt fight, fight by thy father's side;

And, commendable prov'd, let's die in pride. [Exeunt.

SCENE VII.—ANOTHER PART OF THE SAME.

Alarum: Excursions. Enter Talbot wounded, supported by a Servant.

Tal. Where is my other life? mine own is gone:— [John?—

O, where's young Talbot? where is valiant Triumphant death, smear'd with captivity!

Young Talbot's valour makes me smile at thee:—

When he perceiv'd I me shrink, and on my knee,

His bloody sword he brandish'd over me,

And, like a hungry lion did commence

Rough deeds of rage, and stern impatience;

But when my angry guardian stood alone,

Tend'ring my ruin,² and assail'd of none,

Dizzy-ey'd fury, and great rage of heart,

Suddenly made him from my side to start

Into the clust'ring battle of the French:

And in that sea of blood my boy did drench

His overmounting spirit; and there died

My Icarus, my blossom, in his pride.

Enter Soldiers, bearing the Body of John Talbot.

Serv. O, my dear lord! lo, where your son is borne! [to scorn,

Tal. Thou antick death, which laugh'st us here

¹ Make me like. ² Watching my fall tenderly.

Anon, from thy insulting tyranny,
Coupled in bonds of perpetuity,
Two Talbots, winged through the lither¹ sky,
In thy despite, shall 'scape mortality.—
O thou whose wounds become hard-favoured
death,

Speak to thy father, ere thou yield thy breath:
Brave death by speaking, whether he will, or no;
Imagine him a Frenchman, and thy foe.—
Poor boy! he smiles, methinks; as who should
say— [day.

Had death been French, then death had died to-
Come, come, and lay him in his father's arms;
My spirit can no longer bear these harms,
Soldiers, adieu! I have what I would have,
Now my old arms are young John Talbot's grave.

[Dies.

*Alarums. Exeunt Soldiers and Servant, leav-
ing the two Bodies. Enter Charles Alençon,
Burgundy, Bastard, La Pucelle, and Forces.*
Ch. Had York and Somerset brought rescue in,
We should have found a bloody day of this.

Bast. How the young whelp of Talbot's, raging
wood.²

Did flesh his puny sword in Frenchmen's blood!

Puc. Once I encounter'd him, and thus I said,
Thou maiden youth, be vanquish'd by a maid:
But—with a proud, majestic, high scorn,—
He answer'd thus; *Young Talbot was not born
To be the pillage of a giglot's wench:*

So, rushing in the bowels of the French,
He left me proudly, as unworthy fight.

Bur. Doubtless, he would have made a noble
See, where he lies inhered in the arms [knight.
Of the most bloody nurser of his harms.

Bast. Hew them to pieces, hack their bones
asunder;

Whose life was England's glory, Gallia's wonder.

Ch. O, no; forbear: for that which we have
During the life, let us not wrong it dead. [fled

*Enter Sir William Lucy, attended; a French
Herald preceding.*

Lucy. Herald,

Conduct me to the dauphin's tent; to know
Who hath obtain'd the glory of the day.

Ch. On what submissive message art thou sent?

Lucy. Submission, dauphin? 'tis a mere French
word;

We English warriors wot not what it means,
I come to know what prisoners thou hast ta'en,
And to survey the bodies of the dead.

Char. For prisoners ask'st thou?

Tell me whom thou seek'st.

Lucy. Where is the great Alcides of the field,
Valiant lord Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury?

Created, for his rare success in arms,
Great earl of Washford, Waterford, and Valence,
Lord Talbot of Goodrig and Urchinfield,
Lord Strange of Blackmere, lord Verdun of
Alton, [Sheffield,

Lord Cromwell of Wingfield, lord Furnival of
The thrice victorious lord of Falconbridge;
Knight of the noble order of saint George,
Worthy saint Michael, and the golden fleece;
Great marshal to Henry the sixth,
Of all his wars within the realm of France?

1 Yielding.

2 Mad.

3 Wanton.

Puc. Here is a silly stately style indeed!
The Turk, that two-and-fifty kingdoms hath,
Writes not so tedious a style as this.—
Him, that thou magniest with all these titles,
Bloody and breathless lies here at our feet.

Lucy. Is Talbot slain; the Frenchmen's only
scourge,

Your kingdom's terrour and black Nemesis?
O, were mine eye-balls into bullets turn'd,
That I, in rage, might shoot them at your faces!
O, that I could but call these dead to life!
It were enough to fright the realm of France:
Were but his picture left among you here,
It would amaze the proudest of you all.
Give me their bodies; that I may bear them
hence,

And give them burial as beseems their worth.

Puc. I think, this upstart is old Talbot's ghost,
Hespeaks with such a proud commanding spirit.
For heaven's sake let him have 'em; to keep
them here,

They would but stink and putrefy the air.

Char. Go, take their bodies hence.

Lucy. I'll bear them hence:
But from their ashes shall be rear'd

A phoenix that shall make all France afraid.

Char. So we be rid of them, do with 'em what
thou wilt.

And now to Paris, in this conquering vein;
All will be ours, now bloody Talbot's slain.

[Exeunt.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, Gloster, and Exeter.

K. Hen. Have you perus'd the letters from
the pope,

The emperor, and the earl of Armagnac?

Glo. I have, my lord; and their intent is this,—
They humbly sue unto your excellence,
To have a godly peace concluded of,
Between the realms of England and of France.

K. Hen. How doth your grace affect their
motion?

Glo. Well, my good lord; and as the only means
To stop effusion of our Christian blood,
And 'stablish quietness on every side.

K. H. Ay, marry, uncle; for I always thought,
It was both impious and unnatural,
That such inhumanity and bloody strife
Should reign among professors of one faith.

Glo. Beside, my lord—the sooner to effect,
And surer bind, this knot of amity,—
The earl of Armagnac—near knit to Charles,
A man of great authority in France,—
Proffers his only daughter to your grace
In marriage, with a large and sumptuous dowry.

K. Hen. Marriage, uncle! alas! my years are
And fitter is my study and my books, [young;
Than wanton dalliance with a paramour.
Yet, call the ambassadors; and, as you please,
So let them have their answers every one:
I shall be well content with any choice,
Tends to God's glory, and my country's weal.

1 Inhumanity.

Enter a Legate, and two Ambassadors, with Winchester, in a Cardinal's Habit.

Exe. What! is my lord of Winchester install'd, And call'd unto a cardinal's degree!

Then, I perceive, that will be verified,
Henry the fifth did sometime prophecy,—
If once he came to be a cardinal,
He'll make his cap co-equal with the crown.

K. H. My lords ambassadors, your several suits Have been consider'd and debated on.

Your purpose is both good and reasonable:
And, therefore, are we certainly resolv'd
To draw conditions of a friendly peace;
Which, by my lord of Winchester, we mean
Shall be transported presently to France.

G. And for the proffer of my lord your master,—
I have inform'd his highness so at large,
As—liking of the lady's virtuous gifts,
Her beauty, and the value of her dower,
He doth intend she shall be England's queen.

K. H. In argument and proof of which contract,
Bear her this jewel, [*To the Amb.*] pledge of my affection.

And so, my lord protector, see them guarded,
And safely brought to Dover; where, in shipp'd,
Commit them to the fortune of the sea.

[*Exeunt King Henry and Train; Gloster, Exeter, and Ambassadors.*]

W. Stay, my lord legate; you shall first receive
The sum of money, which I promised
Should be deliver'd to his holiness

For clothing me in these grave ornaments.

Leg. I will attend upon your lordship's leisure.

Win. Now, Winchester will not submit, I trow,
Or be inferior to the proudest peer.

Humphrey of Gloster, thou shalt well perceive,
That, neither in birth, or for authority,
The bishop will be overborne by thee:

I'll indeed make thee stoop, and bend thy knee,
Or sack this country with a mutiny. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—FRANCE. PLAINS IN ANJOU.

Enter Charles, Burgundy, Alençon, La Pucelle, and Forces, marching.

Char. These news, my lord, may cheer our drooping spirits;

'Tis said, the stout Parisians do revolt,
And turn again unto the warlike French.

Alen. Then march to Paris, royal Charles of France,

And keep not back your powers in dalliance.

P. Peace be amongst them, if they turn to us;
Else, ruin combat with their palaces!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Success unto our valiant general,
And happiness to his accomplices!

Char. What tidings send our scouts? I pry—thee, speak.

Mess. The English army, that divided was
Into two parts, is now conjoin'd in one;

And means to give you battle presently.

C. Somewhat too sudden, sirs, the warning is;
But we will presently provide for them.

Bur. I trust, the ghost of Talbot is not there;
Now he is gone, my lord, you need not fear.

P. Of all base passions, fear is most accurs'd:—

Command the conquest, Charles, it shall be thine;
Let Henry fret, and all the world repine.

Char. Then on, my lords; And France be fortunate! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—BEFORE ANGIERS.

Alarums: Excursions. Enter La Pucelle.

Puc. The regent conquers, and the Frenchmen fly.—

Now help, ye charming spells, and periapts¹;
And ye choice spirits that admonish me,
And give me signs of future accidents! [*Thunder.*]
You speedy helpers, that are substitutes
Under the lordly monarch of the north,²
Appear, and aid me in this enterprise!—

Enter Fiends.

This speedy quick appearance argues proof
Of your accustomed diligence to me.
Now, ye familiar spirits, that are cull'd
Out of the powerful regions under earth,
Help me this once, that France may get the field.

[*They walk about, and speak not.*]

O, hold me not with silence over-long!
Where I was wont to feed you with my blood,
I'll lop a member off, and give it you,
In earnest of a further benefit;
So you do condescend to help me now.—

[*They hang their heads.*]

No hope to have redress?—My body shall
Pay recompense, if you will grant my suit.

[*They shake their heads.*]

Cannot my body, nor blood-sacrifice,
Entreat you to your wonted furtherance?
Then take my soul; my body, soul, and all,
Before that England give the French the foil.

[*They depart.*]

See! they forsake me. Now the time is come,
That France must vail her lofty-plumed crest,
And let her head fall into England's lap.
My ancient incantations are too weak,
And hell too strong for me to buckle with:
Now, France, thy glory droopeth to the dust.

[*Exit.*]

Alarums. Enter French and English fighting.

La Pucelle and York fight hand to hand. La Pucelle is taken. The French fly.

Y. Damsel of France, I think I have you fast:
Unchain your spirits now with spelling charms,

And try if they can gain your liberty.—
See how the ugly witch doth bend her brows,

As if, with Circe, she would change my shape.
P. Chang'd to a worse shape thou canst not be.

York. O, Charles the dauphin is a proper man:
No shape but his can please your dainty eye.

Puc. A plaguing mischief light on Charles,
and thee!

And may ye both be suddenly surpris'd
By bloody hands, in sleeping on your beds!

York. Fell, banning³ hag! enchantress, hold thy tongue.

Puc. I pry'thee, give me leave to curse a while.

York. Curse, miscreant, when thou comest to the stake. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ Charms worn about the person.

² The particular habitation of bad spirits.

³ Cursing.

Alarums. Enter Suffolk, leading in Lady Margaret.

Suf. Be what thou wilt, thou art my prisoner.
[Gazes on her.]

O fairest beauty, do not fear, nor fly;
 For I will touch thee but with reverent hands,
 And lay them gently on thy tender side.
 I kiss these fingers *[Kissing her hand]* for
 eternal peace:

Who art thou? say, that I may honour thee.
M. Margaret myname; and daughter to a king.
 The king of Naples, whose'er thou art.

Suf. And earl I am, and Suffolk am I call'd.
 Be not offended, nature's miracle,
 Thou art allotted to be ta'en by me:
 So doth the swan her downy cygnets save,
 Keeping them prisoners underneath her wings,
 Yet, if this servile usage once offend,
 Go, and be free again as Suffolk's friend.

[She turns away as going.]

O, stay!—I have no power to let her pass;
 My hand would free her, but my heart says—no.
 As plays the sun upon the glassy streams,
 Twinkling another counterfeited beam,
 So seems this gorgeous beauty to mine eyes.
 Fain would I woo her, yet I dare not speak:
 I'll call for pen and ink, and write my mind:
 Fie, De la Poole! disable not thyself;
 Hast not a tongue? is she not here thy prisoner?
 Wilt thou be daunted at a woman's sight?
 Ay; beauty's princely majesty is such,
 Confounds the tongue, and makes the senses
 rough. *[so,—]*

Mar. Say, earl of Suffolk,—if thy name be
 What ransom must I pay before I pass?
 For, I perceive, I am thy prisoner.

Suf. *[Aside.]* How canst thou tell she will
 deny thy suit,
 Before thou make a trial of her love?

Mar. Why speak'st thou not? what ransom
 must I pay?

Suf. *[Aside.]* She's beautiful; and therefore
 to be woo'd:

She is a woman; therefore to be won.

Mar. Wilt thou accept of ransom, yea, or no?

Suf. *[Aside.]* Fond man! remember that thou
 hast a wife;

Then how can Margaret be thy paramour?

Mar. I were best leave him, for he will not hear.

S. There all is marr'd; there lies a cooling card.

M. He talks at random; sure the man is mad.

Suf. And yet a dispensation may be had.

M. And yet I would that you would answer me.

Suf. *[Aside.]* I'll win this lady Margaret for
 my king,

And so my fancy² may be satisfied,

And peace established between these realms.

But their remains a scruple in that too:

For though her father be the king of Naples,

Duke of Anjou and Maine, yet is he poor,

And our nobility will scorn the match.

Mar. Hear ye, captain? Are you not at leisure?

Suf. *[Aside.]* It shall be so, disdain they ne'er
 so much:

Henry is youthful, and will quickly yield.—

Madam, I have a secret to reveal.

¹ (Do not represent thyself so weak.)

² Love.

Mar. *[Aside.]* What though I be enthrall'd?
 he seems a knight,

And will not any way dishonour me.

Suf. Lady, vouchsafe to listen what I say.

Mar. *[Aside.]* Perhaps I shall be rescued by
 the French;

And then I need not crave his courtesy.

S. Sweet madam, give me hearing in a cause—

Mar. *[Aside.]* Tush! women have been cap-
 tivate ere now.

Suf. Lady, wherefore talk you so?

Mar. I cry you mercy, 'tis but *quid pro quo*.

S. Say, gentle princess, would you not suppose
 Your bondage happy, to be made a queen?

Mar. To be a queen in bondage is more vile,
 Than is a slave in base servility;

For princes should be free.

Suf. And so shall you
 If happy England's royal king be free.

M. Why, what concerns his freedom unto me?

S. I'll undertake to make thee Henry's queen;
 To put a golden sceptre in thy hand,

And set a precious crown upon thy head,

If thou wilt condescend to be my—

Mar. What?

Suf. His love.

Mar. I am unworthy to be Henry's wife.

Suf. No, gentle madam; I unworthy am

To woo so fair a dame to be his wife,

And have no portion in the choice myself.

How say you, madam; are you so content?

Mar. An if my father please, I am content.

Suf. Then call our captains, and our colours,

forth:

And, madam, at your father's castle walls

We'll crave a parley, to confer with him.

[Troops come forward.]

*A Parley sounded. Enter Reignier, on the
 Walls.*

Suf. See, Reignier, see, thy daughter prisoner.

Reig. To whom?

Suf. To me.

Reig. Suffolk, what remedy?

I am a soldier; and unapt to weep,

Or to exclaim on fortune's fickleness.

Suf. Yes, there is remedy enough, my lord:

Consent, (and for thy honour, give consent,)

Thy daughter shall be wedded to my king;

Whom I with pain have woo'd and won thereto;

And this her easy held imprisonment

Hath gain'd thy daughter princely liberty.

Reig. Speaks Suffolk as he thinks?

Suf. Fair Margaret knows,

That Suffolk doth not flatter, face,¹ or feign.

Reig. Upon thy princely warrant, I descend,

To give thee answer of thy just demand.

[Exit from the Walls.]

Suf. And here I will expect thy coming.

Trumpets sounded. Enter Reignier, below.

Reig. Welcome, brave earl, into our territories;

Command in Anjou what your honour pleases.

S. Thanks, Reignier, happy for so sweet a child,

Fit to be made companion with a king:

What answer makes your grace unto my suit?

R. Since thou dost deign to woo her little worth,

To be the princely bride of such a lord;

¹ Play the hypocrite.

Upon condition I may quietly
Enjoy mine own, the county Maine, and Anjou,
Free from oppression, or the stroke of war,
My daughter shall be Henry's if he please.

Suf. That is her ransom, I deliver her;
And those two counties, I will undertake,
Your grace shall well and quietly enjoy.

Reig. And I again,—in Henry's royal name,
As deputy unto that gracious king,
Give thee her hand for sign of plighted faith.

Suf. Reignier of France, I give thee kingly
Because this is in traffic of a king: [thanks,
And yet, methinks, I could be well content
To be mine own attorney in this case. [*Aside.*
I'll over then to England with this news,
And make this marriage to be solemniz'd;
So, farewell, Reignier! Set this diamond safe
In golden palaces, as it becomes.

Reig. I do embrace thee, as I would embrace
The Christian prince, king Henry, were he here.

Mar. Farewell, my lord! Good wishes, praise,
and prayers,

Shall Suffolk ever have of Margaret. [*Going.*

Suf. Farewell, sweet madam! But hark you,
Margaret;

No princely commendations to my king?

Mar. Such commendations as become a maid,
A virgin, and his servant, say to him.

S. Words sweetly plac'd, and modestly directed.

But, madam, I must trouble you again,—
No loving token to his majesty? [*Heart.*

Mar. Yes, my good lord; a pure unspotted
Never yet taint with love, I send the king.

Suf. And this withal. [*Kisses her.*

Mar. That for thyself:—I will not so presume,
To send such peevish tokens to a king.

[*Exeunt Reignier and Margaret.*

Suf. O, wert thou for myself!—But, Suffolk,
stay;

Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth;
There Minotaurs, and ugly treasons, lurk.
Solicit Henry with her wondrous praise:
Bethink thee on her virtues that surmount;
Her natural graces that extinguish art;
Repeat their semblance often on the seas,
That, when thou com'st to kneel at Henry's feet,
Thou may'st bereave him of his wits with
wonder. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV.

CAMP OF THE DUKE OF YORK, IN ANJOU.

Enter York, Warwick, and others.

York. Bring forth that sorceress, condemn'd
to burn.

Enter La Pucelle, guarded, and a Shepherd.

Shep. Ah, Joan! this kills thy father's heart
outright!

Have I sought every country far and near,
And now it is my chance to find thee out,
Must I behold thy timeless cruel death?

Ah, Joan, sweet daughter Joan, I'll die with thee!

Puc. First, let me tell you whom you have
condemn'd;

Not one begotten of a shepherd swain,
But issu'd from the progeny of kings;

Virtuous, and holy; chosen from above,

1 Foolish.

By inspiration of celestial grace,
To work exceeding miracles on earth.

I never had to do with wicked spirits:

But you,—that are polluted with your lusts,
Stain'd with the guiltless blood of innocents,
Corrupt and tainted with a thousand vices,—
Because you want the grace that others have,
You judge it straight a thing impossible
To compass wonders but by help of devils.

No, misconceiv'd? Joan of Arc hath been
A virgin from her tender infancy,

Chaste and immaculate in very thought;
Whose maiden blood, thus rigorously effus'd,
Will cry for vengeance at the gates of heaven.

York. Ay, ay;—away with her to execution.

War. And hark ye, sirs; because she is a maid,
Spare for no fagots, let there be enough:
Place barrels of pitch upon the fatal stake,
That so her torture may be shortened.

P. Will nothing turn your unrelenting hearts?—
Then lead me hence;—with whom I leave my
curse;

May never glorious sun reflex his beams
Upon the country where you make abode!
But darkness and the gloomy shade of death
Environ you; till mischief and despair,
Drive you to break your necks, or hang your-
selves! [*Exit guarded.*

Y. Break thou in pieces, and consume to ashes,
Thou foul accursed minister of hell!

Enter Cardinal Beaufort, attended.

Car. Lord regent, I do greet your excellence
With letters of commission from the king,
For know, my lords, the states of Christendom,
Mov'd with remorse of these outrageous broils,
Have earnestly implor'd a general peace
Betwix our nation and the aspiring French:
And here at hand the dauphin, and his train,
Approacheth, to confer about some matter.

York. Is all our travail turn'd to this effect?
After the slaughter of so many peers,
So many captains, gentlemen, and soldiers,
That in this quarrel have been overthrow'n,
And sold their bodies for their country's benefit,
Shall we at last conclude effeminate peace?
Have we not lost most part of all the towns,
By treason, falsehood, and by treachery,
Our great progenitors had conquer'd?—
O, Warwick, Warwick! I foresee with grief
The utter loss of all the realm of France.

War. Bepatient, York: if we conclude a peace,
It shall be with such strict and severe covenants,
As little shall the Frenchman gain thereby.

*Enter Charles, attended: Alençon, Bastard,
Reignier, and others.*

Cha. Since, lords of England, it is thus agreed,
That peaceful truce shall be proclaim'd in France,
We come to be informed by yourselves
What the conditions of that league must be.

York. Speak, Winchester; for boiling choler
chokes

The hollow passage of my poison'd voice,
By sight of these our baleful enemies.

Car. Charles, and the rest, it is enacted thus:
That—in regard king Henry gives consent,
Of mere compassion, and of lenity,

1 Compassion.

To ease your country of distressful war,
And suffer you to breathe in fruitful peace,—
You shall become true liegemen to his crown:
And Charles, upon condition thou wilt swear
To pay him tribute, and submit thyself,
Thou shalt be plac'd as viceroy under him,
And still enjoy thy regal dignity.

Alen. Must he be then a shadow of himself?
Adorn his temples with a coronet¹;
And yet, in substance and authority,
Retain but privilege of a private man?
This proffer is absurd and reasonless.

Char. 'Tis known, already that I am possess'd
With more than half the Gallian territories,
And therein reverenc'd for their lawful king:
Shall I, for lucre of the rest unvanquish'd,
Detract so much from that prerogative,
As to be called but viceroy of the whole?
No, lord ambassador; I'll rather keep
That which I have, than, coveting for more,
Be cast from possibility of all.

York. Insulting Charles! hast thou by secret
Used intercession to obtain a league; [means
And, now the matter grows to compromise,
Stand'st thou aloof upon comparison?
Either accept the title thou usurp'st,
Of benefit proceeding from our king,
And not of any challenge of desert,
Or we will plague thee with incessant wars.

Reign. My lord, you do not well in obstinacy
To cavil in the course of this contract:
If once it be neglected, ten to one,
We shall not find like opportunity.

Alen. To say the truth, it is your policy,
To save your subjects from such massacre,
And ruthless slaughters, as are daily seen
By our proceeding in hostility:
And therefore take this compact of a truce,
Although you break it when your pleasure serves.

[*Aside to Charles.*

W. How say'st thou, Charles? shall our con-
Char. It shall: [dition stand?
Only reserv'd, you claim no interest
In any of our towns of garrison.

York. Then swear allegiance to his majesty;
As thou art knight never to disobey,
Nor be rebellious to the crown of England,
Thou nor thy nobles, to the crown of England.—

[*Charles, and the rest, give tokens of jealousy.*
So now dismiss your army when you please;
Hang up your ensigns, let your drums be still,
For here we entertain a solemn peace. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

*Enter King Henry in conference with Suffolk;
Gloster, and Exeter, following.*

K. Hen. Your wond'rous rare description,
noble earl,
Of beauteous Margaret hath astonish'd me:
Her virtues, graced with external gifts,
Do breed love's settled passions in my heart:
And like as rigour in tempestuous gusts
Provokes the mightiest hulk against the tide;
So am I driven, by breath of her renown,
Either to suffer shipwreck, or arrive
Where I may have fruition of her love.

1 (Used for crown.)

Suf. Tush! my good lord! this superficial tale
Is but a preface of her worthy praise:
The chief perfections of that lovely dame,
(Had I sufficient skill to utter them,)
Would make a volume of enticing lines,
Able to ravish any dull conceit,
And, which is more, she is not so divine,
So full replete with choice of all delights,
But, with as humble lowliness of mind,
She is content to be at your command;
Command, I mean, of virtuous chaste intents,
To love and honour Henry as her lord.

K. H. And otherwise will Henry ne'er presume.
Therefore, my lord protector, give consent,
That Margaret may be England's royal queen.

Glo. So should I give consent to flatter sin.
You know, my lord, your highness is betroth'd
Unto another lady of esteem;
How shall we then dispense with that contract,
And not deface your honour with reproach?

Suf. As doth a ruler, with unlawful oaths;
Or one, that, at a triumph¹ having vow'd
To try his strength, forsaketh yet the lists
By reason of his adversary's odds,
A poor earl's daughter is unequal odds,
And therefore may be broke without offence.

Glo. Why, what, I pray, is Margaret more than
Her father is no better than an earl, [that?
Although in glorious titles he excel.

Suf. Yes, my good lord, her father is a king,
The king of Naples, and Jerusalem;
And of such great authority in France,
As his alliance will confirm our peace,
And keep the Frenchmen in allegiance.

Glo. And so the earl of Armagnac may do,
Because he is near kinsman unto Charles.

Eze. Beside, his wealth doth warrant liberal
dower;

While Reignier sooner will receive, than give.
S. A dower, my lords! disgrace not so your king,
That he should be so abject, base, and poor,
To choose for wealth, and not for perfect love.
Henry is able to enrich his queen,

And not to seek a queen to make him rich:
So worthless peasants bargain for their wives,
As market-men for oxen, sheep, or horse.
Marriage is a matter of more worth,
Than to be dealt in by attorneyship;
Not whom we will, but whom his grace affects,
Must be companion of his nuptial bed:
And therefore, lords, since he affects her most,
It most of all these reasons bindeth us,
In our opinions she should be preferr'd.

For what is wedlock forced but a hell,
An age of discord and continual strife?

Whereas the contrary bringeth forth bliss,
And is a pattern of celestial peace. [king,
Whom should we match with Henry, being a
But Margaret, that is daughter to a king?
Her peerless feature, joined with her birth,
Approves her fit for none, but for a king;
Her valiant courage, and undaunted spirit,
(More than in women commonly is seen,)
Will answer our hope in issue of a king;
For Henry, son unto a conqueror,
Is likely to beget more conquerors,
If with a lady of so high resolve,

1 Public exhibition.

As is fair Margaret, he be link'd in love.
Then yield, my lords; and here conclude with me,
That Margaret shall be queen, and none but she.

K. Hen. Whether it be through force of your
My noble lord of Suffolk; or for that [report,
My tender youth was never yet attain'd
With any passion of inflaming love,
I cannot tell; but this I am assur'd,
I feel such sharp dissension in my breast,
Such fierce alarms both of hope and fear,
As I am sick with working of my thoughts.
Take, therefore, shipping; post, my lord, to
Agree to any covenants; and procure [France;
That lady Margaret do vouchsafe to come
To cross the seas to England, and be crown'd
King Henry's faithful and anointed queen:
For your expenses and sufficient charge,
Among the people gather up a tenth.

Begone, I say; for, till you do return,
I rest perplexed with a thousand cares.—
And you, good uncle, banish all offence:
If you do censure¹ me by what you were,
Not what you are, I know it will excuse
This sudden execution of my will.

And so conduct me, where from company,
I may revolve and ruminate my grief. [*Exit.*

Glo. Ay, grief, I fear me, both at first and last.
[*Exeunt Gloster and Exeter.*

S. Thus Suffolk hath prevail'd: and thus he
goes,

As did the youthful Paris once to Greece;
With hope to find the like event in love,
But prosper better than the Trojan did.
Margaret shall now be queen, and rule the king;
But I will rule both her, the king, and realm.
[*Exit.*

Second Part of King Henry VI.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE SIXTH.

HUMPHREY, Duke of Gloster, his Uncle.

CARDINAL BEAUFORT, Bishop of Winchester,
great Uncle to the King.

RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Duke of York.

EDWARD and RICHARD, his Sons.

DUKE OF SOMERSET,

DUKE OF SUFFOLK,

DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM,

LORD CLIFFORD,

Young CLIFFORD, his Son,

EARL OF SALISBURY,

EARL OF WARWICK,

LORD SCALES, Governor of the Tower.

LORD SAY.

SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD, and his Brother.

SIR JOHN STANLEY.

A Sea-Captain, Master, and Master's Mate, and
WALTER WHITMORE.

Two Gentlemen, prisoners with Suffolk.

A Herald.

VAUX.

HUME and SOUTHWELL, two Priests.

BOLINGBROKE, a Conjuror.

A Spirit raised by him.

THOMAS HORNER, an Armourer.

PETER, his Man.

Clerk of Chatham.

Mayor of Saint Alban's.

SIMPSON, an Impostor.

Two Murderers.

JACK CADE, a Rebel.

GEORGE, JOHN, DICK, SMITH the Weaver,
MICHAEL, &c., his Followers.

ALEXANDER IDEN, a Kentish Gentleman.

MARGARET, Queen to King Henry.

ELEANOR, Duchess of Gloster.

MARGERY JOURDAIN, a Witch.

Wife to Simpcox.

Lords, Ladies, and Attendants; Petitioners,
Aldermen, a Beadle, Sheriff, and Officers,
Citizens, Prentices, Falconers, Guards, Sol-
diers, Messengers, &c.

SCENE.—Dispersedly in various Parts of England.

Act First.

SCENE I.

LONDON. A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

Flourish of Trumpets; then Hautboys. Enter,
on one side, King Henry, Duke of Gloster,
Salisbury, Warwick, and Cardinal Beaufort;
on the other, Queen Margaret, led in by
Suffolk; York, Somerset, Buckingham, and
others, following.

Suff. As by your high imperial majesty
I had in charge, at my depart for France,
As procurator to your excellence,
To marry princess Margaret for your grace;

So in the famous ancient city, Tours,—
In presence of the kings of France and Sicil,
The dukes of Orleans, Calaber, Bretagne, Alençon,
Seven earls, twelve barons, twenty reverend
bishops,—

I have perform'd my task, and was espous'd:
And humbly now upon my bended knee,
In sight of England, and her lordly peers,
Deliver up my title in the queen
To your most gracious hands, that are the sub-
Of that great shadow I did represent; [stance
The happiest gift that ever marquess gave,
The fairest queen that ever king receiv'd. [Margret:
K. Hen. Suffolk, arise.—Welcome, queen Mar-
1 Judge.

I can express no kinder sign of love,
Than this kind kiss.—O Lord, that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!
For thou hast given me, in this beauteous face,
A world of earthly blessings to my soul,
If sympathy of love unite our thoughts. [Lord ;

Q. Mar. Great king of England, and my gracious
The mutual conference that my mind hath had—
By day, by night, waking, and in my dreams ;
In courtly company, or at my beads,—
With you, mine alder-lichest¹ sovereign,
Makes me the bolder to salute my king
With ruder terms ; such as my wit affords,
And over-joy of heart doth minister.

K. Hen. Her sight did ravish, but her grace
in speech,
Her words y-clad with wisdom's majesty,
Makes me, from wondering, fall to weeping joys ;
Such is the fulness of my heart's content.—
Lords, with one cheerful voice welcome my love.

All. Long live queen Margaret, England's
happiness !

Q. Mar. We thank you all. [Flourish.
Suf. My lord protector, so it please your grace,
Here are the articles of contracted peace,
Between our sovereign and the French king
Charles,

For eighteen months concluded by consent.

Glo. [Reads.] Imprimis, *It is agreed, between
the French king, Charles, and William de la
Poole, marquess of Suffolk, ambassador for Henry
king of England,—that the said Henry shall es-
pouse the lady Margaret, daughter unto Reignier
king of Naples, Sicilia, and Jerusalem ; and
crown her queen of England, ere the thirtieth
of May next ensuing.*—Item,—*That the duchy
of Anjou and the county of Maine, shall be re-
leased and delivered to the king her father.*—

K. Hen. Uncle, how now ?

Glo. Pardon me, gracious lord ;
Some sudden qualm hath struck me at the heart,
And dimm'd mine eyes, that I can read no further.

K. Hen. Uncle of Winchester, I pray read on.
Car. Item,—*It is further agreed between them,
—that the duchies of Anjou and Maine shall be
released and delivered over to the king her father ;
and she sent over of the king of England's own
proper cost and charges, without having dowry.*

K. Hen. They please us well.—Lord marquess,
kneel down ;

We here create thee the first duke of Suffolk,
And girt thee with the sword.—
Cousin of York, we here discharge your grace
From being regent in the parts of France,
Till term of eighteen months be full expir'd.—
Thanks, uncle Winchester, Gloster, York, and
Buckingham,

Somerset, Salisbury, and Warwick ;
We thank you all for this great favour done,
In entertainment to my princely queen.
Come, let us in, and with all speed provide
To see her coronation be perform'd.

[Exeunt King, Queen, and Suffolk.

Glo. Brave peers of England, pillars of the state,
To you duke Humphrey must unload his grief,
Your grief, the common grief of all the land.
What ! did my brother Henry spend his youth,

¹ Beloved above all things.

His valour, coin, and people in the wars ?
Did he so often lodge in open field,
In winter's cold, and summer's parching heat,
To conquer France, his true inheritance ?
And did my brother Bedford toil his wits,
To keep by policy what Henry got ?
Have you yourselves, Somerset, Buckingham,
Brave York, Salisbury, and victorious Warwick,
Receiv'd deep scars in France and Normandy ?
Or hath my uncle Beaufort, and myself.

With all the learned council of the realm,
Studied so long, sat in the council-house,
Early and late, debating to and fro
How France and Frenchmen might be kept in
And hath his highness in his infancy [awe ?
Been crown'd in Paris, in despite of foes ?
And shall these labours, and these honours, die ?
Shall Henry's conquest, Bedford's vigilance,
Your deeds of war, and all our counsel, die ?
O peers of England, shameful is this league !
Fatal this marriage, cancelling your fame :
Blotting your names from books of memory :

Razing the characters of your renown ;
Defacing monuments of conquer'd France ;
Undoing all, as all had never been ! [course ?

Car. Nephew, what means this passionate dis-
This peroration with such circumstance ! !
For France, 'tis ours ; and we will keep it still.

Glo. Ay, uncle, we will keep it, if we can ;
But now it is impossible we should :
Suffolk, the new-made duke that rules the roast,
Hath given the duchies of Anjou and Maine,
Unto the poor king Reignier, whose large style
Agrees not with the leanness of his purse.

Sal. Now, by the death of him that died for all,
These counties were the keys of Normandy :—
But wherefore weeps Warwick, my valiant son ?

War. For grief, that they are past recovery :
For, were there hope to conquer them again,
My sword should shed hot blood, mine eyes no
tears.

Anjou and Maine, myself did win them both ;
Those provinces these arms of mine did conquer :
And are the cities, that I got with wounds,
Deliver'd up again with peaceful words ?

York. For Suffolk's duke—may he be suffocate,
That dims the honour of this warlike isle !
France should have torn and rent my very heart,
Before I would have yielded to this league.
I never read but England's kings have had
Large sums of gold, and dowries, with their wives :
And our king Henry gives away his own,
To match with her that brings no vantages.

Glo. A proper jest, and never heard before,
That Suffolk should demand a whole fifteenth,
For cost and charges in transporting her !
She should have staid in France, and starv'd in
Before— [France,

Car. My lord of Gloster, now you grow too hot.
It was the pleasure of my lord the king.

Glo. My lord of Winchester, I know your mind,
'Tis not my speeches that you do mislike,
But 'tis my presence that doth trouble you.
Rancour will out : Proud prelate, in thy face
I see thy fury : if I longer stay,
We shall begin our ancient bickerings.²—

¹ Crowded with so many cir- ² Contentions.
cumstances of aggravation.

Lordings farewell ; and say, when I am gone,
I prophesied—France will be lost ere long. [*Exit.*]

Car. So, there goes our protector in a rage.
'Tis known to you, he is mine enemy :
Nay, more, an enemy unto you all ;
And no great friend, I fear me, to the king.
Consider, lords, he is the next of blood,
And heir apparent to the English crown ;
Had Henry got an empire by his marriage,
And all the wealthy kingdoms of the west,
There's reason he should be displeas'd at it.
Look to it, lords ! let not his smoothing words
Bewitch your hearts ; be wise, and circumspect.
What though the common people favour him,
Calling him—*Humphrey, the good duke of Gloster* ;
Clapping their hands, and crying with loud voice—
May heaven preserve the good duke Humphrey !
I fear me, lords, for all this flattering gloss,
He will be found a dangerous protector.

B. Why should he then protect our sovereign,
He being of age to govern of himself ?
Cousin of Somerset, join you with me,
And all together—with the duke of Suffolk,—
We'll quickly hoise duke Humphrey from his
seat. [*delay ;*]

Car. This weighty business will not brook
I'll to the duke of Suffolk presently. [*Exit.*]

S. Cousin of Buckingham, though Humphrey's
pride,

And greatness of his place, be grief to us,
Yet let us watch the haughty cardinal ;
His insolence is more intolerable
Than all princes in the land beside ;
If Gloster be displac'd, he'll be protector.

B. Or thou, or I, Somerset, will be protector,
Despite duke Humphrey, or the cardinal.

[*Exeunt Buckingham and Somerset.*]

Sal. Pride went before, ambition follows him.
While these do labour for their own preferment,
Behoves it us to labour for the realm.

I never saw but Humphrey duke of Gloster
Did bear him like a noble gentleman.
Oft have I seen the haughty cardinal—
More like a soldier, than a man o' the church,
As stout, and proud, as he were lord of all,—
Swear like a ruffian, and demean himself
Unlike the ruler of a commonweal.—

Warwick, my son, the comfort of my age !
Thy deeds, thy plainness, and thy house-keeping,
Hath won the greatest favour of the commons,
Excepting none but good duke Humphrey.—
And, brother York, thy acts in Ireland,
In bringing them to civil discipline ;
Thy late exploits, done in the heart of France,
When thou wert regent for our sovereign,
Have made thee fear'd, and honour'd, of the
Join we together, for the public good ; [people :—
In what we can to bridle and suppress
The pride of Suffolk, and the cardinal,
With Somerset's and Buckingham's ambition ;
And, as we may, cherish duke Humphrey's deeds,
While they do tend the profit of the land.

W. So Heaven help Warwick, as he loves the
And common profit of his country ! [*land*]

Y. And so says York, for he hath greatest cause.
Sal. Then let's make haste away, and look
unto the main.

War. Unto the main ! O father, Maine is lost ;

That Maine, which by main force Warwick did
win,

And would have kept, so long as breath did last :
Main chance, father, you meant ; but I meant
Maine ;

Which I will win from France, or else be slain.

[*Exeunt Warwick and Salisbury.*]

Y. Anjou and Maine are given to the French ;
Paris is lost ; the state of Normandy
Stands on a tickle¹ point, now they are gone :
Suffolk concluded on the articles ;
The peers agreed ; and Henry was well pleas'd,
To change two dukedoms for a duke's fair
daughter.

I cannot blame them all ; What is't to them ?
'Tis thine they give away, and not their own.
Pirates may make cheap pennyworth's of their
pillage,

And purchase friends, and give to courtezans,
Still revelling, like lords, till all be gone :
While as the silly owner of the goods
Weeps over them, and wrings his hapless hands,
And shakes his head, and trembling stands aloof,
While all is shar'd, and all is borne away ;
Ready to starve, and dare not touch his own.
So York must sit, and fret, and bite his tongue,
While his own lands are bargain'd for, and sold.
Methinks, the realms of England, France, and
Ireland,

Bear that proportion to my flesh and blood,
As did the fatal brand Althea burn'd,
Unto the prince's heart of Calydon.
Anjou and Maine, both given unto the French !
Cold news for me ; for I had hope of France,
Even as I have of fertile England's soil.
A day will come, when York shall claim his own ;
And therefore I will take the Nevil's parts,
And make a show of love to proud duke
Humphrey,

And, when I spy advantage, claim the crown,
For that's the golden mark I seek to hit :
Nor shall proud Lancaster usurp my right,
Nor hold his scepter in his childish fist,
Nor wear the diadem upon his head,
Whose church-like humours fit not for a crown.
Then, York, be still awhile, till time do serve :
Watch thou, and wake, when others be asleep,
To pry into the secrets of the state ;
Till Henry, surfeiting in joys of love, [queen,
With his new bride, and England's dear-bought
And Humphrey with the peers be fall'n at jars :
Then will I raise aloft the milk-white rose,
With whose sweet smell the air shall be perfum'd ;
And in my standard bear the arms of York,
To grapple with the house of Lancaster ; [crown,
And, force perforce, I'll make him yield the
Whose bookish rule hath pull'd fair England
down. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

A ROOM IN THE DUKE OF GLOSTER'S HOUSE.

Enter Gloster and the Duchess.

D. Why droops my lord, like over-ripen'd corn,
Hanging the head at Ceres' plenteous load ?
Why doth the great duke Humphrey knit his
As frowning at the favours of the world ? [brows,
Why are thine eyes fixed to the sullen earth,

Gazing on that which seems to dim thy sight?
 What see'st thou there? king Henry's diadem,
 Enchas'd with all the honours of the world?
 If so, gaze on, and grovel on thy face,
 Until thy head be circled with the same.
 Put forth thy hand, reach at the glorious gold:—
 What, is't too short? I'll lengthen it with mine:
 And, having both together heav'd it up,
 We'll both together lift our heads to heaven;
 And never more abase our sight so low,
 As to vouchsafe one glance unto the ground.

G. O Nell, sweet Nell, if thou dost love thy lord,
 Banish the canker of ambitious thoughts:
 And may that thought, when I imagine ill
 Against my king and nephew, virtuous Henry,
 Be my last breathing in this mortal world!
 Mytroublesome dream this night doth make me sad.

Duch. What dream'd my lord? tell me, and
 I'll requit it

With sweet rehearsal of my morning's dream.

Glo. Methought, this staff, mine office-badge
 in court,

Was broke in twain, by whom, I have forgot,
 But, as I think, it was by the cardinal;
 And on the pieces of the broken wand [set,
 Were plac'd the heads of Edmond duke of Somers-
 And William de la Poole first duke of Suffolk.
 This was my dream; what it doth bode, Heaven
 knows.

Duch. Tut, this was nothing but an argument,
 That he that breaks a stick of Gloster's grove,
 Shall lose his head for his presumption.
 But list to me, my Humphrey, my sweet duke;
 Methought, I sat in seat of majesty,
 In the cathedral church of Westminster,
 And in that chair where kings and queens are
 crown'd;

Where Henry, and dame Margaret, kneel'd to
 And on my head did set the diadem. [me,

Glo. Nay, Eleanor, then must I chide outright:
 Presumptuous dame, ill-nurtur'd Eleanor?
 Art thou not second woman in the realm;
 And the protector's wife, belov'd of him?
 Hast thou not worldly pleasure at command,
 Above the reach or compass of thy thought?
 And wilt thou still be hammering treachery,
 To tumble down thy husband, and thyself,
 From top of honour to disgrace's feet?
 Away from me, and let me hear no more.

D. What, what, my lord! are you so cholerick
 With Eleanor for telling but her dream?
 Next time, I'll keep my dreams unto myself,
 And not be check'd.

Glo. Nay, be not angry, I am pleas'd again.

Enter a Messenger.

M. My lord protector, 'tis his highness' pleasure,
 You do prepare to ride unto Saint Alban's,
 Whereas the king and queen do mean to hawk.

Glo. I go.—Come, Nell, thou wilt ride with us?

Duch. Yes, good my lord, I'll follow presently.

[*Exeunt Gloster and Messenger.*]

Follow I must, I cannot go before,
 While Gloster bears this base and humble mind.
 Were I a man, a duke, and next of blood,
 I would remove these tedious stumbling-blocks,
 And smooth my way upon their headless necks:

1 Where.

And, being a woman, I would not be slack
 To play my part in fortune's pageant. [man,
 Where are you there? Sir John! nay, fear not,
 We are alone; here's none but thee, and I.

Enter Hume.

H. May heaven preserve your royal majesty!

D. What say'st thou, majesty? I am but grace.

H. But, by the grace of Heaven, and Hume's
 Your grace's title shall be multiplied. [advice,

Duch. What say'st thou, man? hast thou as
 yet conferr'd

With Margery Jourdain, the cunning witch;

And Roger Bolingbroke, the conjurer?

And will they undertake to do me good?

Hume. This have they promised,—to show
 your highness

A spirit rais'd from depth of under ground,

That shall make answer to such questions,
 As by your grace shall be propounded him.

D. It is enough; I'll think upon the questions:

When from Saint Alban's we do make return,

We'll see these things effected to the full.

Here, Hume, take this reward; make merry, man,
 With thy confederates in this weighty cause.

[*Exit Duchess.*]

H. Hume must make merry with the duchess'
 gold;

Marry, and shall. But how now, Sir John Hume?

Seal up your lips, and give no words but—mum!

The business asketh silent secrecy.

Dame Eleanor gives gold, to bring the witch:

Gold cannot come amiss, were she a devil.

Yet have I gold, flies from another coast:

I dare not say from the rich cardinal,

And from the great and new-made duke of Suff-

Yet I do find it so: for, to be plain, [folk;

They, knowing Eleanor's aspiring humour,

Have hired me to undermine the duchess,

And buz these conjurations in her brain.

They say, a crafty knave does need no broker;

Yet am I Suffolk and the cardinal's broker.

Hume, if you take not heed, you shall go near

To call them both a pair of crafty knaves.

Well, so it stands: And thus, I fear, at last,

Hume's knavery, will be the duchess' wreck;

And her attainure will be Humphrey's fall:

Sort² how it will, I shall have gold for all. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Peter and others, with Petitions.

1 *Pet.* My masters, let's stand close; my lord
 protector will come this way by-and-by, and then
 we may deliver our supplications in the quill.³

2 *Pet.* Marry, heaven protect him, for he's a
 good man! Heaven bless him!

Enter Suffolk, and Queen Margaret.

1 *Pet.* Here 'a comes, methinks, and the queen
 with him: I'll be the first, sure.

2 *Pet.* Come back, fool; this is the duke of
 Suffolk, and not my lord protector.

Suf. How now, fellow! wouldst anything
 with me?

1 *Pet.* I pray my lord, pardon me! I took ye
 for my lord protector.

1 A title bestowed then on the clergy.

2 Happen.

3 In due form.

Q. Mar. [*Reading the superscription.*] To my lord protector! are your supplications to his lordship? Let me see them: What is thine?

I Pet. Mine is, an't please your grace, against John Goodman, my lord cardinal's man, for keeping my house, and lands, and wife and all, from me.

Suf. Thy wife too? that is some wrong, indeed.—What's yours?—What's here! [*Reads.*] Against the Duke of Suffolk, for enclosing the commons of Melford.—How now, sir knave?

2 Pet. Alas, sir, I am but a poor petitioner of our whole township.

Peter. [*Presenting his petition.*] Against my master, Thomas Horner, for saying, That the duke of York was rightful heir to the crown.

Q. Mar. What say'st thou? Did the duke of York say, he was rightful heir to the crown?

Peter. That my master was? No, forsooth: my master said, That he was; and that the king was an usurper.

Suf. Who is there? [*Enter Servants.*—Take this fellow in, and send for his master with a pursuivant presently:—we'll hear more of your matter before the king.

[*Exeunt Servants, with Peter.*

Q. M. And as for you, that love to be protected Under the wings of our protector's grace, Begin your suits anew, and sue to him.

[*Tears the Petition.*

Away, base cullions! Suffolk, let them go.

All. Come, let's be gone. [*Exeunt Petitioners.*

Q. M. My lord of Suffolk, say, is this the guise, Is this the fashion in the court of England?

Is this the government of Britain's isle, And this the royalty of Albion's king?

What, shall king Henry be a pupil still, Under the surly Gloster's governance?

Am I a queen in title and in style, And must be made a subject to a duke?

I tell thee, Poole, when in the city Tours Thou ran'st a tilt in honour of my love,

And stol'st away the ladies' hearts of France; I thought king Henry had resembled thee,

In courage, courtship, and proportion: But all his mind is bent to holiness,

To number *Ave-Maries* on his beads; His champions are—the prophets and apostles:

His weapons, holy saws² of sacred writ; His study is his tilt-yard, and his loves

Are brazen images of canonized saints. I would, the college of cardinals

Would choose him pope, and carry him to Rome, And set the triple crown upon his head;

That were a state fit for his holiness. *Suf.* Madam, be patient: as I was cause

Your highness came to England, so will I In England work your grace's full content.

Q. Mar. Beside the haught³ protector, have we Beaufort, [ham,

The imperious churchman; Somerset, Bucking- And grumbling York: and not the least of these,

But can do more in England than the king. *Suf.* And he of these that can do most of all,

Cannot do more in England than the Nevils: Salisbury, and Warwick, are no simple peers.

Q. M. Not all these lords do vex me half so much, 1 Scoundrels. 2 Sayings. 3 Haughtily.

As that proud dame, the lord protector's wife. She sweeps it through the court with troops of ladies, [wife;

More like an empress than duke Humphrey's Strangers in court do take her for the queen:

She bears a duke's revenues on her back, And in her heart she scorns her poverty:

Shall I not live to be aveng'd on her? Contemptuous base-born callat as she is,

She vaunted 'mongst her minions t'other day, The very train of her worst wearing-gown

Was better worth than all my father's lands, Till Suffolk gave two dukedoms for his daughter.

Suf. Madam, myself have lim'd a bush for her: And plac'd a quire of such enticing birds,

That she will light to listen to the lays, And never mount to trouble you again.

So, let her rest: and, madam, list to me; For I am bold to counsel you in this.

Although we fancy not the cardinal, Yet must we join with him, and with the lords,

Till we have brought duke Humphrey in disgrace. As for the duke of York,—this late complaint¹

Will make but little for his benefit: So, one by one, we'll weed them all at last,

And you yourself shall steer the happy helm.

Enter King Henry, York, and Somerset, conversing with him; Duke and Duchess of Gloster, Cardinal Beaufort, Buckingham, Salisbury, and Warwick.

K. Hen. For my part, noble lords, I care not Or Somerset, or York, all's one to me. [which;

York. If York have ill demean'd himself in France,

Then let him be deny'd² the regentship. *Som.* If Somerset be unworthy of the place,

Let York be regent, I will yield to him. *War.* Whether your grace be worthy, yea, or no,

Dispute not that: York is the worthier. *Car.* Ambitious Warwick, let thy betters speak.

War. The cardinal's not my better in the field. *Buck.* All in this presence, are thy betters,

Warwick. *War.* Warwick may live to be the best of all.

Suf. Peace, son;—and show some reason, Buckingham,

Why Somerset should be preferred in this. *Q. Mar.* Because the king, forsooth, will have

it so. *Glo.* Madam, the king is old enough himself

To give his censure³; these are no woman's matters.

Q. Mar. If he be old enough, what needs your To be protector of his excellence? [grace

Glo. Madam, I am protector of the realm; And, at his pleasure, will resign my place.

Suf. Resign it then, and leave thine insolence. Since thou wert king, (as who is king but thou?)

The commonwealth hath daily run to wreck: The dauphin hath prevail'd beyond the seas;

And all the peers and nobles of the realm Have been as bondmen to thy sovereignty.

Car. The commons hast thou rack'd; the clergy's bags

Are lank and lean with thy extortions.

1 (Of Peter, the armourer's man.) 3 Judgment.
2 Denied.

Som. Thysumptuous buildings, and thy wife's
Have cost a mass of public treasury. [attire,

Buck. Thy cruelty in execution,
Upon offenders, hath exceeded law,
And left thee to the mercy of the law.

Q. Mar. Thy sale of offices, and towns in
France,—

If they were known, as the suspect is great,—
Would make thee quickly hop without thy head.

[*Exit Gloster.* *The Queen drops her fan.*
Give me my fan: what, minion! can you not?

[*Gives the Duchess a box on the ear.*
I cry you mercy, madam: was it you?

D. Was't I? yea, I it was, proud Frenchwoman!
Could I come near your beauty with my nails,
I'd set my ten commandments in your face.

K. Hen. Sweet aunt, be quiet: 'twas against
her will.

D. Against her will! Good king, look to't in time;
She'll hamper thee, and dandle thee like a baby:
Though in this place most master wear no
breeches,

She shall not strike dame Eleanor unreveng'd.

[*Exit Duchess.*
Buck. Lord Cardinal, I will follow Eleanor,
And listen after Humphrey, how he proceeds:
She's tickled now; her fume can need no spurs,
She'll gallop fast enough to her destruction.

[*Exit Buckingham.*

Re-enter Gloster.

Glo. Now, lords, my choler being over-blown,
With walking once about the quadrangle,
I come to talk of commonwealth affairs.

For your spiteful false objections,
Prove them, and I lie open to the law:
But Heaven in mercy so deal with my soul,
As I in duty love my king and country!
But, to the matter that we have in hand:—
I say, my sovereign, York is meetest man
To be your regent in the realm of France.

Suf. Before we make election, give me leave
To show some reason, of no little force,
That York is most unmeet of any man.

York. I'll tell thee, Suffolk, why I am unmeet.
First, for I cannot flatter thee in pride:
Next, if I be appointed for the place,
My lord of Somerset will keep me here,
Without discharge, money, or furniture,
Till France be won into the dauphin's hands.
Last time, I danc'd attendance on his will,
Till Paris was besieg'd, famish'd, and lost.

War. That I can witness, and a fouler fact
Did never traitor in the land commit.

Suf. Peace, head-strong Warwick! [peace?

War. Image of pride, why should I hold my
*Enter Servants of Suffolk, bringing in Horner
and Peter.*

Suf. Because here is a man accus'd of treason:
Pray Heaven the duke of York excuse himself!

York. Doth any one accuse York for a traitor?

K. Hen. What mean'st thou, Suffolk? tell me:
What are these?

Suf. Please it your majesty, this is the man
That doth accuse his master of high treason:
His words were these;—that Richard, duke of
Was rightful heir unto the English crown; [York,
And that your majesty was an usurper.

K. Hen. Say, man, were these thy words?

Hor. An't shall please your majesty, I never
said nor thought any such matter: I am falsely
accused by the villain.

Pet. By these ten bones, my lords, [*Holding
up his hands.*] he did speak them to me in the
garret one night, as we were scouring my lord
of York's armour.

York. Base dunghill villain, and mechanical,
I'll have thy head for this thy traitor's speech:—
I do beseech your royal majesty,
Let him have all the rigour of the law.

Hor. Alas, my lord, hang me, if ever I spake
the words. My accuser is my prentice: and when
I did correct him for his fault the other day, he
did vow upon his knees he would be even with
me: I have good witness of this; therefore, I
beseech your majesty, do not cast away an honest
man for a villain's accusation.

K. Hen. Uncle, what shall we say to this in law?

Glo. This doom, my lord, if I may judge:—
Let Somerset be regent o'er the French,
Because in York this breeds suspicion:

And let these have a day appointed them
For single combat in convenient place;
For he hath witness of his servant's malice:
This is the law, and this duke Humphrey's doom.

K. Hen. Then be it so. My lord of Somerset,
We make your grace lord regent o'er the French.

Som. I humbly thank your royal majesty.

Hor. And I accept the combat willingly.

Pet. Alas, my lord, I cannot fight; for heaven's
sake, pity my case! the spite of man prevaileth
against me. I shall never be able to fight a
blow: O my heart!

Glo. Sirrah, or you must fight, or else be hang'd.
K. Hen. Away with them to prison, and the day
Of combat shall be the last of the next month.—
Come, Somerset, we'll see thee sent away.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—THE DUKE OF GLOSTER'S GARDEN.

*Enter Margery Jourdain, Hume, Southwell,
and Bolingbroke.*

Hume. Come, my masters; the duchess, I tell
you, expects performance of your promises.

Boling. Master Hume, we are therefore pro-
vided: will your ladyship behold and hear our
exorcisms?

Hu. Ay: What else? fear you not her courage.

Boling. I have heard her reported to be a wo-
man of an invincible spirit: But it shall be con-
venient, master Hume, that you be by her aloft,
while we be busy below; and so, I pray you, go,
and leave us. [*Exit Hume.*] Mother Jourdain, be
you prostrate, and grovel on the earth:—John
Southwell, read you; and let us to our work.

Enter Duchess, above.

Duch. Well said, my masters; and welcome all.
To this gear²; the sooner the better.

B. Patience, good lady; wizards know their times:
Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
The time of night, when Troy was set on fire;

¹ Shakespeare used exorcise invariably as meaning
to raise spirits, and not to lay them.

² Matter.

The time when screech-owls cry, and ban-dogs¹
howl, [graves,
And spirits walk, and ghosts break up their
That time best fits the work we have in hand.
Madam, sit you, and fear not; whom we raise,
We will make fast within a hallow'd verge.

[Here they perform the ceremonies appertaining,
and make the circle; Bolingbroke, or
Southwell, reads, Conjuró te, &c. It thunders
and lightens terribly; then the Spirit
riseth.]

Spir. Adsum.²

M. Jourd. Asmath, answer that I shall ask;
For, till thou speak, thou shalt not pass from
hence.

Spir. Ask what thou wilt:—That I had said
and done!

Boling. First of the king. What shall of him
become? [Reading out of a paper.

Spir. The duke yet lives that Henry shall de-
bute him outlive, and die a violent death. [pose;

[As the Spirit speaks, Southwell writes
the answer.

Boling. What fate awaits the duke of Suffolk?

Spir. By water shall he die, and take his end.

Boling. What shall befall the duke of Somerset?

Spir. Let him shun castles;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains,
Than where castles mounted stand.

Have done! for more I hardly can endure.

Bol. Descend to darkness: False fiend, avoid!

[Thunder and lightning. Spirit descends.

Enter York and Buckingham, hastily, with
their Guards, and others.

York. Lay hands upon these traitors, and their
trash.

Beldame, I think, we watch'd you at an inch.—
What, madam, are you there? the king and com-
monweal

Are deeply indebted for this piece of pains:
My lord protector will, I doubt it not,

See you well guerdon'd³ for these good deserts.
Du. Not half so bad as thine to England's king.

Injurious duke; that threat'st where is no cause.
Buck. True, madam, none at all. What call
you this? [Showing her the papers.

Away with them; let them be clapp'd up close,
And kept asunder:—You, madam, shall with us:—
Stafford, take her to thee.—

[Exit Duchess from above.

We'll see your trinkets here all forth-coming;
All.—Away!

[Exit Guards, with Southwell, Boling-
broke, &c.

Y. Lord Buckingham, methinks, you watch'd
her well:

A pretty plot, well chosen to build upon!

Now pray, my lord, let's see the devil's writ.

What have we here? [Reads.

The duke yet lives, that Henry shall depose:
Put him outlive, and die a violent death.

Why, this is just,

Aio te, *Æacida*, Romanos vincere posse.

Well, to the rest:

Tell me, what fate awaits the duke of Suffolk?

By water shall he die, and take his end.—

¹ Watch-dogs.

² I am here.

³ Rewarded.

What shall betide the duke of Somerset?

Let him shun castles;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains,
Than where castles mounted stand.

Come, come, my lords;

These oracles are hardly attain'd,

And hardly understood.

[Alban's,

The king is now in progress towards Saint

With him, the husband of this lovely lady:

Thither go these news, as fast as horse can carry
A sorry breakfast for my lord protector. [them;

Buck. Your grace shall give me leave, my
lord of York,

To be the post, in hope of his reward.

York. At your pleasure, my good lord.—
Who's within there, ho!

Enter a Servant.

Invite my lords of Salisbury, and Warwick,

To sup with me to-morrow night.—Away!
[Exit.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—SAINT ALBAN'S.

Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, Gloster,
Cardinal, and Suffolk, with Falconers hollaing.

Q. M. Believe me, lords, for flying at the brook,¹
I saw not better sport these seven years' day:

Yet, by your leave the wind was very high;
And, ten to one, old Joan had not gone out.

K. Hen. But what a point, my lord, your falcon
made,

And what a pitch she flew above the rest!—

To see how God in all his creatures works!

Yea, man and birds are fain² of climbing high.

Suf. No marvel, an it like your majesty,
My lord protector's hawks do tower so well;

They know their master loves to be aloft,
And bears his thoughts above his falcon's pitch.

Glo. My lord, 'tis but a base ignoble mind
That mounts no higher than a bird can soar.

C. I thought as much; he'd be above the clouds.

G. Ay, my lord cardinal; How think you by that?
Were it not good, your grace could fly to heaven?

K. Hen. The treasury of everlasting joy!

Car. Thy heaven is on earth; thine eyes and
thoughts

Beat on a crown, the treasure of thy heart;

Pernicious protector, dangerous peer,

That smooth'st it so with king and commonweal!

Glo. What, cardinal, is your priesthood grown
Tantane animis caelestibus iras? [peremptory?

Churchmen so hot? good uncle, hide such malice;
With such holiness can you do it?

Suf. No malice, sir; no more than well becomes
So good a quarrel, and so bad a peer.

Glo. As who, my lord?

Suf. Why, as you, my lord;
An't like your lordly lord-protectorship.

G. Why, Suffolk, England knows thine inso-
Q. Mar. And thy ambition, Gloster. [Ience.

K. Hen. I pry'thee, peace,
Good queen; and whet not on these furious peers,
For blessed are the peacemakers on earth.

¹ Hawking at water-fowl.

² Tend,

Car. Let me be blessed for the peace I make,
Against this proud protector, with my sword!

Glo. [*Aside to the Cardinal.*] Faith, holyuncle,
would 'twere come to that!

Car. [*Aside.*] Marry, when thou dar'st.

Glo. [*Aside.*] Make up no factious numbers
for the matter,

In thine own person answer thy abuse.

Car. [*Aside.*] Ay, where thou dar'st not peep,
an if thou dar'st,

This evening on the east side of the grove.

K. Hen. How now, my lords?

Car. Believe me, cousin Gloster,
Had not your man put up the fowl so suddenly,
We had had more sport—[*Aside to Glo.*] Come
with thy two-hand sword.

Glo. True, uncle. [grove?]

Car. Are you advis'd?—the east side of the

Glo. [*Aside.*] Cardinal, I am with you.

K. Hen. Why, how now, uncle Gloster?

G. Talking of hawking; nothing else, my lord.—

[*Aside.*] Now, priest, I'll shave your crown for
Or all my fence shall fail. [this,

Car. [*Aside.*] *Medice teipsum;*

Protector, see to 't well, protect yourself.

K. Hen. The winds grow high, so do your
stomachs, lords.

How irksome is this musick to my heart!

When such strings jar, what hope of harmony?

I pray, my lords, let me compound this strife.

*Enter an Inhabitant of Saint Alban's, crying,
A Miracle!*

Glo. What means this noise?

Fellow, what miracle dost thou proclaim?

Inhab. A miracle! a miracle!

Suf. Come to the king, and tell him what miracle.

I. Forsooth, a blind man at Saint Alban's shrine,
Within this half-hour hath receiv'd his sight;
A man, that ne'er saw in his life before.

K. Hen. Now, God be prais'd! that to believing
Gives light in darkness, comfort in despair! [souls

*Enter the Mayor of Saint Alban's, and his
Brethren; and Simpcox, borne between two
Persons in a Chair: his Wife, and a great
Multitude following.*

Car. Here come the townsmen on procession,
To present your highness with the man.

K. H. Great is his comfort in this earthly vale,
Although by his sight his sin be multiplied.

Glo. Stand by, my masters, bring him near
the king,

His highness' pleasure is to talk with him.

K. Hen. Good fellow, tell us here the circum-
stance,

That we for thee may glorify the Lord. [stor'd?

What, hast thou been long blind, and now re-

Simp. Born blind, an't please your grace.

Wife. Ay, indeed was he.

Suf. What woman is this?

Wife. His wife, an't like your worship.

Glo. Hadst thou been his mother, thou couldst

have better told.

K. Hen. Where wert thou born? [grace.]

Simp. At Berwick in the north, an't like your

K. Hen. Poor soul! God's goodness hath been

great to thee:

Let never day nor night unhallow'd pass,
But still remember what the Lord hath done.

Q. Mar. Tell me, good fellow, cam'st thou
here by chance,

Or of devotion, to this holy shrine? [call'd

Simp. Heaven knows, of pure devotion; being
A hundred times, and oft'ner, in my sleep

By good Saint Alban; who said,—*Simpcox come;
Come, offer at my shrine, and I will help thee.*

Wife. Most true, forsooth; and many time and
Myself have heard a voice to call him so, [oft

Car. What, art thou lame?

Simp. Ay, God Almighty help me!

Suf. How cam'st thou so?

Simp. A fall off a tree.

Wife. A plum tree, master.

Glo. How long hast thou been blind?

Simp. O, born so, master.

Glo. What, and wouldst climb a tree?

Simp. But that in all my life, when I was a
youth, [dear.

Wife. Too true; and bought his climbing very

Glo. 'Mass, thou lov'dst plums well, that
wouldst venture so.

Simp. Alas, good master, my wife desir'd some
damsons,

And made me climb, with danger of my life.

Glo. A subtle knave! but yet it shall not
serve.— [them:—

Let me see thine eyes:—wink now;—now open
In my opinion yet thou seest not well.

Simp. Yes, master, clear as day; I thank God,
and Saint Alban.

Glo. Say'st thou me so? What colour is this
cloak of?

Simp. Red, master; red as blood.

Glo. Why, that's well said: What colour is
my gown of?

Simp. Black, forsooth; coal-black, as jet.

K. Hen. Why then, thou know'st what colour
jet is of?

Suf. And yet, I think, jet did he never see.

Glo. But cloaks, and gowns, before this day,
a many.

Wife. Never, before this day, in all his life.

Glo. Tell me, sirrah, what's my name?

Simp. Alas, master, I know not.

Glo. What's his name?

Simp. I know not

Glo. Nor his?

Simp. No, indeed, master.

Glo. What's thine own name?

Simp. Saunder Simpcox, an if it please you,
master.

G. Then, Saunder, sit thou there, the lyingest
knave

In Christendom. If thou hadst been born blind,
Thou mightst as well have known our names,
as thus

To name the several colours we do wear.
Sight may distinguish of colours; but suddenly
To nominate them all's impossible.—

My lords, Saint Alban here hath done a miracle;
And would ye not think that cunning to be great
That could restore this cripple to his legs?

Simp. O, master, that you could!

Glo. My masters of Saint Alban's, have you
not beadles in your town, and things called whips?

May. Yes, my lord, if it please your grace.

Glo. Then send for one presently.

M. Sirrah, go fetch the beadle hither straight.

[*Exit an Attendant.*]

Glo. Now fetch me a stool hither by-and-by.
[*A stool brought out.*] Now, sirrah, if you mean to save yourself from whipping, leap me over this stool, and run away.

Simp. Alas, master, I am not able to stand alone:

You go about to torture me in vain.

Re-enter Attendant, with the Beadle.

Glo. Well, sir, we must have you find your legs. Sirrah beadle, whip him till he leap over that same stool.

Bead. I will, my lord.—Come on, sirrah; off with your doublet quickly.

Simp. Alas, master, what shall I do? I am not able to stand.

[*After the Beadle hath hit him once, he leaps over the stool, and runs away; and the People follow and cry, A Miracle!*]

K. Hen. O God, seest thou this, and bear'st so long?

Q. Mar. It made me laugh to see the villain run.

G. Follow the knave; and take this drab away.
Wife. Alas, sir, we did it for pure need.

G. Let them be whipped through every market town, till they come to Berwick, whence they came.
[*Exeunt Mayor, Beadle, Wife, &c.*]

Car. Duke Humphrey has done a miracle to-day.

S. True; made the lame to leap, and fly away.

Glo. But you have done more miracles than I; You made, in a day, my lord, whole towns to fly.

Enter Buckingham.

K. Hen. What tidings with our cousin Buckingham?

Buck. Such as my heart doth tremble to unfold. A sort¹ of naughty persons, vilely bent,—Under the countenance and confederacy Of lady Eleanor, the protector's wife, The ringleader and head of all this rout,—Have practis'd dangerously against your state, Dealing with witches; and with conjurers: Whom we have apprehended in the fact; Raising up wicked spirits from under ground, Demanding of king Henry's life and death, And other of your highness' privy council, As more at large your grace shall understand.

Car. And so, my lord protector, by this means Your lady is forthcoming yet at London. [*Edge:* This news, I think, hath turn'd your weapon's 'Tis like, my lord you will not keep your hour.

[*Aside to Gloster.*]

Glo. Ambitious churchman, leave to afflict my heart!

Sorrow and grief have vanquish'd all my powers: And, vanquish'd as I am, I yield to thee, Or to the meanest groom.

K. Hen. Alas, what mischiefs work the wicked ones;

Heaping confusion on their own heads thereby!

¹ A company.

Q. Mar. Gloster, see here the tainture of thy nest;

And, look, thyself be faultless, thou wert best.

Glo. Madam, for myself, to heaven I do appeal, How I have lov'd my king, and commonweal; And, for my wife, I know not how it stands, Sorry I am to hear what I have heard:

Noble she is; but if she have forgot Honour, and virtue, and convers'd with such As, like to pitch, defile nobility, I banish her my bed and company; And give her, as a prey, to law, and shame, That hath dishonour'd Gloster's honest name.

K. Hen. Well, for this night, we will repose us here:

To-morrow, toward London, back again, To look into this business thoroughly, And call these foul offenders to their answers; And poise¹ the cause in justice' equal scales, Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause prevails. [Flourish. *Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

LONDON. THE DUKE OF YORK'S GARDEN.

Enter York, Salisbury, and Warwick.

York. Now, my good lords of Salisbury and Warwick,

Our simple supper ended, give me leave, In this close walk, to satisfy myself, In craving your opinion of my title, Which is infallible to England's crown.

Sal. My lord, I long to hear it at full.

War. Sweet York, begin: and if thy claim be good,

The Nevils are thy subjects to command.

York. Then thus:—

Edward the Third, my lords, had seven sons: The first, Edward the Black Prince, prince of Wales;

The second, William of Hatfield; and the third, Lionel, duke of Clarence; next to whom, Was John of Gaunt, the duke of Lancaster:

The fifth, was Edmund Langley, duke of York; The sixth, was Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester;

William of Windsor was the seventh, and last. Edward, the Black Prince, died before his father; And left behind him Richard, his only son, Who, after Edward the Third's death, reign'd as king;

Till Henry Bolingbroke, duke of Lancaster, The eldest son and heir of John of Gaunt, Crown'd by the name of Henry the Fourth, Seiz'd on the realm; depos'd the rightful king; Sent his poor queen to France, from whence she came,

And him to Pomfret; where, as all you know, Harmless Richard was murder'd traitorously.

War. Father, the duke hath told the truth; Thus got the house of Lancaster the crown.

York. Which now they hold by force, and not by right;

For Richard, the first son's heir being dead, The issue of the next son should have reign'd.

Sal. But William of Hatfield died without an heir.

¹ Weigh.

York. The third son, duke of Clarence, (from whose line I claim the crown,) had issue—Philippe, a daughter,

Who married Edmund Mortimer, earl of March: Edmund had issue—Roger, earl of March: Roger had issue—Edmund, Anne, and Eleanor.

Sal. This Edmund, in the reign of Bolingbroke As I have read, laid claim unto the crown; And, but for Owen Glendower, had been king, Who kept him in captivity till he died. But, to the rest.

York. His eldest sister, Anne, My mother, being heir unto the crown, Married Richard, earl of Cambridge; who was son To Edmund Langley, Edward the Third's fifth By her I claim the kingdom: she was heir [son. To Roger, earl of March: who was the son Of Edmund Mortimer; who married Philippe, Sole daughter unto Lionel, duke of Clarence: So, if the issue of the elder son Succeed before the younger, I am king.

War. What plain proceedings are more plain than this?

Henry doth claim the crown from John of Gaunt, The fourth son; York claims it from the third. Till Lionel's issue fails, his should not reign: It fails not yet; but flourishes in thee, And in thy sons, fair slips of such a stock.— Then, father Salisbury, kneel we both together; And, in this private plot,¹ be we the first, That shall salute our rightful sovereign With honour of his birthright to the crown.

Both. Long live our sovereign Richard, England's king!

Yo. We thank you, lords. But I am not your king

Till I be crown'd: and that my sword be stain'd With heart-blood of the house of Lancaster. And that's not suddenly to be perform'd; But with advice, and silent secrecy. Do you, as I do, in these dangerous days, Wink at the duke of Suffolk's insolence, At Beaufort's pride, at Somerset's ambition, At Buckingham, and all the crew of them, Till they have snar'd the shepherd of the flock, That virtuous prince, the good duke Humphrey: 'Tis that they seek; and they, in seeking that, Shall find their deaths, if York can prophesy.

Sal. My lord, break we off; we know your mind at full. [Warwick

War. My heart assures me, that the earl of Shall one day make the duke of York a king.

York. And, Nevil, this I do assure myself,— Richard shall live to make the earl of Warwick The greatest man in England, but the king.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—A HALL OF JUSTICE.

Trumpets sounded. Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, Gloster, York, Suffolk, and Salisbury; the Duchess of Gloster, Margery Jourdain, Southwell, Hume, and Bolingbroke, under guard.

K. Hen. Stand forth, dame Eleanor Cobham, Gloster's wife:

1 Spot

In sight of God, and us, your guilt is great; Receive the sentence of the law for sin. Such as by God's book are adjudged to death,— You four, from hence to prison back again;

[*To Jourdain, &c.*

From thence unto the place of execution: The witch in Smithfield shall be burn'd to ashes, And you three shall be strangled on the gallows.— You, madam, for you are more nobly born, Deprived of your honour in your life, Shall, after three days' open penance done, Live in your country here, in banishment, With Sir John Stanley, in the Isle of Man.

Duch. Welcome is banishment, welcome were my death. [thee;

Glo. Eleanor, the law, thou seest, hath judged I cannot justify whom the law condemns.—

[*Exeunt the Duchess, and the other Prisoners, guarded.*

Mine eyes are full of tears, my heart of grief. Ah, Humphrey, this dishonour in thine age Will bring thy head with sorrow to the ground! I beseech your majesty, give me leave to go; Sorrow would¹ solace, and mine age would ease.

K. Hen. Stay, Humphrey duke of Gloster: ere thou go,

Give up thy staff; Henry will to himself Protector be; and God shall be my hope, My stay, my guide, and lantern to my feet; And go in peace, Humphrey; no less belov'd, Than when thou wert protector to thy king.

Q. Mar. I see no reason why a king of years Should be to be protected like a child.—

God and king Henry govern England's helm: Give up your staff, sir, and the king his realm.

Glo. My staff?—here, noble Henry, is my staff; As willingly do I the same resign,

As e'er thy father Henry made it mine; And even as willingly at thy feet I leave it, As others would ambitiously receive it. Farewell, good king? When I am dead and gone, May honourable peace attend thy throne! [*Exit.*

Q. Mar. Why, now is Henry king, and Margaret queen;

And Humphrey, duke of Gloster, scarce himself, That bears so shrewd a main²; two pulls at once,— His lady banish'd, and a limb lopp'd off; This staff of honour raught³—There let it stand. Where it best fits to be, in Henry's hand.

Suf. Thus droops this lofty pine, and hangs his sprays;

Thus Eleanor's pride dies in her youngest days. Y. Lords, let him go.—Please it your majesty,

This is the day appointed for the combat; And ready are the appellant and defendant, The armourer and his man, to enter the lists, So please your highness to behold the fight.

Q. Mar. Ay, good my lord; for purposely therefore

Left I the court, to see this quarrel tried.

K. Hen. Then let us see the lists and all things fit;

Here let them end it, God defend the right!

York. I never saw a fellow worse hested,⁴ Or more afraid to fight, than is the appellant, The servant of this armourer, my lords.

1 Wishes for.

3 Reached.

2 Clever a hand at a game.

4 In a worse plight.

Enter, on one side, Horner, and his Neighbours, drinking to him so much that he is drunk; and he enters bearing his staff with a sand-bag fastened to it; a drum before him: at the other side, Peter, with a drum and a similar staff; accompanied by Prentices drinking to him.

1 *Neigh.* Here, neighbour Horner, I drink to you in a cup of sack; And fear not, neighbour, you shall do well enough.

2 *Neigh.* And here, neighbour, here's a cup of charneco.¹

3 *Neigh.* And here's a pot of good double beer, neighbour: drink, and fear not your man.

Hor. Let it come, i'faith, and I'll pledge you all; And a fig for Peter!

1 *Pren.* Here, Peter, I drink to thee; and be not afraid.

2 *Pren.* Be merry, Peter, and fear not thy master; fight for credit of the prentices.

Peter. I thank you all: drink, and pray for me, I pray you; for, I think, I have taken my last draught in this world.—Here, Robin, an if I die, I give thee my apron; and, Will, thou shalt have my hammer:—and here, Tom, take all the money that I have. Heaven bless me; I am never able to deal with my master, he hath learnt so much fence already.

Sal. Come, leave your drinking, and fall to blows.—Sirrah, what's thy name?

Peter. Peter, forsooth.

Sal. Peter! what more?

Peter. Thump.

Sal. Thump! then see thou thump thy master well.

Hor. Masters, I am come hither, as it were, upon my man's instigation, to prove him a knave, and myself an honest man: and touching the duke of York,—will take my death, I never meant him any ill, nor the king, nor the queen: And, therefore, Peter, have at thee with a downright blow, as Bevis of Southampton fell upon Ascapart. [to double.]

York. Despatch:—this knave's tongue begins Sound trumpets, alarm to the combatants.

[*Alarm.* They fight, and Peter strikes down his master.]

Hor. Hold, Peter, hold! I confess, I confess treason. [Dies.]

York. Take away his weapon:—Fellow, thank the good wine in thy master's way.

Peter. O Heaven! have I overcome mine enemies in this presence? O Peter, thou hast prevailed in right! [our sight:]

K. Hen. Go, take hence that traitor from For, by his death, we do perceive his guilt: And heaven in justice, hath reveal'd to us The truth and innocence of this poor fellow, Which he had thought to have murder'd wrongfully.—

Come, fellow, follow us for thy reward. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A STREET.

Enter Gloster and Servants, in mourning Cloaks.

Glo. Thus, sometimes, hath the brightest day a cloud;

And, after summer, ever more succeeds

1 A sweet wine.

Barren winter, with his wrathful nipping cold: So cares and joys abound as seasons fleet.— Sirs, what's o'clock?

Serv. Ten, my lord.

Glo. Ten is the hour that was appointed me, To watch the coming of my punish'd duchess: Unearth! may she endure the flinty streets, To tread them with her tender-feeling feet. Sweet Nell, ill can thy noble mind abrook The abject people, gazing on thy face, With envious looks, still laughing at thy shame; That erst did follow thy proud chariot wheels, When thou didst ride in triumph through the streets.

But, soft! I think, she comes; and I'll prepare My tear-stain'd eyes to see her miseries.

Enter the Duchess of Gloster, in a white sheet, with papers pinn'd upon her back, her feet bare, and a taper burning in her hand; Sir John Stanley; a Sheriff, and Officers.

Serv. So please your grace, we'll take her from the sheriff. [by.]

Glo. No, stir not, for your lives; let her pass

D. Come you, my lord, to see my open shame?

Now thou dost penance too. Look, how they gaze!

See, how the giddy multitude do point,

And nod their heads, and throw their eyes on thee!

Ah, Gloster, hide thee from their hateful looks:

And, in thy closet pent up, rue my shame,

And ban² thine enemies, both mine and thine.

Glo. Be patient, gentle Nell; forget this grief.

Duch. Ah, Gloster, teach me to forget myself:

For, whilst I think I am thy married wife,

And thou a prince, protector of this land,

Methinks, I should not thus be led along,

Mail'd up in shame, with papers on my back;

And follow'd with a rabble, that rejoice

To see my tears, and hear my deep-fet³ groans.

The ruthless flint doth cut my tender feet:

And, when I start, the envious people laugh,

And bid me be advised how I tread.

Ah, Humphrey, can I bear this shameful yoke?

Trow'st thou, that e'er I'll look upon the world;

Or count them happy, that enjoy the sun?

No; dark shall be my light, and night my day;

To think upon my pomp, shall be my hell.

Sometime I'll say, I am duke Humphrey's wife;

And he a prince, and ruler of the land:

Yet so he rul'd, and such a prince he was,

As he stood by, whilst I, his forlorn duchess,

Was made a wonder, and a pointing-stock,

To every idle rascal follower.

But be thou mild, and blush not at my shame;

Nor stir at nothing, till the axe of death

Hang over thee, as, sure, it shortly will.

For Suffolk,—he that can do all in all

With her, that hateth thee, and hates us all,—

And York, and impious Beaufort, that false

priest,

Have all lim'd bushes to betray thy wings,

And, fly thou how thou canst, they'll tangle thee:

But fear not thou, until thy foot be snar'd,

Nor ever seek prevention of thy foes.

Glo. Ah, Nell, forbear; thou aimest all awry;

I must offend, before I be attainted:

And had I twenty times so many foes,

And each of them had twenty times their power,

1 Scarcely.

2 Curse.

3 Deep-fetched.

All these could not procure me any scathe,¹
So long as I am loyal, true, and crimeless.
Wouldst have me rescue thee from this reproach?
Why, yet thy scandal were not wip'd away,
But I in danger for the breach of law.
Thy greatest help is quiet, gentle Nell:
I pray thee, sort thy heart to patience!
These few days' wonder will be quickly worn.

Enter a Herald.

H. I summon your grace to his majesty's parliament, holden at Bury the first of this next month.

Glo. And my consent ne'er ask'd herein before!
This is close dealing.—Well, I will be there.

[Exit Herald.]

*My Nell, I take my leave:—and, master sheriff,
Let not her penance exceed the king's commis-*

sion stays:

Sher. An't please your grace, here my commis-
And Sir John Stanley is appointed now,
To take her with him to the Isle of Man.

Glo. Must you, Sir John, protect my lady here?

Stan. So am I given in charge, may't please
your grace.

Glo. Entreat her not the worse, in that I pray
You use her well: the world may laugh again;
And I may live to do you kindness, if
You do it her. And so, Sir John, farewell.

Duch. What, gone, my lord; and bid me not
farewell?

Glo. Witness my tears, I cannot stay to speak.

[Exeunt Gloster and Servants.]

D. Art thou gone too? All comfort go with thee!

For none abides with me: my joy is death;
Death, at whose name I oft have been afraid,
Because I wished this world's eternity.—
Stanley, I pry'thee, go, and take me hence;
I care not whither, for I beg no favour,
Only convey me where thou art commanded.

Stan. Why, madam, that is to the Isle of Man;
There to be used according to your state.

D. That's bad enough, for I am but reproach:
And shall I then be used reproachfully?

Stan. Like to a duchess, and duke Humphrey's
According to that state you shall be used. [*lady.*]

Duch. Sheriff, farewell, and better than I fare;
Although thou hast been conduct² of my shame!

Sher. It is my office, madam, pardon me.

Duch. Ay, ay, farewell, thy office is discharg'd.—
Come, Stanley, shall we go?

Stan. Madam, your penance done, throw off this
And go we to attire you for our journey. [*sheet.*]

Duch. My shame will not be so journeyed with my
No, it will hang upon my richest robes, [*sheet:*]
And show itself, attire me how I can.

Go, lead the way; I long to see my prison.

[Exeunt.]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—THE ABBEY AT BURY.

*Enter to the Parliament, King Henry, Queen
Margaret, Cardinal Beaufort, Suffolk, York,
Buckingham, and others.*

K. Hen. I muse, my lord of Gloster is not
'Tis not his wont to be the hindmost man, [*come:*]
Whate'er occasion keeps him from us now.

1 Mariner.

2 Conductor.

Q. Mar. Can you not see? or will you not ob-
serve

The strangeness of his alter'd countenance?

With what a majesty he bears himself;

How insolent of late he is become,

How proud, peremptory, and unlike himself?

We know the time since he was mild and affable;

And, if we did but glance a far-off look,

Immediately he was upon his knee,

That all the court admir'd him for submission:

But meet him now, and, be it in the morn,

When every one will give the time of day,

He knits his brow, and shows an angry eye,

And passeth by with stiff unbowed knee,

Disdaining duty that to us belongs.

Small curs are not regarded, when they grin;

But great men tremble when the lion roars:

And Humphrey is no little man in England.

First, note, that he is near you in descent;

And should you fall, he is the next will mount.

Me seemeth, then, it is no policy,—

Respecting what a rancorous mind he bears,

And his advantage following your decease,—

That he should come about your royal person,

Or be admitted to your highness' council.

By flattery hath he won the commons' heart;

And, when he please to make commotion,

'Tis to be fear'd, they all will follow him. [*ed;*]

Now 'tis the spring, and weeds are shallow-root-

Suffer them now, and they'll o'ergrow the garden,

And choke the herbs for want of husbandry.

The reverent care, I bear unto my lord,

Made me collect these dangers in the duke.

If it be fond,¹ call it a woman's fear;

Which fear, if better reasons can supplant,

I will subscribe and say,—I wrong'd the duke.

My lord of Suffolk,—Buckingham,—and York,—

Reprove my allegation, if you can;

Or else conclude my words effectual. [*duke;*]

Suf. Well hath your highness seen into this

And, had I first been put to speak my mind,

I think, I should have told your grace's tale.

The duchess, by his subornation,

Upon my life, began her devilish practices:

Or if he were not privy to those faults,

Yet by reputing of his high descent,

(As next the king, he was successive heir,)

And such high vaunts of his nobility,

Did instigate the Bedlam brain-sick duchess,

By wicked means to frame our sovereign's fall.

Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep;

And in his simple show he harbours treason.

The fox barks not, when he would steal the lamb.

No, no, my sovereign; Gloster is a man

Unsounded yet, and full of deep deceit.

Car. Did he not, contrary to form of law,

Devise strange deaths for small offences done?

York. And did he not, in his protectorship,

Levy great sums of money through the realm,

For soldiers' pay in France, and never sent it?

By means whereof, the towns each day revolted.

Buck. Tut! these are petty faults to faults

unknown, [*Humphrey.*]

Which time will bring to light in smooth duke

K. Hen. My lords, at once: The care you have

of us,

To mow down thorns that would annoy our foot,

1 Foolish.

Is worthy praise: But shall I speak my con-
Our kinsman Gloster is as innocent [science?
From meaning treason to our royal person,
As is the sucking lamb, or harmless dove:
The duke is virtuous, mild; and too well given,
To dream on evil, or to work my downfall.

Q. Mar. Ah, what's more dangerous than this
fond affiance!¹

Seems he a dove? his feathers are but borrow'd,
For he's disposed as the hateful raven.

Is he a lamb? his skin is surely lent him,
For he's inclin'd as are the ravenous wolves.

Who cannot steal a shape, that means deceit?
Take heed, my lord; the welfare of us all

Hangs on the cutting short that fraudulent man.

Enter Somerset.

Som. All health unto my gracious sovereign!

K. Hen. Welcome, lord Somerset. What news
from France?

Som. That all your interest in those territories
Is utterly bereft you; all is lost.

K. Hen. Cold news, lord Somerset: But God's
will will be done!

York. [*Aside.*] Cold news for me; for I had
hope of France,

As firmly as I hope for fertile England.
Thus are my blossoms blasted in the bud,

And caterpillars eat my leaves away;
But I will remedy this gear² ere long,

Or sell my title for a glorious grave.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. All happiness unto my lord the king!
Pardon, my liege, that I have staid so long.

Suf. Nay, Gloster, know, that thou art come
too soon,

Unless thou wert more loyal than thou art:
I do arrest thee of high treason here.

Glo. Well, Suffolk, yet thou shalt not see me
blush,

Nor change my countenance for this arrest;
A heart unspotted is not easily daunted.

The purest spring is not so free from mud,
As I am clear from treason to my sovereign:

Who can accuse me? wherein am I guilty?

York. 'Tis thought, my lord, that you took
bribes of France,

And, being protector, stay'd the soldiers' pay:
By means whereof, his highness hath lost France.

Glo. Is it but thought so? What are they
that think it?

I never robb'd the soldiers of their pay,
Nor ever had one penny bribe from France.

So help me God, as I have watch'd the night,—
Ay, night by night,—in studying good for England!

That do it that e'er I wrested from the king,
Or any groat I hoarded to my use,

Be brought against me at my trial day!
No! many a pound of mine own proper store,

Because I would not tax the needy commons,
Have I disbursed to the garrisons,

And never ask'd for restitution. [*Exit.*] [much.

Car. It serves you well, my lord, to say so
Glo. I say no more than truth, so help me God!

York. In your protectorship, you did devise
Strange tortures for offenders, never heard of,
That England was defam'd by tyranny.

1 Trust.

2 Matter.

G. Why, 'tis well known, that whiles I was pro-
Pity was all the fault that was in me; [tector,
For I should melt at an offender's tears,
And lowly words were ransom for their fault.
Unless it were a bloody murderer, [gers,
Or foul felonious thief that fleed'd poor passen-
I never gave them condign punishment:

Murder, indeed, that bloody sin, I tortur'd
Above the felon, or what trespass else. [swer'd:

Suf. My lord, these faults are easy,¹ quickly an-
But mightier crimes are laid unto your charge,

Whereof you cannot easily purge yourself.
I do arrest you in his highness' name;

And here commit you to my lord cardinal.
To keep, until your further time of trial.

K. H. My lord of Gloster, 'tis my special hope,
That you will clear yourself from all suspects;

My conscience tells me, you are innocent.

G. Ah, gracious lord, these days are dangerous!
Virtue is chok'd with foul ambition,

And charity chas'd hence by rancour's hand;
Foul subornation is predominant,

And equity exil'd your highness' land.
I know, their complot is to have my life;

And, if my death might make this island happy,
And prove the period of their tyranny,

I would expend it with all willingness:
But mine is made the prologue to their play;

For thousands more, that yet suspect no peril,
Will not conclude their plotted tragedy. [lice,

Beaufort's red sparkling eyes blab his heart's ma-
And Suffolk's cloudy brow his stormy hate;

Sharp Buckingham unburdens with his tongue
The envious load that lies upon his heart;

And dogged York, that reaches at the moon,
Whose overweening arm I have pluck'd back,

By false accuse doth level at my life:—
And you, my sovereign lady, with the rest,

Causeless have laid disgraces on my head?
And, with your best endeavour, have stirr'd up

My liefest² liege to be mine enemy;—
Ay, all of you have laid your heads together,

Myself had notice of your conventicles,³
And all to make away my guiltless life:

I shall not want false witness to condemn me,
Nor store of treasons to augment my guilt;

The ancient proverb will be well affected,—
A staff is quickly found to beat a dog.

Car. My liege, his railing is intolerable:
If those that care to keep your royal person

From treason's secret knife, and traitors' rage,
Be thus upbraided, chid, and rated at,

And the offender granted scope of speech,
'Twill make them cool in zeal unto your grace.

Suf. Hath he not twit our sovereign lady here,
With ignominious words, though clerkly couch'd,

As if she had suborned some to swear
False allegations to o'erthrow his state?

Q. Mar. But I can give the loser leave to chide.
Glo. Far truer spoke, than meant: I lose,

indeed;—
Beshrew the winners, for they played me false!

And well such losers may have leave to speak.
Buck. He'll wrest the sense, and hold us here

Lord cardinal, he is your prisoner. [all day:—
Car. Sirs, take away the duke, and guard

1 Easily.

2 Dearest.

3 Assemblies.

G. Ah, thus king Henry throws away his crutch,
Before his legs be firm to bear his body:
Thus is the shepherd beaten from thy side, [first,
And wolves are gnawing who shall gnaw thee
Ah, that my fear were false! ah, that it were!
For, good king Henry, thy decay I fear.

[*Exeunt Attendants, with Gloster.*

K. H. My lords, what to your wisdoms seemeth
Do, or undo, as if myself were here. [best,

Q. Mar. What, will your highness leave the
parliament? [grief,

K. H. Ay, Margaret; my heart is drown'd with
Whose flood begins to flow within mine eyes;
My body round engirt with misery;

For what's more miserable than discontent?

Ah, uncle Humphrey! in thy face I see

The map of honour, truth, and loyalty;

And yet, good Humphrey, is the hour to come,

That, e'er I prove thee false, or fear'd thy faith.

What low'ring star now envies thy estate,

That these great lords, and Margaret our queen,

Do seek subversion of thy harmless life?

Thou never didst them wrong, nor no man wrong;

And as the butcher takes away the calf,

And binds the wretch, and beats it when it strays,

Bearing it to the bloody slaughter-house;

Even so remorseless, have they borne him hence.

And as the dam runs lowing up and down,

Looking the way her harmless young one went,

And can do nought but wail her darling's loss;

Even so myself bewails good Gloster's case,

With sad unhelpful tears; and with dimm'd eyes

Look after him, and cannot do him good;

So mighty are his vowed enemies.

His fortunes I will weep; and, 'twixt each groan,

Say,—*Who's a traitor, Gloster he is none.* [Exit.

Q. Mar. Free lords, cold snow melts with the
sun's hot beams.

Henry my lord is cold in great affairs,

Too full of foolish pity; and Gloster's show

Beguiles him as the mournful crocodile

With sorrow snares relenting passengers;

Or as the snake, roll'd in a flowering bank,

With shining checker'd slough,¹ doth sting a

That, for the beauty, thinks it excellent. [child,

Believe me, lords, were none more wise than I,

(And yet, herein, I judge mine own wit good,)

This Gloster should be quickly rid the world,

To rid us from the fear we have of him.

Car. That he should die, is worthy policy:

But yet we want a colour for his death:

'Tis meet he be condemn'd by course of law.

Suf. But, in my mind, that were no policy:

The king will labour still to save his life,

The commons haply rise to save his life;

And yet we have but trivial argument, [death.

More than mistrust, that shows him worthy

Y. So that, by this, you would not have him die.

Suf. Ah, York, no man alive so fain as I!

York. 'Tis York that hath more reason for his

death.— [folk,—

But, my lord cardinal, and you, my lord of Suf-

Say as you think, and speak it from your souls,—

Were't not all one, an empty eagle were set

To guard the chicken from a hungry kite, [tor?

As place duke Humphrey for the king's protec-

Q. M. So the poor chicken should be sure of death.

1 Skin.

Suf. Madam, 'tis true: And were't not madness
To make the fox surveyor of the fold? [then,
Who being accus'd a crafty murderer,
His guilt should be but idly posted over,
Because his purpose is not executed.

No; let him die, in that he is a fox,

By nature prov'd an enemy to the flock,

Before his chaps be stain'd with crimson blood;

As Humphrey, prov'd by reasons, to my liege.

And do not stand on quilets¹ how to slay him:

Be it by gins, by snares, by subtilty,

Sleeping or waking, 'tis no matter how,

So he be dead; for that is good deceit

Which mates² him first, that first intends deceit.

Q. M. Thrice-noble Suffolk, 'tis resolutely spoke.

Suf. Not resolute, except so much were done;

For things are often spoke, and seldom meant;

But, that my heart accordeth with my tongue,—

Seeing the deed is meritorious,

And to preserve my sovereign from his foe,—

Say but the word, and I will be his priest.

C. But I would have him dead, my lord of Suf-

Ere you can take due orders for a priest: [folk,

Say, you consent, and censure well the deed,

And I'll provide his executioner,

I tender so the safety of my liege.

Suf. Here is my hand, the deed is worthy doing.

Q. Mar. And so say I.

York. And I: and now we three have spoke it,

It skills not greatly who impugns our doom.

Enter a Messenger.

M. Great lords, from Ireland am I come again,

To signify—that rebels there are up,

And put the Englishmen unto the sword:

Send succours, lords, and stop the rage betime,

Before the wound do grow incurable;

For, being green, there is great hope of help.

C. A breach, that craves a quick expedient³ stop!

What counsel give you in this weighty cause?

York. That Somerset besent as regent thither:

'Tis meet, that lucky ruler be employ'd;

Witness the fortune he hath had in France.

Som. If York, with all his far-fet⁴ policy,

Had been the regent there instead of me,

He never would have staid in France so long.

York. No, not to lose it all, as thou hast done:

I rather would have lost my life betimes,

Than bring a burden of dishonour home,

By staying there so long, till all were lost.

Show me one scar character'd on thy skin:

Men's flesh preserv'd so whole, do seldom win.

Q. Mar. Nay then, this spark will prove a

raging fire,

If wind and fuel be brought to feed it with:—

No more, good York;—sweet Somerset, bestill;—

Thy fortune, York, hadst thou been regent there,

Might happily have prov'd far worse than his.

York. What worse than naught! nay, then a

shame take all! [shame!]

Som. And, in the number, thee that wishest

Car. My lord of York, try what your fortune is.

The uncivil kernes⁵ of Ireland are in arms,

And temper clay with blood of Englishmen:

To Ireland will you lead a band of men,

1 Niceties.

2 Matches.

3 Expeditious.

4 Far-fetched.

5 Irregular Irish foot-soldiers.

Collected choicely, from each county some,
And try your hap against the Irishmen?

York. I will, my lord, so please his majesty.

Suf. Why, our authority is his consent;
And, what we do establish, he confirms:
Then, noble York, take thou this task in hand.

Y. I am content: Provide me soldiers, lords,
Whiles I take order for mine own affairs.

Suf. A charge, lord York, that I will see perform'd.

But now return we to the false duke Humphrey.

Car. No more of him; for I will deal with him,
That, henceforth, he shall trouble us no more.
And so break off; the day is almost spent;
Lord Suffolk, you and I must talk of that event.

Y. My lord of Suffolk, within fourteen days,
At Bristol I expect my soldiers;

For there I'll ship them all for Ireland.

Suf. I'll see it truly done, my lord of York.

[Exeunt all but York.]

York. Now, York, or never, steel thy fearful
And change misdoubt to resolution: [thoughts,
Be that thou hop'st to be; or what thou art
Resign to death, it is not worth the enjoying:
Let pale-faced fear keep with the mean-born
And find no harbour in a royal heart. [man,
Faster than spring-time showers, comes thought
on thought;

And not a thought, but thinks on dignity.
My brain, more busy than the labouring spider,
Weaves tedious snares to trap mine enemies.
Well, nobles, well, 'tis politickly done,
To send me packing with an host of men:
I fear me, you but warm the starved snake,
Who, cherish'd in your breasts, will sting your hearts.

'Twas men I lack'd, and you will give them me:

I take it kindly; yet, be well assur'd
You put sharp weapons in a madman's hands.
Whiles I in Ireland nourish a mighty band,
I will stir up in England some black storm,
And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage
Until the golden circuit on my head,
Like to the glorious sun's transparent beams,
Do calm the fury of this mad-bred flaw.¹

And for a minister of my intent,
I have seduced a head-strong Kentishman,
John Cade of Ashford,

To make commotion, as full well he can,
Under the title of John Mortimer.

In Ireland have I seen this stubborn Cade
Oppose himself against a troop of kernes;
And fought so long, till that his thighs with darts
Were almost like a sharp-quill'd porcupine;
And, in the end being rescu'd, I have seen him
Caper upright like a wild Mórisco.²

Shaking the bloody darts, as he his bells.
Full often, like a shag-hair'd crafty kerne.
Hath he conversed with the enemy:

And undiscover'd come to me again,
And given me notice of their villainies.
This devil here shall be my substitute;
For that John Mortimer, which now is dead,
In face, in gait, in speech, he doth resemble:
By this I shall perceive the commons' mind.
How they affect the house and claim of York.
Say, he be taken, racked, and tortured:

1 Squall. 2 In a Moorish or morris dance.

I know, no pain, they can inflict upon him,
Will make him say—I mov'd him to those arms.
Say, that he thrive, (as 'tis great like he will,)
Why then from Ireland come I with my strength,
And reap the harvest which that rascal sow'd:
For Humphrey being dead, as he shall be,
And Henry put apart, the next for me. *[Exit.]*

SCENE II.—BURY. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter certain Murderers, hastily.

1 *Mur.* Run to my lord of Suffolk; lethinknow,
We have despatch'd the duke as he commanded.

2 *Mur.* O, that it were to do!—What have we
Didst ever hear a man so penitent? [done?

Enter Suffolk.

1 *Mur.* Here comes my lord.

Suf. Now, sirs, have you
Despatch'd this thing?

1 *Mur.* Ay, my good lord, he's dead.

Suf. Why, that's well said. Go, get you to
my house;

I will reward you for this venturous deed.
The king and all the peers are here at hand:—
Have you laid fair the bed? are all things well,
According as I gave directions?

1 *Mur.* 'Tis, my good lord.

Suf. Away, be gone! *[Exeunt Murderers.]*

*Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, Cardinal
Beaufort, Somerset, Lords, and others.*

K. Hen. Go, call our uncle to our presence
Say, we intend to try his grace to-day. [straight:
If he be guilty, as 'tis published.

Suf. I'll call him presently, my noble lord.
[Exit.]

K. Hen. Lords, take your places;—And, I
pray you all,
Proceed no straiter 'gainst our uncle Gloster,
Than from true evidence, of good esteem,
He be approved in practice culpable.

Q. M. Heaven forbid any malice should pre-
tend faultless may condemn a nobleman! [vail,
Pray God, he may acquit him of suspicion!

K. Hen. I thank thee, Margaret; these words
content me much.—

Re-enter Suffolk.

How now? why look'st thou pale? why trem-
blest thou?

Where is our uncle? what is the matter, Suffolk?

Suf. Dead in his bed, my lord: Gloster is dead.

Q. Mar. Marry, God forbid! [to-night,

Car. Heaven's secret judgment:—I did dream
The duke was dumb, and could not speak a word.

[The King swoons.]

Q. Mar. How fares my lord?—Help, lords!
the king is dead.

Som. Rear up his body, [thine eyes!

Q. Mar. Run, go, help, help!—O, Henry, ope

Suf. He doth revive again;—Madam, be

K. Hen. O heavenly God! [patient.

Q. Mar. How fares my gracious lord?

Suf. Comfort, my sovereign! gracious Henry,
comfort!

K. Hen. What, doth my lord of Suffolk comfort
Came he right now to sing a raven's note, [me?

Whose dismal tune bereft my vital powers;
 And thinks he, that the chirping of a wren,
 By crying comfort from a hollow breast,
 Can chase away the first-conceived sound?
 Hide not thy poison with such sugar'd words,
 Lay not thy hands on me; forbear, I say;
 Their touch affrights me, as a serpent's sting.
 Thou baleful messenger, out of my sight!
 Upon thy eyeballs murderous tyranny
 Sits in grim majesty, to fright the world.
 Look not upon me, for thine eyes are wounding:—
 Yet do not go away:—Come, basilisk,
 And kill the innocent gazer with thy sight:
 For in the shade of death I shall find joy!
 In life, but double death now Gloster's dead.

Q. M. Why do you rate my lord of Suffolk thus?
 Although the duke was enemy to him,
 Yet he, most Christian-like, laments his death:
 And for myself,—foe as he was to me,
 Might liquid tears, or heart-offending groans,
 Or blood-consuming sighs recall his life,
 I would be blind with weeping, sick with groans,
 Look pale as primrose, with blood-drinking sighs,
 And all to have the noble duke alive.
 What know I how the world may deem of me?
 For it is known, we were but hollow friends;
 It may be judg'd, I made the duke away;
 So shall my name with slander's tongue be
 wounded,

And princes' courts be fill'd with my reproach.
 This get I by his death: Ah me, unhappy!
 To be a queen, and crown'd with infamy!

K. Hen. Ah, woe is me for Gloster, wretched man!
 [he is.]

Q. Mar. Be woe for me, more wretched than
 What, dost thou turn away, and hide thy face?
 I am no loathsome leper, look on me.

What, art thou, like the adder, waxen deaf?
 Be poisonous too, and kill thy forlorn queen.
 Is all thy comfort shut in Gloster's tomb?
 Why, then dame Margaret was ne'er thy joy;
 Erect his statue then, and worship it,
 And make my image but an alehouse sign.
 Was I for this, nigh wreck'd upon the sea;
 And twice by awkward wind from England's
 Drove back again unto my native clime? [bank
 What boded this, but well-forewarning wind
 Did seem to say,—Seek not a scorpion's nest,
 Nor set no footing on this unkind shore?
 What did I then, but curs'd the gentle gusts,
 And he that loos'd them from their brazen caves;
 And bid them blow towards England's blessed
 Or turn our stern upon a dreadful rock? [shore,
 Yet Æolus would not be a murderer,
 But left that hateful office unto thee:
 The pretty vaulting sea refus'd to drown me:
 Knowing, that thou wouldst have me drown'd
 on shore,

With tears as salt as sea through thy unkindness:
 The splitting rocks cower'd in the sinking sands,
 And would not dash me with their ragged sides;
 Because thy flinty heart, more hard than they,
 Might in thy palace perish Margaret.
 As far as I could ken¹ thy chalky cliffs,
 When from the shore the tempest beat us back,
 I stood upon the hatches in the storm:
 And when the dusky sky began to rob

1 See.

My earnest-gaping sight of thy land's view,
 I took a costly jewel from my neck,—
 A heart it was, bound in with diamonds, [it;
 And threw it towards thy land;—the sea receiv'd
 And so, I wish'd, thy body might my heart;
 And even with this, I lost fair England's view,
 And bid mine eyes be packing with my heart;
 And call'd them blind and dusky spectacles,
 For losing ken of Albion's wished coast.
 How often have I tempted Suffolk's tongue
 (The agent of thy foul inconstancy,)
 To sit and witch me, as Ascanius did,
 When he to madding Dido would unfold
 His father's acts, commenc'd in burning Troy?
 Am I not witch'd like her? or thou not false like
 Ah me, I can no more! Die, Margaret! [him?
 For Henry weeps, that thou dost live so long.

Noise within. Enter Warwick and Salisbury.
The Commons press to the door.

War. It is reported, mighty sovereign,
 That good duke Humphrey traitorously is mur-
 der'd

By Suffolk and the cardinal Beaufort's means.
 The commons, like an angry hive of bees,
 That want their leader, scatter up and down,
 And care not who they sting in his revenge.
 Myself have calm'd their spleenful mutiny,
 Until they hear the order of his death. [true;

K. H. That he is dead, good Warwick, 'tis too
 But how he died, God knows, not Henry:
 Enter his chamber, view his breathless corpse,
 And comment then upon his sudden death.

W. That I shall do, my liege:—Stay, Salisbury,
 With the rude multitude, till I return.

[*Warwick goes into an inner room, and
 Salisbury retires.*]

K. Hen. O thou that judgest all things, stay
 my thoughts:

My thoughts, that labour to persuade my soul,
 Some violent hands were laid on Humphrey's
 If my suspect be false, forgive me, God; [life!
 For judgment only doth belong to thee!
 Fain would I go to chafe his paly lips
 With twenty thousand kisses, and to drain
 Upon his face an ocean of salt tears;
 To tell my love unto his dumb deaf trunk,
 And with my fingers feel his hand unfeeling:
 But all in vain are these mean obsequies;
 And, to survey his dead and earthy image,
 What were it but to make my sorrow greater?

*The folding doors of an inner chamber are
 thrown open, and Gloster is discovered dead in
 his bed: Warwick and others standing by it.*

War. Come hither, gracious sovereign, view
 this body.

K. Hen. That is to see how deep my grave is
 made:

For, with his soul fled all my worldly solace;
 For seeing him, I see my life in death.

War. As surely as my soul intends to live
 With that dread king that took our state upon
 To free us from his Father's wrathful curse, [him
 I do believe that violent hands were laid
 Upon the life of this thrice-fam'd duke.

Suf. A dreadful oath, sworn with a solemn
 tongue!

What instance gives lord Warwick for his vow?

War. See how the blood is settled in his face! Off have I seen a timely-parted ghost.¹
Of ashy semblance, meagre, pale, and bloodless,
Being all descended to the labouring heart;
Who, in the conflict that it holds with death,
Attracts the same for aidance 'gainst the enemy;
Which with the heart there cools and ne'er re-
to blush and beautify the cheek again. [turneth
But, see, his face is black, and full of blood;
His eye-balls further out than when he liv'd,
Staring full ghastly like a strangled man:
His hair uprear'd, his nostrils stretched with
struggling;

His hands abroad display'd, as one that grasp'd
And tugg'd for life, and was by strength subdu'd.
Look on the sheets, his hair, you see, is sticking;
His well-proportioned beard, made rough and
rugged,

Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodg'd.
It cannot be, but he was murder'd here;
The least of all these signs were probable.

Suf. Why, Warwick, who should do the duke
to death?

Myself, and Beaufort, had him in protection;
And we, I hope, sir, are no murderers.

War. But both of you were vow'd duke Hum-
phrey's foes;

And you, forsooth, had the good duke to keep;
'Tis like, you would not feast him like a friend;
And 'tis well seen he found an enemy.

Q. M. Then you, belike, suspect these noblemen
As guilty of duke Humphrey's timeless death.

War. Who finds the heifer dead, and bleeding
fresh,

And sees fast by a butcher with an axe, [ter?
But will suspect, 'twas he that made the slaugh-
Who finds the partridge in the puttock's nest,²
But may imagine how the bird was dead,
Although the kite soar with unbloodied beak?
Even so suspicious is this tragedy.

Q. Mar. Are you the butcher, Suffolk; where's
your knife?

Is Beaufort term'd a kite? where are his talons?

Suf. I wear no knife, to slaughter sleeping men;
But here's a vengeful sword, rusted with ease,
That shall be scour'd in his rancorous heart,
That slanders me with murder's crimson badge:—
Say, if thou dar'st, proud lord of Warwickshire,
That I am faulty in duke Humphrey's death.

[*Exeunt Cardinal, Som., and others.*]

War. What dares not Warwick, if false Suffolk
dare him?

Q. Mar. He dares not calm his contumelious
Nor cease to be an arrogant controller, [spirit,
Though Suffolk dare him twenty thousand times.

War. Madam, be still; with reverence may I
For every word, you speak in his behalf, [say;
Is slander to your royal dignity.

Suf. Blunt-witted lord, ignoble in demeanour!
If ever lady wrong'd her lord so much,
Thy mother took into her blameful bed
Some stern untutor'd churl, and noble stock
Was grafted with crab-tree slip; whose fruit thou
And never of the Nevils' noble race, [part,

W. But that the guilt of murder bucklers thee,
And I should rob the deathsmen of his fee,
Quitting thee thereby of ten thousand shames,

¹ Of one who had died a natural death. ² Kite.

And that my sovereign's presence makes me mild,
I would, false murderous coward, on thy knee
Make thee beg pardon for thy passed speech,
And say—it was thy mother that thou mean'st,
That thou thyself wast born in bastardy;
And, after all this fearful homage done,
Give thee thy hire, and send thy soul to hell,
Pernicious bloodsucker of sleeping men!

S. Thou shalt be waking, while I shed thy blood,
If from this presence thou dar'st go with me.

War. Away even now, or I will drag thee hence:
Unworthy though thou art, I'll cope with thee,
And do some service to duke Humphrey's ghost.

[*Exeunt Suffolk and Warwick.*]

K. Hen. What stronger breast-plate than a
heart untainted?

Thrice is he arm'd, that hath his quarrel just;
And he but naked, though lock'd up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

[*A noise within.*]

Q. Mar. What noise is this?

*Re-enter Suffolk and Warwick, with their
weapons drawn.*

K. Hen. Why, how now, lords? your wrathful
weapons drawn

Here in our presence? dare you be so bold!—
Why, what tumultuous clamour have we here?

Suf. The traitorous Warwick, with the men of
Set all upon me, mighty sovereign. [Bury,

Noise of a Crowd within. Re-enter Salisbury.

Sal. Sirs, stand apart; the king shall know
your mind.—[*Speaking to those within.*]

Dread lord, the commons send you word by me,
Unless false Suffolk straight be done to death,
Or banished fair England's territories,
They will by violence tear him from your palace,
And torture him with grievous ling'ring death.
They say, by him the good duke Humphrey died:
They say, in him they fear your highness' death;
And mere instinct of love, and loyalty,—
Free from a stubborn opposite intent,

As being thought to contradict your liking,—
Makes them thus forward in his banishment.
They say, in care of your most royal person,
That, if your highness should intend to sleep,
And charge—that no man should disturb your
In pain of your dislike, or pain of death; [rest,
Yet notwithstanding such a strait edict,

Were there a serpent seen, with forked tongue,
That sliely glided toward your majesty,
It were but necessary, you were wak'd;
Lest, being suffer'd, in that harmful slumber,
The mortal worm might make the sleep eternal;
And therefore do they cry, though you forbid,
That they will guard you, wh'er you will, or no,
From such fell serpents as false Suffolk is;
With whose envenomed and fatal sting
Your loving uncle, twenty times his worth,
They say, is shamefully bereft of life.

Commons. [Within.] An answer from the king,
my lord of Salisbury. [hinds,

Suf. 'Tis like the commons, rude unpolish'd
Could send such message to their sovereign:
But you, my lord, were glad to be employ'd,
To show how quaint¹ an orator you are:

¹ Dexterous.

But all the honour Salisbury hath won,
Is—that he was the lord ambassador,
Sent from a sort¹ of tinkers to the king.

Commons. [Within.] An answer from the king, or we'll break in. [from me,

K. Hen. Go, Salisbury, and tell them all I thank them for their tender loving care: And had I not been² cited so by them, Yet did I purpose as they do entreat; For sure, my thoughts do hourly prophesy Mischance unto my state by Suffolk's means. And therefore—by His Majesty I swear, Whose far unworthy deputy I am,— He shall not breathe infection in this air But three days longer, on the pain of death.

[Exit Salisbury.]

Q. Mar. O Henry, let me plead for gentle Suffolk.

K. Hen. Ungentle queen, to call him gentle No more, I say; if thou dost plead for him, Thou wilt but add increase unto my wrath. Had I but said, I would have kept my word; But, when I swear, it is irrevocable:— If, after three days' space, thou here be'st found On any ground that I am ruler of, The world shall not be ransom for thy life.— Come, Warwick, come good Warwick, go with I have great matters to impart to thee. [me;

[Exeunt *K. Henry, Warwick, Lords, &c.*]

Q. M. Mischance, and sorrow, go along with Heart's discontent, and sour affliction. [you! Be playfellows to keep you company! There's two of you, the devil make a third! And threefold vengeance tend upon your steps!]

Suf. Cease, gentle queen, these execrations, And let thy Suffolk take his heavy leave.

Q. Mar. Fie, coward woman, and soft-hearted wretch!

Hast thou not spirit to curse thine enemies?

Suf. A plague upon them! wherefore should I curse them?

Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,
As curst, as harsh, and horrible to hear,
Deliver'd strongly through my fixed teeth,
With full as many signs of deadly hate,
As lean-fac'd Envy in her loathsome cave:
My tongue should stumble in mine earnest words:
Mine eyes should sparkle like the beaten flint?
My hair be fixed on end, as one distract;

Ay, every joint should seem to curse and ban:
And even now my burden'd heart would break,
Should I not curse them. Poison be their drink!
Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest that they taste!
Their sweetest shade, a grove of cypress trees!
Their chiefest prospect, murdering basilisks!
Their softest touch, as smart as lizards' stings!
Their music, frightful as the serpent's hiss;
And boding screech-owls make the concert full!

Q. Mar. Enough, sweet Suffolk; thou torment'st thyself,

And these dread curses—like the sun 'gainst
Or like an overcharged gun,—recoil,
And turn the force of them upon thyself.

S. You bad me ban,² and will you bid me leave?
Now, by the ground that I am banish'd from,
Well could I curse away a winter's night,

Though standing naked on a mountain top,
Where biting cold would never let grass grow,
And think it but a minute spent in sport.

Q. Mar. O let me entreat thee, cease! Give me thy hand,

That I may dew it with my mournful tears;
Nor let the rain of heaven wet this place,
To wash away my woeful monuments.
O, could this kiss be printed in thy hand;

[Kisses his hand.]

That thou might'st think upon these by the seal,
Through whom a thousand sighs are breath'd for thee!

So, get thee gone, that I may know my grief;
'Tis but surmis'd whilst thou art standing by,
I will repeal thee, or, be well assur'd,
Adventure to be banished myself:
And banished I am, if but from thee.

Go, speak not to me; even now be gone.—
O, go not yet!—Even thus two friends condemn'd
Embrace, and kiss, and take ten thousand leaves,
Loather a hundred times to part than die.
Yet now farewell; and farewell life with thee!

Suf. Thus is poor Suffolk ten times banished,
Once by the king, and three times thrice by thee.
'Tis not the land I care for, wert thou hence;
A wilderness is populous enough,
So Suffolk had thy heavenly company:
For where thou art, there is the world itself,
With every several pleasure in the world;
And where thou art not, desolation.
I can no more:—live thou to joy thy life;
Myself no joy in nought, but that thou liv'st.

Enter Vaux.

Q. Mar. Whither goes Vaux so fast? what news I pry'thee?

Vaux. To signify unto his majesty,
That cardinal Beaufort is at point of death:
For suddenly a grievous sickness took him,
That makes him gasp, and stare, and catch the air,
Blaspheming God, and cursing men on earth.
Sometime, he talks as if duke Humphrey's ghost
Were by his side; sometime, he calls the king,
And whispers to his pillow, as to him,
The secret of his overcharged soul:
And I am sent to tell his majesty,
That even now he cries aloud for him.

Q. M. Go, tell this heavy message to the king.

[Exit Vaux.]

Ah me! what is this world? what news are these?
But wherefore grieve I at an hour's poor loss,
Omitting Suffolk's exile, my soul's treasure?
Why only, Suffolk, mourn I not for thee,
And with the southern clouds contend in tears;
Theirs for the earth's increase, mine for my sorrows?

Now, get thee hence: The king, thou know'st, is coming;

If thou be found by me, thou art but dead.

Suf. If I depart from thee, I cannot live:
And in thy sight to die, what were it else,
But like a pleasant slumber in thy lap?
Here could I breathe my soul into the air,
As mild and gentle as the cradle babe,
Dying with mother's teat between its lips:
Where,¹ from thy sight, I should be raging mad.

¹ A company.

² Curse.

¹ Whereas.

And cry out for thee to close up mine eyes,
To have thee with thy lips to stop my mouth ;
So shouldst thou either turn my flying soul,
Or I should breathe it so unto thy body,
And then it liv'd in sweet Elysium.
To die by thee, were but to die in jest ;
From thee to die, were torture more than death :
O, let me stay, befall what may befall.

Q. Mar. Away! though parting be a fretful
corrosive,

It is applied to a deathful wound.
To France, sweet Suffolk: let me hear from thee;
For wheresoe'er thou art in this world's globe,
I'll have an Iris that shall find thee out.

Suf. I go.

Q. Mar. And take my heart with thee.

Suf. A jewel, lock'd into the woeful'st cask
That ever did contain a thing of worth.
Even as a splitted bark, so sunder we ;
This way fall I to death.

Q. Mar. This way for me.

[*Exeunt severally.*]

SCENE III.—LONDON. CARDINAL BEAUFORT'S
BED-CHAMBER.

*Enter King Henry, Salisbury, Warwick, and
others. The Cardinal in bed; Attendants
with him.*

K. Hen. How fares my lord? speak, Beaufort,
to thy sovereign.

Car. If thou be'st death, I'll give thee Eng-
land's treasure,

Enough to purchase such another island,
So thou wilt let me live, and feel no pain.

K. Hen. Ah, what a sign it is of evil life,
When death's approach is seen so terrible!

W. Beaufort, it is thy sovereign speaks to thee.

Car. Bring me unto my trial when you will.
Died he not in his bed? where should he die?
Can I make men live, wh'er they will or no?—
O! torture me no more, I will confess.—
Alive again? then show me where he is ;
I'll give a thousand pound to look upon him.—
He hath no eyes, the dust hath blinded them.—
Comb down his hair! look! look! it stands
upright,

Like lime-twigs set to catch my winged soul!—
Give me some drink; and bid the apothecary
Bring the strong poison that I bought of him.

K. Hen. O thou eternal Mover of the heavens,
Look with a gentle eye upon this wretch!
O, beat away the busy meddling fiend,
That lays strong siege unto this wretch's soul,
And from his bosom purge this black despair!

War. See how the pangs of death do make
him grin.

Sal. Disturb him not, let him pass peaceably.

K. Hen. Peace to his soul, if God's good
pleasure be!

Lord cardinal, if thou think'st on heaven's bliss,
Hold up thy hand, make signal of thy hope.—
He dies, and makes no sign; O God, forgive him!

War. So bad a death argues a monstrous life.

K. H. Forbear to judge, for we are sinners all.—
Close up his eyes, and draw the curtain close;
And let us all to meditation.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

KENT. THE SEA-SHORE NEAR DOVER.

*Firing heard at Sea. Then enter from a Boat a
Captain, a Master, a Master's Mate, Walter,
Whitmore, and others; with them Suffolk
and other Gentlemen, Prisoners.*

C. The gaudy, blabbing,¹ and remorseful² day
Is crept into the bosom of the sea ;

And now loud-howling wolves arouse the jades
That drag the tragick melancholy night ;
Who with their drowsy, slow, and flagging wings
Clip dead men's graves, and from their misty jaws
Breathe foul contagious darkness in the air.

Therefore, bring forth the soldiers of our prize;
For, whilst our pinnace anchors in the Downs,
Here shall they make their ransom on the sand,
Or with their blood stain this discolour'd shore.—
Master, this prisoner freely give I thee ;—
And thou that art his mate, make boot of this ;—
The other, [*Pointing to Suffolk.*] Walter Whit-
more, is thy share. [*knock.*]

1 Gent. What is my ransome, master? let me
Ma. A thousand crowns, or else lay down
your head. [*yours.*]

Mate. And so much shall you give, or off goes
Cap. What, think you much to pay two
thousand crowns,

And bear the name and port of gentlemen !—
Cut both the villains' throats ;—for die you shall :
The lives of those which we have lost in fight,
Cannot be counterpois'd with such a petty sum.

1 Gent. I'll give it, sir ; and therefore spare
my life. [*straight.*]

2 Gent. And so will I, and write home for it
Whi. I lost mine eye in laying the prize aboard,
And therefore to revenge it, shalt thou die ;

[*To Suffolk.*]

And so should these, if I might have my will.

Cap. Be not so rash; take ransom, let him live.

Suf. Look on my George, I am a gentleman ;
Rate me at what thou wilt, thou shalt be paid.

Whit. And so am I ;—my name is—Walter
Whitmore. [*affright.*]

How now? why start'st thou? what, doth death

Suf. Thy name affrights me, in whose sound is
death.

A cunning man did calculate my birth,
And told me—that by *Water* I should die:
Yet let not this make thee be bloody minded:
Thy name is—*Gualtier*, being rightly sounded.

W. Gualtier, or Walter, which it is, I care not;
Ne'er yet did base dishonour blur our name,
But with our sword we wip'd away the blot ;
Therefore, when merchant-like I sell revenge,
Broke be my sword, my arms torn and defac'd,
And I proclaim'd a coward through the world!

[*Lays hold on Suffolk.*]

Suf. Stay, Whitmore; for thy prisoner is a
prince,

The duke of Suffolk, William de la Poole.

Whit. The duke of Suffolk, muffled up in rags!

Suf. Ay, but these rags are no part of the duke;
Jove sometime went disguis'd, and why not I?

¹ Tall-tale.

² Pitying.

Cap. But Jove was never slain, as thou shalt be.

Suf. Obscure and lowly swain, king Henry's blood,

The honourable blood of Lancaster,

Must not be shed by such a jaded groom.¹

Hast thou not kiss'd thy hand, and held my stirrup?

Bare-headed plodded by my foot-cloth mule,

And thought thee happy when I shook my head?

How often hast thou waited at my cup,

Fed from my trencher, kneel'd down at the board,

When I have feasted with queen Margaret?

Remember it, and let it make thee crest-fallen;

Ay, and allay this thy abortive pride:

How in our voiding lobby hast thou stood,

And duly waited for my coming forth?

This hand of mine hath writ in thy behalf,

And therefore shall it charm thy riotous tongue.

Whit. Speak, captain, shall I stab the forlorn swain?

C. First let my words stab him, as he hath me.

Suf. Base slave! thy words are blunt, and so art thou.

Cap. Convey him hence, and on our long-boat's Strike off his head. [side

Suf. Thou dar'st not for thy own.

Cap. Yes, Poole.

Suf. Poole?

Cap. Poole? Sir Poole?

Ay, kennel, puddle, sink; whose filth and dirt

Troubles the silverspring where England drinks.

Now will I dam up this thy yawning mouth,

For swallowing the treasure of the realm;

Thy lips, that kiss'd the queen, shall sweep the ground; [death,

And thou, that snil'dst at good duke Humphrey's

Against the senseless winds shall grin in vain,

Who, in contempt, shall hiss at thee again:

For daring to affy² a mighty lord

Unto the daughter of a worthless king,

Having neither subject, wealth, nor diadem.

By devilish policy art thou grown great,

And, like ambitious Sylla, overgorg'd

With gobbets of thy mother's bleeding heart.

By thee Anjou and Maine were sold to France:

The false revolting Normans, thorough thee,

Disdain to call us lord; and Picardy

Hath slain their governors, surpris'd our forts,

And sent the ragged soldiers wounded home.

The princely Warwick, and the Nevils all,—

Whose dreadful swords were never drawn in

As hating thee, are rising up in arms: [vain,

And now the house of York—thrust from the crown

By shameful murder of a guiltless king,

And lofty proud encroaching tyranny—

Burns with revenging fire; whose hopeful colours

Advance our half-fac'd sun, striving to shine,

Under the which is writ—*invitis nubibus*.

The commons here in Kent are up in arms:

And, to conclude, reproach and beggary

Is crept into the palace of our king,

And all by thee:—Away; convey him hence.

Suf. O that I were a god, to shout forth thunder

Upon these paltry, servile, abject drudges!

Small things make base men proud: this villain here,

Being captain of a pinnace, threatens more

Than Bargulus the strong Illyrian pirate.

Drones suck not eagles' blood, but rob bee-hives.

It is impossible, that I should die

By such a lowly vassal as thyself.

Thy words move rage, and not remorse, in me:

I go of message from the queen to France;

I charge thee, waft me safely cross the channel.

Cap. Walter,—

W. Come, Suffolk, I must waft thee to thy death.

Suf. *Gelidus timor occupat artus:* 'tis thee

I fear. [leave thee.

Whit. Thou shalt have cause to fear, before I

What, are ye daunted now? now will ye stoop?

1 Gent. My gracious lord, entreat him, speak him fair.

S. Suffolk's imperial tongue is stern and rough,

Ud to command, untaught to plead for favour.

Far be it, we should honour such as these

With humble suit: no, rather let my head

Stoop to the block, than these knees bow to any

Save to the God of heaven, and to my king;

And sooner dance upon a bloody pole,

Than stand uncover'd to the vulgar groom.

True nobility is exempt from fear:—

More can I bear, than you dare execute.

Cap. Hail him away, and let him talk no more.

Suf. Come, soldiers, show what cruelty ye can,

That this my death may never be forgot!—

Great men oft die by vile bezonians¹:

A Roman sworder and banditto slave,

Murder'd sweet Tully; Brutus' bastard hand

Stabb'd Julius Cæsar; savage islanders,

Pompey the great; and Suffolk dies by pirates.

[*Exit Suf., with Whit. and others.*

C. And as for these whose ransome we have set,

It is our pleasure one of them depart:—

Therefore come you with us, and let him go.

[*Exeunt all but the first Gentleman.*

Re-enter Whitmore, with Suffolk's body.

Whit. There let his head and lifeless body lie,

Until the queen his mistress bury it. [*Exit.*

1 Gent. O barbarous and bloody spectacle!

His body will I bear unto the king:

If he revenge it not, yet will his friends;

So will the queen, that living held him dear.

[*Exit, with the body.*

SCENE II.—BLACKHEATH.

Enter George Bevis and John Holland.

Geo. Come, and get thee a sword, though made

of a lath; they have been up these two days.

John. They have the more need to sleep now

then.

Geo. I tell thee, Jack Cade the clothier

means to dress the commonwealth, and turn it,

and set a new nap upon it.

John. So he had need, for 'tis threadbare.

Well, I say, it was never merry world in Eng-

land, since gentlemen came up.

Geo. O miserable age! Virtue is not regarded

in handicrafts-men.

John. The nobility think scorn to go in leather

aprons.

Geo. Nay more, the king's council are no good

workmen.

1 A low fellow.

2 To betroth.

1 Low men.

John. True; And yet it is said,—Labour in thy vocation: which is as much to say, as,—let the magistrates be labouring men; and therefore should we be magistrates.

Geo. Thou hast hit it; for there's no better sign of a brave mind, than a hard hand.

John. I see them! I see them! There's Best's son, the tanner of Wingham;—

Geo. He shall have the skins of our enemies, to make dog's leather of.

John. And Dick the butcher,——

Geo. Then is sin struck down like an ox, and iniquity's throat cut like a calf.

John. And Smith the weaver.

Geo. Argo, thy thread of life is spun.

John. Come, come, let's fall in with them.

Drum. Enter Cade, Dick the Butcher, Smith the Weaver, and others in great number.

Cade. We, John Cade, so termed of our supposed father,——

Dick. [Aside.] Or rather of stealing a cadel of herrings.

Cade.—for our enemies shall fall before us, inspired with the spirit of putting down kings and princes.—Command silence.

Dick. Silence!

Cade. My father was a Mortimer,——

Dick. [Aside.] He was an honest man, and a good bricklayer.

Cade. My mother a Plantagenet,——

Dick. [Aside.] I knew her well; she was a midwife.

Cade. My wife descended of the Lacies,——

Dick. [Aside.] She was, indeed, a pedlar's daughter, and sold many laces.

Smith. [Aside.] But, now of late, not able to travel with her furred pack, she washes bucks here at home.

Cade. Therefore am I of an honourable house.

Dick. [Aside.] Ay, by my faith, the field is honourable; And there was he born, under a hedge; for his father had never a house, but the cage.

Cade. Valiant I am.

Smith. [Aside.] 'A must needs; for beggary is valiant.

Cade. I am able to endure much.

Dick. [Aside.] No question of that; for I have seen him whipped three market days together.

Cade. I fear neither sword nor fire.

Smith. [Aside.] He need not fear the sword, for his coat is of proof.

Dick. [Aside.] But, methinks he should stand in fear of fire, being burnt i' the hand for stealing of sheep.

Cade. Be brave, then; for your captain is brave, and vows reformation. There shall be, in England, seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny: the three-hooped pot shall have ten hoops; and I will make it felony, to drink small beer; all the realm shall be in common, and in Cheapside shall my palfry go to grass. And, when I am king, (as king I will be)——

All. God save your majesty!

Cade. I thank you, good people:—there shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my

1 A barrel.

score; and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may agree like brothers, and worship me their lord.

Dick. The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.

Cade. Nay, that I mean to do. Is not this a lamentable thing, that of the skin of an innocent lamb should be made parchment? that parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo a man? Some say, the bee stings; but I say, 'tis the bee's wax; for I did but seal once to a thing, and I was never mine own man since. How now; who's there?

Enter some, bringing in the Clerk of Chatham.

Smith. The clerk of Chatham: he can write and read, and cast account.

Cade. O monstrous!

Smith. We took him setting of boys' copies.

Cade. Here's a villain!

Smith. H'as a book in his pocket, with red letters in't.

Cade. Nay, then he is a conjurer.

Dick. Nay, he can make obligations, and write court-hand.

Cade. I am sorry for't: the man is a proper man, on mine honour; unless I find him guilty, he shall not die.—Come hither, sirrah; I must examine thee: What is thy name?

Clerk. Emmanuel.

Dick. They use to write it on the top of letters; 'Twill go hard with you.

Cade. Let me alone:—Dost thou use to write thy name? or hast thou a mark to thyself, like an honest plain-dealing man?

Clerk. Sir, I thank Heaven, I have been so well brought up, that I can write my name.

All. He hath confessed: away with him; he's a villain, and a traitor.

Cade. Away with him, I say: hang him with his pen and inkhorn about his neck.

[Exeunt some with the Clerk.]

Enter Michael.

Mich. Where's our general?

Cade. Here I am, thou particular fellow.

Mich. Fly, fly, fly! Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother are hard by, with the king's forces.

Cade. Stand, villain, stand, or I'll fell thee down; He shall be encountered with a man as good as himself: he is but a knight, is 'a?

Mich. No.

Cade. To equal him, I will make myself a knight presently;—Rise up Sir John Mortimer. Now have at him.

Enter Sir Humphrey Stafford and William his brother, with Drum and Forces.

Staf. Rebellious hinds, the filth and scum of Kent,

Mark'd for the gallows,—lay your weapons down, Home to your cottages, forsake this groom;—The king is merciful, if you revolt. [blood, W. Staf. But angry, wrathful, and inclin'd to If you go forward: therefore yield, or die.

Cade. As for these silken-coated slaves, I pass not!

1 Pay them no regard.

It is to you, good people, that I speak,
O'er whom, in time to come, I hope to reign;
For I am rightful heir unto the crown.

Staf. Villain, thy father was a plasterer;
And thou thyself a shearman, art thou not?

Cade. And Adam was a gardener.

W. Staf. And what of that?

Cade. Marry, this—Edmund Mortimer, earl
of March, *with whom I have been* [not?

Married the duke of Clarence' daughter; Did he
Staf. Ay, sir.

Cade. By her, he had two children at one birth.

W. Staf. That's false.

C. Ay, there's the question, but, I say, 'tis true:

The elder of them, being put to nurse,
Was by a beggar-woman stol'n away;
And ignorant of his birth and parentage,
Became a bricklayer, when he came to age:
His son am I; deny it, if you can.

Dick. Nay, 'tis too true; therefore he shall
be king.

Smith. Sir, he made a chimney in my father's
house, and the bricks are alive at this day to
testify it; therefore deny it not.

S. And will you credit this base drudge's words,
That speaks he knows not what?

All. Ay, marry, will we; therefore get yegone.

W. Staf. Jack Cade, the duke of York hath
taught you this.

Cade. [*Aside.*] He lies; for I invented it my-
self.—Go to, sirrah. Tell the king from me,
that—for his father's sake, Henry the fifth, in
whose time boys went to span-counter for
French crowns—I am content he shall reign;
but I'll be protector over him.

Dick. And, furthermore, we'll have the lord
Say's head for selling the dukedom of Maine.

Cade. And good reason; for thereby is Eng-
land maimed, and fain to go with a staff, but
that my puissance holds it up. Fellow kings,
I tell you, that that lord Say hath maimed the
commonwealth, and more than that, he can
speak French, and therefore he is a traitor.

Staf. O gross and miserable ignorance!

Cade. Nay, answer if you can: The French-
men are our enemies: go to, then, I ask but
this; Can he that speaks with the tongue of an
enemy, be a good counsellor, or no?

All. No, no; and therefore we'll have his head.

W. S. Well, seeing gentle words will not prevail,
Assail them with the army of the king.

Staf. Herald, away; and, throughout every
town,

Proclaim them traitors that are up with Cade;
That those, which fly before the battle ends,
May, even in their wives' and children's sight,
Be hang'd up for example at their doors:

And you, that be the king's friends, follow me.

[*Exeunt the two Staffords, and Forces.*]

Cade. And you, that love the commons, fol-
low me.—

Now show yourselves men, 'tis for liberty.
We will not leave one lord, one gentleman:
Spare none, but such as go in clouted shoon¹;
For they are thrifty honest men, and such
As would (but that they dare not) take our parts.

D. They are all in order, and march toward us.

1 Shoes.

C. But then are we in order, when we are most
out of order. Come, march forward. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF BLACKHEATH.

Alarums. The two Parties enter and fight, and
both the Staffords are slain.

Cade. Where's Dick, the butcher of Ashford?
Dick. Here, sir.

Cade. They fell before thee like sheep and
oxen, and thou behavedst thyself as if thou
hadst been in thine own slaughter-house: there-
fore thus will I reward thee,—The Lent shall
be as long again as it is; and thou shalt have
a license to kill for a hundred lacking one.

Dick. I desire no more.

Cade. And, to speak truth, thou deservest no
less. This monument of the victory will I bear;
and the bodies shall be dragged at my horse's
heels, till I do come to London, where we will
have the mayor's sword borne before us.

Dick. If we mean to thrive and do good, break
open the gaols, and let out the prisoners.

Cade. Fear not that, I warrant thee. Come,
let's march toward London. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, reading a Supplication;
the Duke of Buckingham and Lord Say with
him: at a distance, Queen Margaret, mourn-
ing over Suffolk's Head.

Q. Mar. Oft have I heard—that grief softens
the mind,

And makes it fearful and degenerate;
Think therefore on revenge, and cease to weep.
But who can cease to weep, and look on this?
Here may his head lie on my throbbing breast:
But where's the body that I should embrace?

Buck. What answer makes your grace to the
rebels' supplication?

K. Hen. I'll send some holy bishop to entreat:
For God forbid, so many simple souls
Should perish by the sword! And I myself,
Rather than bloody war should cut them short,

Will parley with Jack Cade their general.—
But stay, I'll read it over once again.

Q. Mar. Ah, barbarous villains! hath this
lovely face

Rul'd like a wandering planet, over me;
And could it not enforce them to relent,
That were unworthy to behold the same?

K. Hen. Lord Say, Jack Cade hath sworn to
have thy head. [*His.*]

Say. Ay, but I hope, your highness shall have
K. Hen. How now, madam? Still

Lamenting, and mourning for Suffolk's death;
I fear, my love, if that I had been dead,
Thou wouldest not have mourn'd so much for me.

Q. Mar. My love, I should not mourn, but die
for thee.

Enter a Messenger.

K. Hen. How now! what news? why com'st
thou in such haste?

M. The rebels are in Southwark; Fly, my lord!
Jack Cade proclaims himself lord Mortimer

Descended from the duke of Clarence' house :
And calls your grace usurper, openly,
And vows to crown himself in Westminster.
His army is a ragged multitude
Of hinds and peasants, rude and merciless ;
Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother's death
Hath given them heart and courage to proceed :
All scholars, lawyers, courtiers, gentlemen,
They call—false caterpillars, and intend their
death. [they do.]

K. Hen. O graceless men ! they know not what

Buck. My gracious lord, retire to Kenelworth,
Until a power be rais'd to put them down.

Q. M. Ah ! were the duke of Suffolk now alive,
These Kentish rebels would be soon appeas'd.

K. Hen. Lord Say, the traitors hate thee,
Therefore away with us to Kenelworth.

Say. So might your grace's person be in danger ;
The sight of me is odious in their eyes :
And therefore in this city will I stay,
And live alone as secret as I may.

Enter another Messenger.

2 Mess. Jack Cade hath gotten London-bridge ;
the citizens

Fly and forsake their houses :

The rascal people, thirsting after prey,
Join with the traitor ; and they jointly swear,
To spoil the city, and your royal court.

B. Then linger not, my lord ; away, take horse.

K. Hen. Come, Margaret ; God, our hope, will
succour us.

Q. M. My hope is gone, now Suffolk is deceas'd.

K. Hen. Farewell, my lord ; [To Lord Say.]
trust not the Kentish rebels.

Buck. Trust nobody, for fear you be betray'd.

Say. The trust I have is in mine innocence,
And therefore am I bold and resolute. [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—THE TOWER.

Enter Lord Scales, and others, on the Walls.

Then enter certain Citizens, below.

Scales. How now ? Is Jack Cade slain ?

1 Cit. No, my lord, nor likely to be slain ; for
they have won the bridge, killing all those that
withstand them : The lord mayor craves aid of
your honour from the Tower, to defend the city
from the rebels.

Sc. Such aid as I can spare, you shall command ;
But I am troubled here with them myself ;
The rebels have assay'd to win the Tower.

But get you to Smithfield, and gather head,
And thither I will send you Matthew Gough ;
Fight for your king, your country, and your lives ;
And so farewell, for I must hence again. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI.—CANNON STREET.

*Enter Jack Cade, and his Followers. He strikes
his Staff on London-stone.*

Cade. Now is Mortimer lord of this city. And
here, sitting upon London-stone, I charge and
command, that of the city's cost, the conduit run
nothing but claret wine this first year of our reign.
And now, henceforward, it shall be treason for
any that calls me other than—lord Mortimer.

Enter a Soldier, running.

Sold. Jack Cade ! Jack Cade !

Cade. Knock him down there. [They kill him.]
Smith. If this fellow be wise, he'll never call
you Jack Cade more ; I think he hath a very fair
warning.

Dick. My lord, there's an army gathered to-
gether in Smithfield.

Cade. Come then, let's go fight with them :
But, first, go and set London-bridge on fire ;
and if you can, burn down the Tower too.
Come, let's away. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—SMITHFIELD.

Alarum. *Enter, on one side, Cade and his
Company ; on the other, Citizens, and the
King's Forces, headed by Matthew Gough.
They fight ; the Citizens are routed, and
Matthew Gough is slain.*

Cade. So, sirs :—Now go some and pull down
the Savoy ; others to the inns of court ; down
with them all.

Dick. I have a suit unto your lordship.

Cade. Be it a lordship, thou shalt have it for
that word.

Dick. Only that the laws of England may
come out of your mouth.

John. [Aside.] 'Twill be sore law, then ; for
he was thrust in the mouth with a spear, and
'tis not whole yet.

Cade. I have thought upon it ; it shall be so.
Away, burn all the records of the realm ; my
mouth shall be the parliament of England.

John. [Aside.] Then we are like to have bit-
ting statutes, unless his teeth be pulled out.

Cade. And henceforward all things shall be
in common.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, a prize, a prize ! here's the
lord Say, which sold the towns in France ; he
that made us pay one and twenty fifteens,¹ and
one shilling to the pound, the last subsidy.

Enter George Bevis, with the Lord Say.

Cade. Well, he shall be beheaded for it ten
times.—Ah, thou say,² thou serge, nay, thou
buckram lord ! now art thou within point-blank
of our jurisdiction regal. What canst thou an-
swer to my majesty, for giving up of Normandy
unto Monsieur Basimecu, the dauphin of France ?
Be it known unto thee by these presence, even
the presence of lord Mortimer, that I am the
besom that must sweep the court clean of such
filth as thou art. Thou hast most traitorously
corrupted the youth of the realm, in erecting a
grammar-school : and whereas, before, our fore-
fathers had no other books but the score and the
tally, thou hast caused printing to be used ; and,
contrary to the king, his crown and dignity,
thou hast built a paper-mill. It will be proved
to thy face, that thou hast men about thee, that
usually talk of a noun, and a verb ; and such
abominable words, as no Christian ear can endure
to hear. Thou hast appointed justices of peace,
to call poor men before them about matters they
were not able to answer. Moreover, thou hast
put them in prison, and because they could not

¹ The fifteenth part of all move- ² A kind of serge.
ables or personal property.

read, thou hast hanged them,¹ when, indeed, only for that cause they have been most worthy to live. Thou dost ride on a foot-cloth,² dost thou not?

Say. What of that?

Cade. Marry, thou oughtest not to let thy horse wear a cloak, when honest men than thou go in their hose and doublets.

Dick. And work in their shirt too; as myself, for example, that am a butcher.

Say. You men of Kent,—

Dick. What say you of Kent?

S. Nothing but this: 'Tis *bona terra malagens*.

Cade. Away with him, away with him! he speaks Latin. [you will.]

S. Hear me but speak, and bear me where Kent, in the commentaries Caesar writ, Is term'd the civilst place of all this isle: Sweet is the country, because full of riches; The people liberal, valiant, active, wealthy; Which makes me hope you are not void of pity. I sold not Maine, I lost not Normandy; Yet, to recover them, would lose my life. Justice with favour have I always done; [never.] Prayers and tears have mov'd me, gifts could When have I aught exacted at your hands, Kent to maintain, the king, the realm, and you? Large gifts have I bestow'd on learned clerks, Because my book prefer'd me to the king: And—seeing ignorance is the curse of Heaven, Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to it.—Unless you be possess'd with devilish spirits, You cannot but forbear to murder me. This tongue hath parley'd unto foreign kings For your behoof,—

Cade. Tut! when struck'st thou one blow in the field? [I struck]

S. Great men have reaching hands: oft have Those that I never saw, and struck them dead.

Geo. O monstrous coward! what, to come behind folks? [your good.]

Say. These cheeks are pale for watching for Cade. Give him a box o' the ear, and that will make 'em red again.

S. Long sitting to determine poor men's causes Hath made me full of sickness and diseases.

Cade. Ye shall have a hempen caudle then, and the pap³ of a hatchet.

Dick. Why dost thou quiver, man?

Say. The palsy, and not fear, provoketh me.

Cade. Nay, he nods at us; as who should say, —I'll be even with you. I'll see if his head will stand steadier on a pole, or no: Take him away, and behead him.

Say. Tell me, wherein I have offended most? Have I affected wealth, or honour; speak? Are my chests filled up with extorted gold? Is my apparel sumptuous to behold? Whom have I injur'd, that ye seek my death? These hands are free from guiltless blood-shedding,

This breast from harbouring foul deceitful O, let me live! [thoughts.]

¹ Unprotected as the clergy were, who were under special laws.

² A housing, which covered the body of the horse.

³ Playing on the word pap, which means an invalid's nourishment, and also a blow.

Cade. I feel remorse in myself with his words: but I'll bridle it; he shall die, an it be but for pleading so well for his life. Away with him! he has a familiar¹ under his tongue: Go, take him away, I say, and strike off his head presently; and then break into his son-in-law's house, Sir James Cromer, and strike off his head, and bring them both upon two poles hither.

All. It shall be done.

S. Ah, countrymen! if when you make your prayers,

God should be so obdurate as yourselves, How would it fare with your departed souls?

And therefore yet relent, and save my life.

C. Away with him, and do as I command ye.

[Exeunt some with Lord Say.]

The proudest peer in the realm shall not wear a head on his shoulders, unless he pay me tribute; men shall hold of me *in capite*; and we charge and command, that their wives be as free as heart can wish, or tongue can tell.

Dick. My lord, when shall we go to Cheapside, and take up commodities upon our bills?

Cade. Marry, presently.

All. O brave!

Re-enter Rebels, with the Heads of Lord Say and his Son-in-law.

Cade. But is not this braver?—Let them kiss one another, for they loved well, when they were alive. Now part them again, lest they consult about the giving up of some more towns in France. Soldiers, defer the spoil of the city until night: for with these borne before us, instead of maces, will we ride through the streets; and, at every corner, have them kiss.—Away! [Exeunt.]

SCENE VIII.—SOUTHWARK.

Alarm. Enter Cade, and all his Rabblement.

Cade. Up Fish-street! down Saint Magnus' corner! kill and knock down! throw them into Thames!—[A Parley sounded, then a Retreat.] What noise is this I hear? Dare any be so bold to sound retreat or parley, when I command them kill?

Enter Buckingham, and old Clifford with Forces.

Buck. Ay, here they be that dare and will disturb thee: [king]

Know, Cade, we come ambassadors from the Unto the commons, whom thou hast misled; And here pronounce free pardon to them all, That will forsake thee, and go home in peace.

Clif. What say ye, countrymen? will ye relent, And yield to mercy, whilst 'tis offered you; Or let a rabble lead you to your deaths?

Who loves the king, and will embrace his pardon, Fling up his cap, and say—God save his majesty! Who hateth him, and honours not his father, Henry the fifth, that made all France to quake, Shake he his weapon at us, and pass by.

All. God save the king! God save the king!

Cade. What, Buckingham, and Clifford, are ye so brave?—And you, base peasants, do ye believe him? will you needs be hanged with your pardons about your necks? Hath my

1 A demon.

sword therefore broke through London gates, that you should leave me at the White Hart in Southwark? I thought you would never have given out these arms, till you had recovered your ancient freedom; but you are all recreants, and dastards; and delight to live in slavery to the nobility. Let them break your backs with burdens, take your houses over your heads, ravish your wives and daughters before your faces: For me,—I will make shift for one; and so—A curse 'light upon you all!

All. We'll follow Cade, we'll follow Cade.

Clif. Is Cade the son of Henry the fifth. That thus you do exclaim—you'll go with him? Will he conduct you through the heart of France, And make the meanest of you earls and dukes? Alas, he hath no home, no place to fly to; Nor knows he how to live, but by the spoil, Unless by robbing of your friends, and us. Were't not a shame, that whilst you live at jar, The fearful French, whom you late vanquished, Should make a start o'er seas and vanquish you? Methinks, already, in this civil broil, I see them lording it in London streets, Crying—*Villageois!* unto all they meet. Better, ten thousand base-born Cades miscarry, Than you should stoop unto a Frenchman's mercy. [lost;]

To France, to France, and get what you have Spare England, for it is your native coast; Henry hath money, you are strong and manly: God on our side, doubt not of victory.

All. A Clifford! a Clifford! we'll follow the king, and Clifford.

Cade. Was ever feather so lightly blown to and fro, as this multitude? the name of Henry the fifth hales them to a hundred mischiefs, and makes them leave me desolate. I see them lay their heads together, to surprise me: my sword make way for me, for here is no staying.—Have through the very midst of you! and honour be witness, that no want of resolution in me, but only my followers' base and ignominious treasons, makes me betake me to my heels. [Exit.]

B. What, is he fled? go, some, and follow him; And he, that brings his head unto the king, Shall have a thousand crowns for his reward.—

[Exit some of them.]

Follow me, soldiers; we'll devise a mean To reconcile you all unto the king. [Exit.]

SCENE IX.—KENELWORTH CASTLE.

Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, and Somerset, on the Terrace of the Castle.

K. Hen. Was ever king that joy'd an earthly throne,
And could command no more content than I?
No sooner was I crept out of my cradle,
But I was made a king at nine months old:
Was never subject long'd to be a king,
As I do long and wish to be a subject.

Enter Buckingham and Clifford.

B. Health, and glad tidings, to your majesty!

K. Hen. Why, Buckingham, is the traitor, Cade, surpris'd?

Or is he but retir'd to make him strong?

Enter, below, a great number of Cade's Followers, with Halters about their Necks.

Clif. He's fled, my lord, and all his powers do yield;

And humbly thus, with halters on their necks, Expect your highness' doom of life, or death.

K. Hen. Then, heaven, set ope thy everlasting gates,

To entertain my vows of thanks and praise!
Soldiers, this day have you redeem'd your lives,
And show'd how well you love your prince and country:

Continue still in this so good a mind,
And Henry, though he be unfortunate,
Assure yourselves, will never be unkind:
And so, with thanks and pardon to you all,
I do dismiss you to your several countries.

All. God save the king! God save the king!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Please it your grace to be advertised,
The duke of York is newly come from Ireland:
And with a puissant, and a mighty power,
Of gallowglasses, and stout kernes,¹
Is marching hitherward in proud array;
And still proclaimeth, as he comes along,
His arms are only to remove from thee
The duke of Somerset, whom he terms a traitor.

K. Hen. Thus stands my state, 'twixt Cade
and York distress'd;
Like to a ship, that, having 'scap'd a tempest,
Is straightway calm'd and boarded with a pirate:
But now is Cade driven back, his men dispers'd;
And now is York in arms to second him.—
I pray thee, Buckingham, go forth and meet him;
And ask him, what's the reason of these arms.
Tell him, I'll send duke Edmund to the Tower;—
And, Somerset, we will commit thee thither,
Until his army be dismiss'd from him.

Som. My lord,
I'll yield myself to prison willingly,
Or unto death, to do my country good.

K. Hen. In any case, be not too rough in terms;
For he is fierce, and cannot brook hard language.

Buck. I will, my lord; and doubt not so to deal,
As all things should redound unto your good.

K. Hen. Come, wife, let's in, and learn to govern better;
For yet may England curse my wretched reign.

[Exit.]

SCENE X.—KENT. IDEN'S GARDEN.

Enter Cade.

Cade. Fie on ambition! fie on myself; that
have a sword, and yet am ready to famish!
These five days have I hid me in these woods;
and durst not peep out, for all the country is
lay'd for me; but now am I so hungry, that if I
might have a lease of my life for a thousand
years, I could stay no longer. Wherefore, on a
brick-wall have I climbed into this garden; to
see if I can eat grass, or pick a sallet² another
while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach

¹ Two orders of irregular foot-soldiers among the Irish.

² A salad and also a kind of helmet.

this hot weather. And, I think, this word sallet was born to do me good: for, many a time, but for a sallet, my brain-pan had been cleft with a brown bill; and, many a time, when I have been dry, and bravely marching, it hath served me instead of a quart-pot to drink in; and now the word sallet must serve me to feed on.

Enter Iden, with Servants.

Iden. Lord, who would live turmoiled in the court,

And may enjoy such quiet walks as these? This small inheritance, my father left me, Contenteth me, and is worth a monarchy. I seek not to wax great by others' waning; Or gather wealth, I care not with what envy; Sufficeth, that I have maintains my state, And sends the poor well pleased from my gate.

Cade. Here's the lord of the soil come to seize me for a stray, for entering his fee-simple without leave. Ah, villain, thou wilt betray me, and get a thousand crowns of the king for carrying my head to him; but I'll make thee eat iron like an ostrich, and swallow my sword like a great pin, ere thou and I part.

Id. Why, rude companion, whatso'er thou be, I know thee not; Why then should I betray thee? Is't not enough to break into my garden, And, like a thief, to come to rob my grounds, Climbing my walls in spite of me, the owner, But thou wilt brave me with these saucy terms?

Cade. Brave thee? ay, by the best blood that ever was broached, and beard thee too. Look on me well: I have eat no meat these five days; yet, come thou and thy five men, and if I do not leave you all as dead as a door-nail, may I never eat grass more.

Iden. Nay, it shall ne'er be said while England stands,

That Alexander Iden, an esquire of Kent, Took odds to combat a poor famish'd man. Oppose thy stedfast-gazing eyes to mine, See if thou canst outface me with thy looks. Set limb to limb, and thou art far the lesser; Thy hand is but a finger to my fist; Thy leg a stick compared with this truncheon; My foot shall fight with all the strength thou hast; And if mine arm be heaved in the air, Thy grave is digg'd already in the earth. As for more words, whose greatness answers words,

Let this my sword report what speech forbears.

Cade. By my valour, the most complete champion that ever I heard.—Steel, if thou turn the edge, or cut not out the burly-boned clown in chins of beef ere thou sleep in thy sheath, mayest thou be turned to hob-nails. [*They fight. Cade falls.*] O, I am slain! famine, and no other, hath slain me; let ten thousand devils come against me, and give me but the ten meals I have lost, and I'll defy them all. Wither, garden: and be henceforth a burying-place to all that do dwell in this house, because the unconquered soul of Cade is fled.

Iden. Is't Cade that I have slain, that monstrous traitor?

Sword, I will hallow thee for this thy deed, And hang thee o'er my tomb when I am dead!

Ne'er shall this blood be wiped from thy point; But thou shalt wear it as a herald's coat, To emblaze the honour that thy master got.

Cade. Iden, farewell; and be proud of thy victory: Tell Kent from me, she hath lost her best man, and exhort all the world to be cowards; for I, that never feared any, am vanquish'd by famine, not by valour. [*Dies.*]

Iden. How much thou wrong'st me, heaven be my judge.

Die, wretch, the curse of her that bare thee!

Hence will I drag thee headlong by the heels Unto a dunghill, which shall be thy grave, And there cut off thy most ungracious head; Which I will bear in triumph to the king, Leaving thy trunk for crows to feed upon.

[*Exit, dragging out the Body.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—NEAR SAINT ALBAN'S.

The King's Camp on one side. On the other, enter York attended, with Drum and Colours: his Forces at some distance.

York. From Ireland thus comes York, to claim his right,

And pluck the crown from feeble Henry's head: Ring, bells, aloud; burn, bonfires, clear and bright,

To entertain great England's lawful king.

Ah, *sancta majestas!* who would not buy thee dear?

Let them obey, that know not how to rule!

This hand was made to handle nought but gold: I cannot give due action to my words, Except a sword, or scepter, balance it.

A scepter shall it have, have I a soul;

On which I'll toss the flower-de-luce of France.

Enter Buckingham.

Whom have we here? Buckingham, to disturb me. The king hath sent him, sure; I must dissemble.

B. York, if thou meanest well, I greet thee well.

York. Humphrey of Buckingham, I accept thy greeting.

Art thou a messenger, or come of pleasure?

Buc. A messenger from Henry our dread liege, To know the reason of these arms in peace; Or why, thou—being a subject as I am,—Against thy oath and true allegiance sworn, Shouldst raise so great a power without his leave, Or dare to bring thy force so near the court.

York. Scarce can I speak, my choler is so great.

O, I could hew up rocks, and fight with I am so angry at these abject terms;

And now, like Ajax Telamonius,

On sheep or oxen could I spend my fury!

I am far better born than is the king;

More like a king, more kingly in my thoughts:

But I must make fair weather yet a while, Till Henry be more weak, and I more strong.—

O Buckingham, I pry thee, pardon me.

Aside.

That I have given no answer all this while;
My mind was troubled with deep melancholy.
The cause why I have brought this army hither,
Is—to remove proud Somerset from the king,
Seditious to his grace, and to the state.

B. That is too much presumption on thy part:
But if thy arms be to no other end,
The king hath yielded unto thy demand;
The duke of Somerset is in the Tower.

York. Upon thine honour, is he prisoner?

Buck. Upon mine honour, he is prisoner.

Y. Then Buckingham, I do dismiss my powers.—
Soldiers, I thank you all: disperse yourselves;
Meet me to-morrow in Saint George's field,
You shall have pay, and every thing you wish.
And let my sovereign, virtuous Henry,
Command my eldest son,—nay, all my sons,
As pledges of my fealty and love,
I'll send them all as willing as I live;
Lands, goods, horse, armour, anything I have
Is his to use, so Somerset may die.

Buck. York, I commend this kind submission:
We twain will go into his highness' tent.

Enter King Henry, attended.

K. Hen. Buckingham, doth York intend no
harm to us.

That thus he marcheth with thee arm in arm?

York. In all submission and humility,
York doth present himself unto your highness.

K. Hen. Then what intend these forces thou
dost bring?

Y. To heave the traitor Somerset from hence;
And fight against that monstrous rebel, Cade,
Who since I heard to be discomfited.

Enter Iden, with Cade's Head.

Iden. If one so rude, and of so mean condition,
May pass into the presence of a king,
Lo, I present your grace a traitor's head,
The head of Cade, whom I in combat slew.

K. Hen. The head of Cade?—Great God, how
just art thou!—

O, let me view his visage being dead,
That living wrought me such exceeding trouble.
Tell me, my friend, art thou the man that slew
him?

Iden. I was, an't like your majesty.

K. Hen. How art thou call'd? and what is thy
degree?

Iden. Alexander Iden, that's my name;

A poor esquire of Kent, that loves his king.

Buck. So please it you, my lord, 'twere not
amiss

He were created knight for his good service.

K. Hen. Iden, kneel down; [*He kneels.*] Rise
up a knight.

We give thee for reward a thousand marks;
And will, that thou henceforth attend on us.

Iden. May Iden live to merit such a bounty,
And never live but true unto his liege!

K. Hen. See, Buckingham! Somerset comes
with the queen;

Go, bid her hide him quickly from the duke.

Enter Queen Margaret and Somerset.

Q. Mar. For thousand Yorks he shall not hide
his head,

But boldly stand, and front him to his face.

York. How now! is Somerset at liberty?

Then, York, unloose thy long-imprison'd
thoughts,

And let thy tongue be equal with thy heart.

Shall I endure the sight of Somerset?—

False king! why hast thou broken faith with me,

Knowing how hardly I can brook abuse?

King did I call thee? no, thou art not king;

Not fit to govern and rule multitudes,

Which dar'st not, no, nor canst not rule a traitor.

That head of thine doth not become a crown;

Thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff,

And not to grace an awful princely scepter.

That gold must round engirt these brows of
mine;

Whose smile and frown, like to Achilles' spear,
Is able with the change to kill and cure.

Here is a hand to hold a scepter up,

And with the same to act controlling laws.

Give place; by heaven, thou shalt rule no more
O'er him, whom heaven created for thy ruler.

Som. O monstrous traitor!—I arrest thee,

York,

Of capital treason 'gainst the king and crown:
Obey, audacious traitor; kneel for grace.

York. Wouldst have me kneel? first let me
ask of these,

If they can brook I bow a knee to man.—

Sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail;

[*Exit an Attendant.*]

I know, ere they will have me go to ward,¹

They'll pawn their swords for my enfranchise-
ment.

Q. Mar. Call hither Clifford; bid him come
again,

To say, if that the bastard boys of York
Shall be the surety for their traitor father.

York. O blood-bespotted Neapolitan,
Outcast of Naples, England's bloody scourge!
The sons of York, thy betters in their birth,
Shall be their father's bail; and bane to those
That for my surety will refuse the boys.

*Enter Edward and Richard Plantagenet, with
Forces, at one side; at the other, with Forces
also, old Clifford, and his Son.*

See, where they come; I'll warrant they'll make
it good. [their bail.]

Q. Mar. And here comes Clifford, to deny

Clif. Health and all happiness to my lord
the king! [Kneels.]

York. I thank thee, Clifford: Say, what news
with thee?

Nay, do not fright us with an angry look:

We are thy sovereign, Clifford, kneel again;

For thy mistaking so, we pardon thee.

Clif. This is my king, York, I do not mistake;
But thou mistak'st me much, to think I do:—

To Bedlam with him! is the man grown mad?

K. Hen. Ay, Clifford; a bedlam and ambitious
humour

Makes him oppose himself against his king.

Clif. He is a traitor; let him to the Tower,
And chop away that factious pate of his.

Q. Mar. He is arrested, but will not obey;
His sons, he says, shall give their words for him.

York. Will you not, sons?

Edw. Ay, noble father, if our words will serve.

Rich. And if words will not, then our weapons shall.

Cl. Why, what a brood of traitors have we here!

York. Look in a glass, and call thy image so; I am thy king, and thou a false-heart traitor.—Call hither to the stake my two brave bears,¹ That, with the very shaking of their chains, They may astonish these fell lurking curs; Bid Salisbury, and Warwick, come to me.

Drums. Enter Warwick and Salisbury, with Forces.

Clif. Are these thy bears? we'll bait thy bears to death,

And manacle the bear-ward² in their chains, If thou dar'st bring them to the baiting-place.

Rich. Oft have I seen a hot o'erweening cur Run back and bite, because he was withheld; Who, being suffer'd with the bear's fell paw, Hath clapp'd his tail between his legs, and cry'd: And such a piece of service will you do,

If you oppose yourselves to match lord Warwick.

Cl. Hence, heap of wrath, foul indigested lump, As crooked in thy manners as thy shape!

York. Nay, we shall heat you thoroughly anon.

Clif. Take heed, lest by your heat you burn yourselves.

K. Hen. Why, Warwick, hath thy knee forgot to bow?—

Old Salisbury,—shame to thy silver hair, Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son!—What, wilt thou on thy death-bed play the ruffian,

And seek for sorrow with thy spectacles? O, where is faith? O, where is loyalty?

If it be banish'd from the frosty head, Where shall it find a harbour in the earth?—

Wilt thou go dig a grave to find out war, And shame thine honourable age with blood?

Why art thou old, and want'st experience? Or wherefore dost abuse it, if thou hast it?

For shame! in duty bend thy knee to me, That bows unto the grave with mickle age.

Sal. My lord, I have consider'd with myself The title of this most renowned duke;

And in my conscience do repute his grace The rightful heir to England's royal seat.

K. H. Hast thou not sworn allegiance unto me? *Sal.* I have.

K. Hen. Canst thou dispense with heaven for such an oath?

Sal. It is great sin, to swear unto a sin; But greater sin, to keep a sinful oath.

Who can be bound by any solemn vow To do a murderous deed, to rob a man,

To force a spotless virgin's chastity, To reave the orphan of his patrimony,

To wring the widow from her custom'd right; And have no other reason for this wrong,

But that he was bound by a solemn oath?

Q. Mar. A subtle traitor needs no sophister.

K. Hen. Call Buckingham, and bid him arm himself. [thou hast,

York. Call Buckingham, and all the friends I am resolv'd for death or dignity.

Clif. The first I warrant thee, if dreams prove true.

War. You were best to go to bed, and dream again,

To keep thee from the tempest of the field.

Clif. I am resolv'd to bear a greater storm, Than any thou canst conjure up to-day;

And that I'll write upon thy burgonet,¹ Might I but know thee by thy household badge.

W. Now, by my father's badge, old Nevil's crest, The rampant bear chain'd to the ragged staff,

This day I'll wear aloft my burgonet, (As on a mountain top the cedar shows,

That keeps his leaves in spite of any storm.) Even to affright thee with the view thereof.

Clif. And from thy burgonet I'll rend thy bear, And tread it underfoot with all contempt,

Despight the bear-ward that protects the bear.

Y. Clif. And so to arms, victorious father, To quell the rebels, and their 'complices.

[*Exeunt severally.*]

SCENE II.—SAINT ALBAN'S.

Alarums: Excursions. Enter Warwick.

W. Clifford of Cumberland, 'tis Warwick calls! And if thou dost not hide thee from the bear,

Now,—when the angry trumpet sounds alarm, And dead men's cries do fill the empty air,

Clifford, I say, come forth and fight with me! Proud northern lord, Clifford of Cumberland,

Warwick is hoarse with calling thee to arms.

Enter York.

How now, my noble lord? what, all a-foot?

Yo. The deadly handed Clifford slew my steed; But match to match I have encountered him,

And made a prey for carrion kites and crows, Even of the bonny beast he lov'd so well.

Enter Clifford.

War. Of one or both of us the time is come.

York. Hold, Warwick, seek thee out some other chase,

For I myself must hunt this deer to death.

War. Then, nobly, York, 'tis for a crown thou fight'st.—

As I intend, Clifford, to thrive to-day, It grieves my soul to leave thee unassail'd.

[*Exit Warwick.*]

Clif. What seest thou in me, York? why dost thou pause?

Yo. With thy brave bearing should I be in love, But that thou art so fast mine enemy.

Clif. Nor should thy prowess want praise and esteem,

But that 'tis shown ignobly, and in treason.

York. So let it help me now against thy sword, As I in justice and true right express it!

Clif. My soul and body on the action both!—*Yo.* A dreadful lay!²—address thee instantly.

[*They fight, and Clifford falls.*]

Clif. *La fin couronne les œuvres.* [Dies.]

York. Thus war hath given thee peace, for thou art still.

Peace with his soul, heaven, if it be thy will! [Exit.]

1 The family crest.

2 Bear-keeper.

1 Helmet.

2 Stake.

Enter Young Clifford.

Y. Cl. Shame and confusion ! all is on the rout !
 Fear frames disorder, and disorder wounds
 Where it should guard. O war, thou son of hell,
 Whom angry heavens do make their minister,
 Throw in the frozen bosoms of our part
 Hot coals of vengeance ;—Let no soldier fly :
 He that is truly dedicate to war,
 Hath no self-love ; nor he that loves himself,
 Hath not essentially, but by circumstance,
 The name of valour.—O, let the vile world end.

[*Seeing his dead Father.*

And the promised¹ flames of the last day
 Knit earth and heaven together !
 Now let the general trumpet blow his blast,
 Particularities and petty sounds
 To cease !—Wast thou ordain'd, dear father,
 To lose thy youth in peace, and to achieve
 The silver livery of advised age ;
 And in thy reverence, and thy chair-days, thus
 To die in ruffian battle ?—Even at this sight,
 My heart is turn'd to stone ; and, while 'tis mine,
 It shall be stony. York not our old men spares ;
 No more will I their babes : tears virginal
 Shall be to me even as the dew to fire ;
 And beauty, that the tyrant oft reclaims,
 Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax.
 Henceforth, I will not have to do with pity :
 Meet I an infant of the house of York,
 Into as many gobbets² will I cut it,
 As wild Medea young Absyrtus did :
 In cruelty will I seek out my fame.
 Come, thou new ruin of old Clifford's house ;

[*Taking up the Body.*

As did Æneas old Anchises bear,
 So bear I thee upon my manly shoulders ;
 But then Æneas bare a living load,
 Nothing so heavy as these woes of mine.

[*Exit.*

Enter Richard Plantagenet and Somerset, fighting, and Somerset is killed.

Rich. So, lie thou there ;—
 For, underneath an alehouse³ paltry sign,
 The Castle in Saint Alban's, Somerset
 Hath made the wizard famous in his death.—
 Sword, hold thy temper, heart, be wrathful
 still :
 Priests pray for enemies, but princes kill.

[*Exit.*

Alarums: Excursions. Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, and others retreating.

Q. Mar. Away, my lord ! you are slow ; for
 shame, away !

K. Hen. Can we outrun the heavens ? good
 Margaret, stay.

Q. Mar. What are you made of ? you'll not
 fight nor fly :

Now is it manhood, wisdom, and defence,
 To give the enemy way : and to secure us
 By what we can, which can no more but fly.

[*Alarum after off.*

If you be ta'en, we then should see the bottom
 Of all our fortunes : but if we haply scape,

1 Sent before their time.

2 Mouthfuls.

(As well we may, if not through your neglect.)
 We shall to London get ; where you are lov'd ;
 And where this breach, now in our fortunes
 made,
 May readily be stopp'd.

Enter Young Clifford.

Y. C. But that my heart's on future mis-
 chief set,
 I would speak blasphemy ere bid you fly ;
 But fly you must ; incurable discomfit
 Reigns in the hearts of all our present parts.¹
 Away, for your relief ! and we will live
 To see their day, and then our fortune give :
 Away, my lord, away ! [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—FIELDS NEAR SAINT ALBAN'S.

Alarum: Retreat. Flourish; then enter York, Richard Plantagenet, Warwick, and Soldiers, with Drum and Colours.

York. Of Salisbury, who can report of him ;
 That winter lion, who, in rage, forgets
 Aged contusions and all brush of time ;
 And, like a gallant in the brow² of youth,
 Repairs him with occasion ? this happy day
 Is not itself, nor have we won one foot,
 If Salisbury be lost.

Rich. My noble father,
 Three times to-day I help him to his horse,
 Three times bestrid him, thrice I led him off,
 Persuaded him from any further act :
 But still, where danger was, still there I met
 him ;

And like rich hangings in a homely house,
 So was his will in his old feeble body.
 But, noble as he is, look, where he comes.

Enter Salisbury.

Sal. Now, by my sword, well hast thou
 fought to-day ;
 By the mass, so did we all.—I thank you,
 Richard :

God knows how long it is I have to live ;
 And it hath pleas'd him, that three times to-day
 You have defended me from imminent death.—
 Well, lords, we have not got that which we
 have³ :

'Tis not enough our foes are this time fled,
 Being opposites of such repairing nature.⁴

York. I know, our safety is to follow them ;
 For, as I hear, the king is fled to London,
 To call a present court of parliament.

Let us pursue him, ere the writs go forth :—
 What says lord Warwick ? shall we after them ?

War. After them ! nay, before them, if we
 can.

Now by my faith, lords, 'twas a glorious day :
 Saint Alban's battle, won by famous York,
 Shall be eternis'd in all age to come.
 Sound, drums and trumpets :—and to London
 all :

And more such days as these to us befall !

[*Exeunt.*

1 Parties.

2 Secured that which we have acquired.

3 The height. 4 Enemies likely so soon to rally.

Third Part of King Henry VI.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE SIXTH.
 EDWARD, *Prince of Wales, his Son.*
 LEWIS THE ELEVENTH, *King of France.*
 DUKE OF SOMERSET,
 DUKE OF EXETER,
 EARL OF OXFORD,
 EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND,
 EARL OF WESTMORELAND,
 LORD CLIFFORD,
 RICHARD PLANTAGENET, *Duke of York.*
 EDWARD, *Earl of March, afterwards*
King Edward the Fourth.
 EDMUND, *Earl of Rutland.*
 GEORGE, *afterwards Duke of Clarence,*
 RICHARD, *afterwards Duke of Gloster.*
 DUKE OF NORFOLK,
 MARQUIS OF MONTAGUE,
 EARL OF WARWICK,
 EARL OF PEMBROKE,
 LORD HASTINGS,
 LORD STAFFORD,

*Lords on King
Henry's side.*

*his
Sons.*

*of the Duke of
York's Party.*

SIR JOHN MORTIMER, } *Uncles to the Duke*
 SIR HUGH MORTIMER, } *of York.*
 HENRY, *Earl of Richmond, a Youth.*
 LORD RIVERS, *Brother to Lady Grey.*
 SIR WILLIAM STANLEY.
 SIR JOHN MONTGOMERY.
 SIR JOHN SOMERVILLE.
Tutor to Rutland.
Mayor of York.
Lieutenant of the Tower.
A Nobleman.
Two Keepers.
A Huntsman.
A Son that has killed his Father.
A Father that has killed his Son.

QUEEN MARGARET.
 LADY GREY, *afterwards Queen to Edward the Fourth.*
 BONA, *Sister to the French Queen.*
Soldiers, and other Attendants on King Henry and King Edward, Messengers, Watchmen, &c.

SCENE.—*During part of the Third Act, in France; during all the rest of the play, in England.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—LONDON. THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Drums. Some Soldiers of York's Party break in. Then enter the Duke of York, Edward, Richard, Norfolk, Montague, Warwick, and others, with white Roses in their Hats.

War. I wonder, how the king escap'd our hands.
York. While we pursu'd the horsemen of the He silly stole away, and left his men: [north, Whereat the great lord of Northumberland, Whose warlike ears could never brook retreat, Cheer'd up the drooping army; and himself, Lord Clifford, and lord Stafford, all a-breast, Charg'd our main battle's front, and, breaking in, Were by the swords of common soldiers slain.

Edw. Lord Stafford's father, duke of Buckingham is either slain, or wounded dangerous: [ham, I cleft his beaver with a downright blow; That this is true, father, behold his blood.

[*Showing his bloody Sword.*
Mont. And, brother, here's the earl of Wiltshire's blood, [To York, showing his. Whom I encounter'd as the battles join'd.

Ric. Speak thou for me, and tell them what I did. [Throwing down the Duke of Somerset's Head.

Y. Richard hath best deserv'd of all my sons.—What, is your grace dead, my lord of Somerset?

Norf. Such hope have all the line of John of Gaunt!

R. Thus do I hope to shake king Henry's head.

War. And so do I.—Victorious prince of York, Before I see thee seated in that throne Which now the house of Lancaster usurps, I vow by heaven, these eyes shall never close. This is the palace of the fearful king, And this the regal seat: possess it, York: For this is thine, and not king Henry's heirs'.

Y. Assist me then, sweet Warwick, and I will; For hither we have broken in by force.

Norf. We'll all assist you; he that flies, shall die.

York. Thanks, gentle Norfolk,—Stay by me, my lords;—

And, soldiers, stay, and lodge by me this night.

War. And, when the king comes, offer him no violence,

Unless he seek to thrust you out by force.

[*They retire.*

York. The queen, this day, here holds her parliament,

But little thinks we shall be of her council: By words, or blows, here let us win our right.

Ric. Arm'd as we are, let's stay within this house.

War. The bloody parliament shall this be call'd, Unless Plantagenet, duke of York, be king:

And bashful Henry depos'd, whose cowardice Hath made us by-words to our enemies.

York. Then leave me not, my lords; be resolute; I mean to take possession of my right.

War. Neither the king, nor he that loves him best,

The proudest he that holds up Lancaster, Dares stir a wing, if Warwick shake his bells.¹

¹ Alluding to the bells on hawks.

I'll plant Plantagenet, root him up who dares :—
Resolve thee, Richard; claim the English crown.

[*Warwick leads York to the Throne, who seats himself.*]

Flourish. Enter King Henry, Clifford, Northumberland, Westmoreland, Exeter, and others, with red Roses in their Hats.

K. H. My lords, look where the sturdy rebels sit,
Even in the chair of state! belike, he means,
(Back'd by the power of Warwick, that false peer.)

To aspire unto the crown, and reign as king.—
Earl of Northumberland, he slew thy father;—
And thine, lord Clifford; and you both have
vow'd revenge

On him, his sons, his favourites, and his friends.

North. If I be not, heavens be reveng'd on me!

Clif. The hope thereof makes Clifford mourn
in steel. [down:]

West. What, shall we suffer this? let's pluck him
My heart for anger burns, I cannot brook it.

K. H. Be patient, gentle earl of Westmoreland.

Clif. Patience is for poltroons, and such as he;
He durst not sit there had your father liv'd.

My gracious lord, here in the parliament

Let us assail the family of York.

North. Well hast thou spoken, cousin, be it so.

K. H. Ah, know you not, the city favours them,
And they have troops of soldiers at their beck?

Exe. But when the duke is slain, they'll
quickly fly. [heart]

K. H. Far be the thought of this from Henry's
To make a shambles of the parliament-house!
Cousin of Exeter, frowns, words, and threats,
Shall be the war that Henry means to use.—

[*They advance to the Duke.*]

Thou factious duke of York, descend my throne,
And kneel for grace and mercy at my feet;

I am thy sovereign.

York. Thou art deceiv'd, I am thine.

Exe. For shame, come down; he made thee
duke of York.

Y. 'Twas my inheritance, as the earldom was.

Exe. Thy father was a traitor to the crown.

War. Exeter, thou art a traitor to the crown.
In following this usurping Henry. [king?]

Clif. Whom should he follow, but his natural

War. True, Clifford; and that's Richard,
duke of York. [my throne?]

K. Hen. And shall I stand, and thou sit in

York. It must and shall beso. Content thyself.

War. Be duke of Lancaster, let him be king.

West. He is both king and duke of Lancaster;
And that the lord of Westmoreland shall maintain. [forget,]

War. And Warwick shall disprove it. You
That we are those, which chas'd you from the field,
And slew your fathers, and with colours spread
March'd through the city to the palace gates.

Nor. Yes, Warwick, I remember it to my grief;
And, by his soul, thou and thy house shall rue it.
West. Plantagenet, of thee, and these thy sons
Thy kinsmen, and thy friends I'll have more lives,
Than drops of blood were in my father's veins.

C. Urge it no more; lest that, instead of words,
I send thee, Warwick, such a messenger,
As shall revenge his death, before I stir.

War. Poor Clifford! how I scorn his worthless threats.

York. Will you, we show our title to the crown?
If not, our swords shall plead it in the field.

K. Hen. What title hast thou, traitor, to the crown?

Thy father was, as thou art, duke of York;
Thy grandfather, Roger Mortimer, earl of
I am the son of Henry the fifth, [March;
Who made the dauphin and the French to stoop,
And seiz'd upon their towns and provinces.

War. Talk not of France, sith thou hast lost
it all.

K. Hen. The lord protector lost it, and not I;
When I was crown'd, I was but nine months old.

Rich. You are old enough now, and yet me-
thinks you lose:—

Father, tear the crown from the usurper's head.

Edw. Sweet father, do so; set it on your head.

Mont. Good brother, [*To York.*] as thou
lov'st and honour'st arms,

Let's fight it out, and not stand cavilling thus.

Rich. Sound drums and trumpets, and the king

York. Sons, peace! [will fly.]

K. Hen. Peace thou! and give king Henry
leave to speak. [lords:]

War. Plantagenet shall speak first: hear him,
And be you silent and attentive too,

For he, that interrupts him, shall not live.

K. Hen. Think'st thou, that I will leave my
kingly throne,

Wherein my grandsire, and my father, sat?

No: first shall war unpeople this my realm;

Ay, and their colours—often borne in France;

And now in England, to our heart's great sorrow,—

Shall be my winding sheet.—Why faint you, lords?

My title's good, and better far than this.

War. But prove it, Henry, and thou shalt be
king. [the crown.]

K. Hen. Henry the fourth by conquest got

York. 'Twas by rebellion against his king.

K. H. I know not what to say; my title's weak.
Tell me, may not a king adopt an heir?

York. What then?

K. Hen. An' if he may, then am I lawful king:
For Richard, in the view of many lords,

Resign'd the crown to Henry the fourth;

Whose heir my father was, and I am his.

York. He rose against him, being his sovereign,
And made him to resign his crown perforce.

W. Suppose, my lords, he did it unconstrain'd,
Think you, 'twere prejudicial to his crown?

Exe. No; for he could not so resign his crown,
But that the next heir should succeed and reign.

K. Hen. Art thou against us, duke of Exeter?

Exe. His is the right, and therefore pardon me.

Y. Why whisper you, my lords, and answer not?

Exe. My conscience tells me, he is lawful king.

K. H. All will revolt from me, and turn to him.

North. Plantagenet, for all the claim thou lay'st,
Think not, that Henry shall be so depos'd.

War. Depos'd he shall be, in despite of all.

North. Thou art deceiv'd: 'tis not thy southern
power,

Of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, nor of Kent,—

Which makes thee thus presumptuous and
proud,—

Can set the duke up in despite of me.

Clif. King Henry, be thy title right or wrong,
Lord Clifford vows to fight in thy defence:
May that ground gape, and swallow me alive,
Where I shall kneel to him that slew my father!

K. Hen. O Clifford, how thy words revive
my heart!

Y. Henry of Lancaster, resign thy crown:—
What mutter you, or what conspire you, lords?

W. Do right unto this princely duke of York:
Or I will fill the house with armed men,
And o'er the chair of state where now he sits,
Write up his title with usurping blood.

[*He stamps, and the Soldiers show themselves.*]

K. Hen. My lord of Warwick, hear me but
one word;

Let me, for this my life-time, reign as king.

Y. Confirm the crown to me, and to mine heirs,
And thou shalt reign in quiet while thou liv'st.

K. Hen. I am content; Richard Plantagenet,
Enjoy the kingdom after my decease. [son?]

C. What wrong is this unto the prince your
War. What good is this to England and
himself?

West. Base, fearful, and despairing Henry!

C. How hast thou injur'd both thyself and us?
West. I cannot stay to hear these articles.

North. Nor I.

Clif. Come, cousin, let us tell the queen these
news. [king]

West. Farewell, faint-hearted and degenerate
In whose cold blood no spark of honour bides!

North. Be thou a prey unto the house of York,
And die in bands for this unmanly deed!

C. In dreadful war may'st thou be overcome!
Or live in peace, abandon'd and despis'd!

[*Exeunt Northumberland, Clifford, and
Westmoreland.*]

War. Turn this way, Henry, and regard
them not.

Eze. They seek revenge, and therefore will
K. Hen. Ah, Exeter! [not yield.]

War. Why should you sigh, my lord?

K. Hen. Not for myself, lord Warwick, but
my son,

Whom I unnaturally shall disinherit.

But, be it as it may:—I here entail

The crown to thee, and to thine heirs for ever;
Conditionally, that here thou take an oath

To cease this civil war, and, whilst I live,
To honour me as thy king and sovereign;

And neither by treason, nor hostility,
To seek to put me down, and reign thyself.

York. This oath I willingly take, and will
perform. [*Coming from the Throne.*]

War. Long live king Henry!—Plantagenet
embrace him.

K. Hen. And long live thou, and these thy
forward sons!

Y. Now York and Lancaster are reconcil'd.
Eze. Accurs'd be he, that seeks to make them
foes! [*The Lords come forward.*]

Y. Farewell, my gracious lord; I'll to mycastle.
W. And I'll keep London, with my soldiers.

Norf. And I to Norfolk, with my followers.
M. And I unto the sea, from whence I came.

[*Exeunt York, and his Sons, Warwick,
Norfolk, Montague, Soldiers, and
Attendants.*]

K. Hen. And I, with grief and sorrow, to
the court.

Enter Queen Margaret, and the Prince of Wales.

Eze. Here comes the queen, whose looks be-
wray her anger:

I'll steal away.

K. Hen. Exeter, so will I. [*Going.*]

Q. Mar. Nay, go not from me, I will follow
thee. [stay.]

K. H. Be patient, gentle queen, and I will

Q. M. Who can be patient in such extremes?

Ah, wretched man! 'would I had died a maid,
And never seen thee, never borne thee son,

Seeing thou hast proved so unnatural a father!
Hath he deserv'd to lose his birthright thus?

Hadst thou but lov'd him half so well as I;
Or felt that pain, which I did for him once;

Or nourish'd him, as I did with my blood;
Thou wouldst have left thy dearest heart-blood

there,

Rather than made that savage duke thine heir,
And disinherited thine only son.

Prince. Father, you cannot disinherit me:

If you be king, why should not I succeed?

K. Hen. Pardon me, Margaret;—pardon me,
sweet son;—

The earl of Warwick and the duke enforc'd me.

Q. Mar. Enforc'd thee! art thou king, and
wilt be forc'd? [wretch!]

I shame to hear thee speak. Ah, timorous
Thou hast undone thyself, thy son, and me;

And given unto the house of York such head,
As thou shalt reign but by their sufferance.

To entail him and his heirs unto the crown,
What is it, but to make thy sepulchre,

And creep into it far before thy time?
Warwick is chancellor, and the lord of Calais;

Stern Falconbridge commands the narrow seas;
The duke is made protector of the realm;

And yet shalt thou be safe? such safety finds
The trembling lamb, environed with wolves.

Had I been there, which am a silly woman,
The soldiers should have toss'd me on their pikes,

Before I would have granted to that act.
But thou prefer'st thy life before thine honour:

And seeing thou dost, I here divorce myself,
Both from thy table, Henry, and thy bed,

Until that act of parliament be repeal'd,
Whereby my son is disinherited. [colours,

The northern lords, that have forsworn thy
Will follow mine, if once they see them spread:

And spread they shall be; to thy foul disgrace,
And utter ruin of the house of York.

Thus do I leave thee:—Come, son, let's away;
Our army's ready; come, we'll after them.

K. Hen. Stay, gentle Margaret, and hear me
speak.

Q. Mar. Thou hast spoke too much already;
get thee gone. [with me?]

K. Hen. Gentle son Edward, thou wilt stay
Q. Mar. Ay, to be murder'd by his enemies.

P. When I return with victory from the field,
I'll see your grace: till then, I'll follow her.

Q. M. Come, son, away; we may not linger thus.
[*Exeunt Queen Margaret and the Prince.*]

K. Hen. Poor queen! how love to me, and
to her son,

Hath made her break out into terms of rage!
 Reveng'd may she be on that hateful duke;
 Whose haughty spirit, winged with desire,
 Will cost my crown, and, like an empty eagle,
 Tire¹ on the flesh of me, and of my son!
 The loss of those three lords torments my heart;
 I'll write unto them, and entreat them fair;—
 Come, cousin, you shall be the messenger.

Exe. And I, I hope, shall reconcile them all.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN SANDAL CASTLE,
 NEAR WAKEFIELD, IN YORKSHIRE.

Enter Edward, Richard, and Montague.

Rich. Brother, though I be youngest, give me

Edw. No, I can better play the orator. [*leave.*]

Mont. But I have reasons strong and forcible.

Enter York.

Y. Why, how now, sons and brother, at a strife?

What is your quarrel? how began it first?

Edw. No quarrel, but a slight contention.

York. About what? [*and us;*]

Rich. About that which concerns your grace,

The crown of England, father, which is yours.

York. Mine, boy? not till king Henry be dead.

R. Your right depends not on his life or death.

Edw. Now you are heir, therefore enjoy it now:

By giving the house of Lancaster leave to breathe.

It will outrun you, father, in the end.

Y. I took an oath that he should quietly reign.

E. I'd break a thousand oaths, to reign one year.

Rich. No; God forbid, your grace should be
 forsown.

York. I shall be, if I claim by open war.

R. I'll prove the contrary, if you'll hear me
 speak.

York. Thou canst not, son; it is impossible.

Rich. An oath is of no moment, being not took

Before a true and lawful magistrate,

That hath authority over him that swears:

Henry had none, but did usurp the place;

Then, seeing 'twas he that made you to depose,

Your oath, my lord, is vain and frivolous.

Therefore, to arms. And, father, do but think,

How sweet a thing it is to wear a crown;

Within whose circuit is Elysium,

And all that poets feign of bliss and joy.

Why do we linger thus? I cannot rest,

Until the white rose, that I wear, be dyed

Even in the lukewarm blood of Henry's heart.

Y. Richard, enough; I will be king, or die.—

Brother, thou shalt to London presently,

And whet on Warwick to this enterprise.—

Thou, Richard, shalt unto the duke of Norfolk,

And tell him privily of our intent.—

You, Edward, shall unto my lord Cobham,

With whom the Kentishmen will willingly rise:

In them I trust; for they are soldiers,

Witty² and courteous, liberal, full of spirit.—

While you are thus employ'd, what resteth more,

But that I seek occasion how to rise;

And yet the king not privy to my drift,

Nor any of the house of Lancaster?

Enter a Messenger.

But, stay; What news? Why com'st thou in
 such post?

1 Fasten on.

2 Clever.

Mes. The queen, with all the northern earls and
 Intend here to besiege you in your castle: [lords,
 She is hard by with twenty thousand men;
 And therefore fortify your hold, my lord.

York. Ay, with my sword. What! think'st
 thou that we fear them?

Edward and Richard, you shall stay with me;—

My brother Montague shall post to London:

Let noble Warwick, Cobham, and the rest,

Whom we have left protectors of the king,

With powerful policy strengthen themselves,

And trust not simple Henry, nor his oaths.

Mont. Brother, I go; I'll win them, fear it not:

And thus most humbly I do take my leave. [*Emit.*]

Enter Sir John and Sir Hugh Mortimer.

York. Sir John, and Sir Hugh Mortimer,
 mine uncles!

You are come to Sandal in a happy hour;

The army of the queen mean to besiege us.

Sir John. She shall not need, we'll meet her
 in the field.

York. What, with five thousand men?

Rich. Ay, with five hundred, father, for a need.

A woman's general; What should we fear?

[*A March afar off.*]

Edw. I hear their drums; let's set our men
 in order;

And issue forth, and bid them battle straight.

York. Five men to twenty!—though the odds
 be great,

I doubt not, uncle, of our victory.

Many a battle have I won in France,

When as the enemy hath been ten to one;

Why should I not now have the like success?

[*Alarum. Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—PLAINS NEAR SANDAL CASTLE.

*Alarums: Excursions. Enter Rutland,
 and his Tutor.*

R. Ah, whither shall I fly to 'scape their hands!
 Ah, tutor! look, where bloody Clifford comes!

Enter Clifford and Soldiers.

C. Chaplain, away! thy priesthood saves thy
 As for the brat of this accursed duke, [*life.*]

Whose father slew my father,—he shall die.

Tut. And I, my lord, will bear him company.

Clif. Soldiers, away with him.

T. Ah, Clifford! murder not this innocent child,
 Lest thou be hated both of God and man.

[*Exit, forced off by Soldiers.*]

C. How now! is he dead already? Or, is it fear,
 That makes him close his eyes?—I'll open them.

Rut. So looks the pent-up lion o'er the wretch
 That trembles under his devouring paws:

And so he walks, insulting o'er his prey;

And so he comes to rend his limbs asunder.—

Ah, gentle Clifford, kill me with thy sword,

And not with such a cruel threat'ning look.

Sweet Clifford, hear me speak before I die;—

I am too mean a subject for thy wrath,

Be thou reveng'd on men, and let me live.

Clif. In vain thou speak'st, poor boy; my
 father's blood [*enter.*]

Hath stopp'd the passage where thy words should

Rut. Then let my father's blood open it again;

He is a man, and, Clifford, cope with him.

C. Had I thy brethren here, their lives and
Were not revenge sufficient for me ; [thine,
No, if I digg'd up thy forefathers' graves,
And hung their rotten coffins up in chains,
It could not slake mine ire, nor ease my heart.
The sight of any of the house of York
Is as a fury to torment my soul ;
And till I root out their accursed line,
And leave not one alive, I live in hell.
Therefore— [Lifting his Hand.

Rut. O, let me pray before I take my death :—
To thee I pray ; Sweet Clifford, pity me !

Clif. Such pity as my rapier's point affords.

Rut. I never did thee harm ; Why wilt thou
slay me ?

Clif. Thy father hath.

Rut. But 'twas ere I was born.

Thou hast one son, for his sake pity me ;
Lest, in revenge thereof,—sith God is just,—
He be as miserably slain as I.

Ah, let me live in prison all my days ;
And when I give occasion of offence,
Then let me die, for now thou hast no cause.

Clif. No cause !

Thy father slew my father ; therefore, die.

[Clifford stabs him.]

Rut. *Dii faciant, laudis summa sit ista tunc!*

[Dies.]

Clif. Plantagenet ! I come, Plantagenet !
And this thy son's blood cleaving to my blade,
Shall rust upon my weapon, till thy blood,
Congeal'd with this, do make me wipe off both.

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—THE SAME.

Alarum. Enter York.

York. The army of the queen hath got the field :
My uncles both are slain in rescuing me ;
And all my followers to the eager foe
Turn back, and fly, like ships before the wind,
Or lambs pursu'd by hunger-starv'd wolves.
My sons—Heaven knows, what hath bechanced
them :

But this I know—they have demean'd themselves
Like men born to renown, by life, or death.
Three times did Richard make a lane to me ;
And thrice cried,—*Courage, father! fight it out!*
And full as oft came Edward to my side,
With purple fauchion, painted to the hilt,
In blood of those that had encounter'd him :
And when the hardest warriors did retire,
Richard cried,—*Charge! and give no foot of*
ground!

And cried,—*A crown, or else a glorious tomb!*
A scepter, or an earthly sepulchre!

With this, we charg'd again : but, out, alas !

We bodg'd again ; as I have seen a swan
With bootless labour swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over matching
waves. [A short Alarum within.]

Ah, hark ! the fatal followers do pursue :
And I am faint, and cannot fly their fury :
And, were I strong, I would not shun their fury :
The sands are number'd that make up my life :
Here must I stay, and here my life must end.

1 The gods grant that this may be your
greatest boast!—*Ovid. Epist.*

2 Failed.

Enter Queen Margaret, Clifford, Northumberland, and Soldiers.

Come, bloody Clifford,—rough Northumberland,
I dare your quenchless fury to more rage ; [land,—
I am your butt, and I abide your shot.

Nor. Yield to our mercy, proud Plantagenet.

Clif. Ay, to such mercy, as his ruthless arm,
With downright payment show'd unto my father.
Now Phaeton hath tumbled from his car,
And made an evening at the noontide point.

York. My ashes, as the Phoenix, may bring
A bird that will revenge upon you all : [forth
And, in that hope, I throw mine eyes to heaven,
Scorning whate'er you can afflict me with.

Why come you not ? what, multitudes, and fear ?

C. So cowards fight, when they can fly no further,
So doves do peck the falcon's piercing talons ;
So desperate thieves, all hopeless of their lives,
Breathe out invectives 'gainst the officers.

York. O Clifford, but bethink thee once again,
And in thy thought o'er-run my former time :
And if thou canst for blushing, view this face ;
And bite thy tongue, that slanders him with
cowardice, [this.]

Whose frown hath made thee faint and fly ere
Clif. I will not bandy with thee word for word ;
But buckle with thee blows twice two for one.

[Draws.]

Q. Mar. Hold, valiant Clifford ! for a thousand
causes,

I would prolong awhile the traitor's life :—
Wrath makes him deaf : speak thou, Northumberland.

Nor. Hold, Clifford ; do not honour him so much
To prick thy finger, though to wound his heart :
What valour were it, when a cur doth grin,
For one to thrust his hand between his teeth,
When he might spurn him with his foot away ?
It is war's prize to take all vantages ;
And ten to one is no impeach of valour.

[They lay hands on York, who struggles.]

C. Ay, ay, so strives the woodcock with the gin.

Nor. So doth the coney struggle in the net.

[York is taken prisoner.]

York. So triumph thieves upon their conquer'd
booty ;

So true men yield, with robbers so o'ermatch'd.

North. What would your grace have done unto
him now ? [berland,

Q. Mar. Brave warriors, Clifford and Northumberland,
Come make him stand upon this mole-hill here,
That taught¹ at mountains with outstretched
Yet parted but the shadow with his hand—[arms,
What! was it you that would be England's king?

Was't you that revell'd in our parliament,
And made a preaching of your high descent?

Where are your mess of sons to back you now?
The wanton Edward, and the lusty George?

And where's that valiant crook-back prodigy,
Dickie your boy, that, with his grumbling voice,

Was wont to cheer his dad in mutinies?

Or, with the rest, where is your darling Rutland?

Look, York ; I stain'd this napkin with the blood

That valiant Clifford, with his rapier's point,

Made issue from the bosom of the boy :

And, if thine eyes can water for his death,

I give thee this to dry thy cheeks withal.

1 Reached.

Alas, poor York! but that I hate thee deadly,
I should lament thy miserable state.
I prythee, grieve, to make me merry, York;
Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance.
What, hath thy fiery heart so parch'd thine
entrails,

That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death?
Why art thou patient, man? thou shouldst be mad;
And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.
Thou would'st be fed'd, I see, to make me sport;
York cannot speak, unless he wear a crown.—
A crown for York;—and, lords, bow low to him.—
Hold you his hands, whilst I do set it on.—

[Putting a paper crown on his head.]

Ay, marry, sir, now looks he like a king!
Ay, this is he that took king Henry's chair;
And this is he was his adopted heir.—
But how is it that great Plantagenet
Is crown'd so soon, and broke his solemn oath?
As I bethink me, you should not be king,
Till our king Henry had shook hands with death.
And will you pale¹ your head in Henry's glory,
And rob his temples of the diadem,
Now in his life, against your holy oath?
O, 'tis a fault too, too unpardonable!— [head;
Off with the crown; and, with the crown his
And, whilst we breathe, take time to do him dead.
Clif. That is my office, for my father's sake.
Q. M. Nay, stay; let's hear the orisons he makes.
York. She-wolf of France, but worse than
wolves of France,

Whose tongue more poisons than the adder's
How ill-beseeming is it in thy sex, [tooth!
To triumph like an Amazonian trull,
Upon their woes, whom fortune captivates?
But that thy face is, visor-like, unchanging,
Made impudent with use of evil deeds,
I would assay, proud queen, to make thee blush:
To tell thee whence thou cam'st, of whom deriv'd,
Were shame enough to shame thee, wert thou
not shameless.

Thy father bears the type² of king of Naples,
Of both the Sicils, and Jerusalem;
Yet not so wealthy as an English yeoman.
Hath that poor monarch taught thee to insult?
It needs not, nor it boots thee not, proud queen;
Unless the adage must be verified,—
That beggars, mounted, run their horse to death.
'Tis beauty, that doth oft make women proud;
But heaven knows, thy share thereof is small:
'Tis virtue, that doth make them most admir'd;
The contrary doth make thee wonder'd at:
'Tis government,³ that makes them seem divine;
The want thereof makes thee abominable:
Thou art as opposite to every good,
As the Antipodes are unto us,
Or as the south to the septentrion.⁴
O, tiger's heart, wrapp'd in a woman's hide!
How couldst thou drain the life-blood of the
To bid the father wipe his eyes withal, [child,
And yet be seen to bear a woman's face?
Women are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible;
Thou stern, obdurate, flinty, rough, remorseless.
Bidst thou me rage? why, now thou hast thy
wish: [will:
Wouldst have me weep? why, now thou hast thy

For raging wind blows up incessant showers,
And, when the rage allays, the rain begins.
These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsequies;
And every drop cries vengeance for his death,—
'Gainst thee, fell Clifford,—and thee, false
Frenchwoman.

N. Beshrew me, but his passions¹ move me so,
That hardly can I check my eyes from tears.

York. That face of his the hungry cannibals
Would not have touch'd, would not have stain'd
with blood;

But you are more inhuman, more inexorable,—
O, ten times more,—than tigers of Hyrcania.
See, ruthless queen, a hapless father's tears:
This cloth thou dippest in blood of my sweet boy,
And I with tears do wash the blood away.
Keep thou the napkin, and go boast of this:

[He gives back the handkerchief.]

And if thou tell'st the heavy story right,
Upon my soul, the hearers will shed tears,
Yea, even my foes will shed fast-falling tears,
And say,—Alas, it was a piteous deed! [curse;
There, take the crown, and with the crown, my
And, in thy need, such comfort come to thee,
As now I reap at thy too cruel hand!—
Hard-hearted Clifford, take me from the world;
My soul to heaven, my blood upon your heads!

N. Had he been slaughter-man to all my kin,
I should not for my life but weep with him,
To see how inly sorrow gripes his soul.

Q. Mar. What, weeping-ripe, my lord Northumberland?

Think but upon the wrong he did us all,
And that will quickly dry thy melting tears.

Clif. Here's for my oath, here's for my father's
death. [Stabbing him.]

Q. Mar. And here's to right our gentle-hearted
king. [Stabbing him.]

York. Open thy gate of mercy, gracious God!
My soul flies through these wounds to seek out
thee. [Dies.]

Q. M. Off with his head, and set it on York gates;
So York may overlook the town of York.

[Exeunt.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A PLAIN NEAR MORTIMER'S CROSS
IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

Drums. Enter Edward and Richard, with
their Forces, marching.

Ed. I wonder, how our princely father'scaped;
Or whether he be 'scap'd away or no,
From Clifford's and Northumberland's pursuit;
Had he been ta'en, we should have heard the
news; [news:]

Had he been slain, we should have heard the
Or, had he 'scap'd, methinks, we should have
The happy tidings of his good escape.— [heard
How fares my brother? why is he so sad?

Rich. I cannot joy, until I be resolv'd
Where our right valiant father is become.

I saw him in the battle range about;
And watch'd him how he singled Clifford forth.
Methought, he bore him in the thickest troop,

1 Sufferings.

1 Encircle.

3 Proper behaviour.

2 The distinguishing mark. 4 The north.

As doth a lion in a herd of neat¹:
Or as a bear, encompass'd round with dogs;
Who having pinch'd a few, and made them cry,
The rest stand all aloof, and bark at him.
So far'd our father with his enemies;
So fled his enemies my warlike father;
Methinks, 'tis prize enough to be his son.
See how the morning opes her golden gates,
And takes her farewell of the glorious sun!
How well resembles it the prime of youth,
Trimmi'd like a younker, prancing to his love!

Edw. Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three suns?
R. Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun?
Not separated with the racking² clouds,
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.
See, see! they join, embrace, and seem to kiss,
As if they vow'd some league inviolable:
Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun.
In this the heaven figures some event.

Edw. 'Tis wondrous strange, the like yet never heard of.

I think, it cites us, brother, to the field;
That we, the sons of brave Plantagenet,
Each one already blazing by our meeds,³
Should, notwithstanding, join our lights together,
And over-shine the earth, as this the world.
Whate'er it bodes, henceforward will I bear
Upon my target three fair-shining suns.

Enter a Messenger.

Rich. But what art thou, whose heavy looks foretell

Some dreadful story hanging on thy tongue?

Mess. Ah, one that was a woful looker on,
When as the noble duke of York was slain,
Your princely father, and my loving lord.

E. O, speak no more! for I have heard too much.
Rich. Say how he died, for I will hear it all.

Mess. Environed he was with many foes;
And stood against them as the hope of Troy
Against the Greeks that would have enter'd Troy.
But Hercules himself must yield to odds;
And many strokes, though with a little axe,
Hew down and fell the hardest-timber'd oak.
By many hands your father was subdu'd;
But only slaughter'd by the ireful arm
Of unrelenting Clifford, and the queen:
Who crown'd the gracious duke in high despite;
Laugh'd in his face; and, when with grief he wept,
The ruthless queen gave him, to dry his cheeks,
A napkin steeped in the harmless blood
Of sweet young Rutland, by rough Clifford slain:
And, after many scorns, many foul taunts,
They took his head, and on the gates of York
They set the same; and there it doth remain,
The saddest spectacle that e'er I view'd.

E. Sweet duke of York, our prop to lean upon;
Now thou art gone, we have no staff, no stay!—
O Clifford, boist'rous Clifford, thou hast slain
The flower of Europe for his chivalry;
And treacherously hast thou vanquish'd him,
For, hand to hand, he would have vanquish'd thee!—

Now my soul's palace is become a prison:
Ah, would she break from hence! that this my body
Might in the ground be closed up in rest:
For never henceforth shall I joy again,

Never, O never, shall I see more joy.

Rich. Cannot weep: for all my body's moisture
Scarce serves to quench my furnace-burning heart:

Nor can my tongue unload my heart's great
For self-same wind, that I should speak withal,
Is kindling coals, that fire all my breast,
And burn me up with flames, that tears would quench.

To weep, is to make less the depth of grief:
Tears, then, for babes; blows, and revenge for me!—

Richard, I bear thy name, I'll venge thy death,
Or die renowned by attempting it.

Edw. His name that valiant duke hath left with thee:

His dukedom and his chair with me is left.

Rich. Nay, if thou be that princely eagle's bird,
Show thy descent by gazing 'gainst the sun:
For chair and dukedom, throne and kingdom say;
Either that is thine, or else thou wert not his.

March. *Enter Warwick and Montague, with Forces.*

War. How now, fair lords? What fare? what news abroad?

Rich. Great lord of Warwick, if we should recount

Our baleful news, and, at each word's deliverance,
Stab poniards in our flesh till all were told,
The words would add more anguish than the wounds.

O valiant lord, the duke of York is slain.

Edw. O Warwick! Warwick! that Plantagenet
Which held thee dearly, as his very soul,
Is by the stern lord Clifford done to death.

W. Ten days ago I drown'd these news in tears:
And now, to add more measure to your woes,
I come to tell you things since then befall'n.

After the bloody fray at Wakefield fought,
Where your brave father breath'd his latest gasp,
Tidings, as swiftly as the posts could run,
Were brought me of your loss, and his depart.
I then in London, keeper of the king,
Muster'd my soldiers, gather'd flocks of friends,
And very well appointed, as I thought,
March'd towards Saint Alban's to intercept the
Bearing the king in my behalf along: [queen,
For by my scouts I was advis'd,
That she was coming with a full intent

To dash our late decree in parliament,
Touching king Henry's oath, and your succession.
Short tale to make—we at Saint Alban's met,
Our battles join'd, and both sides fiercely fought:
But, whether 'twas the coldness of the king,
Who look'd full gently on his warlike queen,
That robb'd my soldiers of their hated spleen;
Or whether 'twas report of her success;
Or more than common fear of Clifford's rigour,
Who thunders to his captives—blood and death,
I cannot judge: but, to conclude with truth,
Their weapons like to lightning came and went;
Our soldiers—like the night-owl's lazy fight,
Or like a lazy thrasher with a flail,—

Fell gently down, as if they struck their friends.
I cheer'd them up with justice of our cause,
With promise of high pay, and great rewards:
But all in vain; they had no heart to fight,

And we, in them no hope to win the day,
So that we fled; the king unto the queen;
Lord George, your brother, Norfolk, and myself,
In haste, post-haste, are come to join with you;
For in the marches here, we heard you were,
Making another head to fight again. [wick?

Ed. Where is the duke of Norfolk, gentle War-
And when came George from Burgundy to Eng-
land? [soldiers;

War. Some six miles off the duke is with the
And for your brother,—he was lately sent
From your kind aunt, duchess of Burgundy,
With aid of soldiers to this needful war.

R. 'Twas odds, belike, when valiant Warwick
Oft have I heard his praises in pursuit, [fled:
But ne'er, till now, his scandal of retire.

W. Nor now my scandal, Richard, dost thou
hear: [mine

For thou shalt know this strong right hand of
Can pluck the diadem from faint Henry's head,
And wring the awful scepter from his fist;
Were he as famous and as bold in war,
As he is fam'd for mildness, peace and prayer.

R. I know it well, lord Warwick: blame me not;
'Tis love, I bear thy glories, makes me speak.
But, in this troublous time, what's to be done?
Shall we go throw away our coats of steel,
And wrap our bodies in black mourning-gowns,
Numb'ring our Aye-Maries with our beads?
Or shall we on the helmets of our foes
Tell our devotion with revengeful arms?

If for the last, say—Ay, and to it, lords, [out;

W. Why, therefore Warwick came to seek you
And therefore comes my brother Montague.
Attend me, lords. The proud insulting queen,
With Clifford, and the haught Northumberland,
And of their feather many more proud birds,
Have wrought the easy melting king like wax.
He swore consent to your succession,
His oath enrolled in the parliament;
And now to London all the crew are gone,
To frustrate both his oath, and what beside
May make against the house of Lancaster.
Their power, I think, is thirty thousand strong:
Now, if the help of Norfolk, and myself,
Withall the friends that thou, brave earl of March,
Amongst the loving Welshmen canst procure,
Will but amount to five and twenty thousand,
Why, *Via!* to London will we march again;
And once again bestride our foaming steeds,
And once again cry—Charge upon our foes!
But never once again turn back and fly.

Rt. Ay, now, methinks, I hear great Warwick
Ne'er may he live to see a sunshine day, [speak:
That cries—Retire, if Warwick bid him stay.

E. Lord Warwick, on thy shoulder will I lean;
And when thou fall'st, (as heaven forbid the hour!)
Must Edward fall, which peril heaven forbids!

W. No longer earl of March, but duke of York;
The next degree is, England's royal throne;
For king of England shalt thou be proclaim'd
In every borough as we pass along:

And he that throws not up his cap for joy,
Shall for the fault make forfeit of his head.
King Edward,—valiant Richard,—Montague,—
Stay we no longer dreaming of renown,
But sound the trumpets, and about our task.

R. Then, Clifford, were thy heart as hard as steel,

(As thou hast shewn it flinty by thy deeds,)
I come to pierce it, or to give thee mine.

Edw. Then strike up, drums;—God, and
saint George, for us!

Enter a Messenger.

War. How now? what news? [me,
Mess. The duke of Norfolk sends you word by
The queen is coming with a puissant host;
And craves your company for speedy counsel.

War. Why then it sorts,¹ brave warriors:
Let's away. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—BEFORE YORK.

*Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, the Prince
of Wales, Clifford, and Northumberland, with
Forces.*

Q. Mar. Welcome, my lord, to this brave town of
Yonder's the head of that arch-enemy, [York.
That sought to be encompass'd with your crown:
Doth not the object cheer your heart, my lord?

K. Hen. Ay, as the rocks cheer them that
fear their wreck:

To see this sight, it irks my very soul.—
Withhold revenge, great God! 'tis not my fault,
Not wittingly have I infring'd my vow.

Clif. My gracious liege, this too much lenity
And harmful pity, must be laid aside.

To whom do lions cast their gentle looks?

Not to the beast that would usurp their den.

Whose hand is that the forest bear doth lick?

Not his, that spoils her young before her face.

Who 'scapes the lurking serpent's mortal sting?

Not he, that sets his foot upon her back.

The smallest worm will turn, being trodden on;

And doves will peck, in safeguard of their brood.

Ambitious York did level at thy crown,

Thou smiling, while he knit his angry brows:

He but a duke, would have his son a king,

And raise his issue, like a loving sire;

Thou, being a king, bless'd with a goodly son,

Didst yield consent to disinherit him,

Which argued thee a most unloving father.

Unreasonable² creatures feed their young:

And though man's face be fearful to their eyes,

Yet in protection of their tender ones,

Who hath not seen them (even with those wings

Which sometime they have us'd with fearful

flight,)

Make war with him that climb'd unto their nest,

Offering their own lives in their young's defence?

For shame, my liege, make them your precedent!

Were it not pity that this goodly boy

Should lose his birthright by his father's fault;

And long hereafter, say unto his child,—

What my great-grandfather and grandsire got,

My careless father fondly³ gave away?

Ah, what a shame were this! Look on the boy;

And let his manly face, which promiseth

Successful fortune, steel thy melting heart,

To hold thine own, and leave thine own with him.

K. H. Full well hath Clifford play'd the orator,

Inferring arguments of mighty force.

But, Clifford, tell me, didst thou never hear,—

That things ill got had ever bad success?

I'll leave my son my virtuous deeds behind;

¹ Are as they should be. ² Foolishly.

³ Without reason.

And would, my father had left me no more!
For all the rest is held at such a rate,
As brings a thousand-fold more care to keep,
Than in possession any jot of pleasure. [know,
Ah, cousin York! 'would thy best friends did
How it doth grieve me that thy head is here:

Q. Mar. My lord, cheer up your spirits; our
foes are nigh, [faint.
And this soft courage makes your followers
You promis'd knighthood to our forward son;
Unsheath your sword, and dub him presently.—
Edward, kneel down.

K. H. Edward Plantagenet, arise a knight;
And learn this lesson,—Draw thy sword in right.

Pr. My gracious father, by your kingly leave,
I'll draw it as apparent to the crown,
And in that quarrel use it to the death.

C. Why, that is spoken like a toward prince.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Royal commanders, be in readiness:
For, with a band of thirty thousand men,
Comes Warwick, backing of the duke of York;
And, in the towns as they do march along,
Proclaims him king, and many fly to him:
Darraign¹ your battle, for they are at hand.

C. I would your highness would depart the field;
The queen hath best success when you are absent.

Q. Mar. Ay, good my lord, and leave us to
our fortune.

K. Hen. Why, that's my fortune too; there-
fore I'll stay.

North. Be it with resolution, then, to fight.
Pr. My royal father, cheer these noble lords,
And hearten those that fight in your defence!
Unsheath your sword, good father; cry, *Saint*
George!

March. Enter Edward, George, Richard, War-
wick, Norfolk, Montague, and Soldiers.

E. Now, perjur'd Henry! wilt thou kneel for
And set thy diadem upon my head; [grace,
Or bid the mortal fortune of the field? [boy!

Q. M. Go, rate thy minions, proud insulting
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms,
Before thy sovereign, and thy lawful king?

E. I am his king, and he should bow his knee;
I was adopted heir by his consent:

Since when, his oath is broke: for, as I hear,
You—that are king, though he do wear the
crown,—

Have caus'd him, by new act of parliament,
To blot out me, and put his own son in.

Clif. And reason too;
Who should succeed the father, but the son?

R. Are you there, butcher?—O, I cannot speak.
C. Ay, crook-back; here I stand to answer thee,
Or any he the proudest of thy sort.

Rich. 'Twas you that kill'd young Rutland,
was it not?

Clif. Ay, and old York, and yet not satisfied.
Rich. For heaven's sake, lords, give signal to
the fight.

War. What say'st thou, Henry, wilt thou
yield the crown?

Q. M. Why, how now, long-tongu'd Warwick?
dare you speak

¹ Range your ranks.

When you and I met at Saint Alban's last,
Your legs did better service than your hands.

W. Then 'twas my turn to fly, and now 'tis thine.
C. You said so much before, and yet you fled.

War. 'Twas not your valour, Clifford, drove
me thence.

North. No, nor your manhood, that durst
make you stay.

R. Northumberland, I hold thee reverently;—
Break off the parle: for scarce I can refrain

The execution of my big-swoln heart
Upon that Clifford, that cruel child-killer.

C. I slew thy father: Call'st thou him a child
R. Ay, like adastard, and a treacherous coward.

As thou didst kill our tender brother Rutland
But, ere sun-set, I'll make thee curse the deed.

K. Hen. Have done with words, my lords, and
hear me speak. [thy lips.

Q. M. Defy them then, or else hold close
K. H. I pr'ythee, give no limits to my tongue:

I am a king, and privilege'd to speak, [here,
C. My liege, the wound, that bred this meeting

Cannot be cur'd by words; therefore be still.
Rich. Then, executioner, unsheath thy sword:

By Him that made us all, I am resolv'd,¹
That Clifford's manhood lies upon his tongue.

E. Say, Henry, shall I have my right, or no?
A thousand men have broke their fasts to-day,

That ne'er shall dine, unless thou yield the crown.
W. If thou deny, their blood upon thy head;

For York in justice puts his armour on.
Prince. If that be right, which Warwick

says is right,
There is no wrong, but every thing is right.

R. Whoever got thee, there thy mother stands;
For, well I wot, thou hast thy mother's tongue.

Q. M. But thou art neither like thy sire, nor
But like a foul mis-shapen stigmatick,² [dam;

Mark'd by the destinies to be avoided,
As venom toads, or lizards' dreadful stings.

Rich. Iron of Naples, hid with English gilt,³
Whose father bears the title of a king,

(As if a channel⁴ should be call'd the sea,)
Sham'st thou not, knowing whence thou art

extraught,
To let thy tongue detect thy base-born heart?

Ed. A wisp of straw⁵ were worth a thousand
crowns,

To make this shameless callet⁶ know herself—
Helen of Greece was fairer far than thou,

Although thy husband may be Menelaus:
And ne'er was Agamemnon's brother wrong'd

By that false woman, as this king by thee.
His father revell'd in the heart of France,

And tam'd the king, and made the dauphin stoop;
And, had he match'd according to his state,

He might have kept that glory to this day:
But, when he took a beggar to his bed,

And grac'd thy poor sire with his bridal day;
Eventhathat sunshine brew'd a shower for him,

That wash'd his father's fortunes forth of France,
And heap'd sedition on his crown at home.

For what hath broach'd this tumult, but thy pride?
Hadst thou been meek, our title still had slept;

¹ Persuaded. ² Stigmatized for weakness.

³ Gilding. ⁴ Kennel or water-course of a street

⁵ To correct with, but which could not injure.

⁶ Wanton.

And we, in pity of the gentle king,
Had slipp'd our claim until another age.

Geo. But, when we saw our sunshine made
thy spring,

And that thy summer bred us no increase,
We set the axe to thy usurping root: [selves,
And though the edge hath something hit our—
Yet, know thou, since we have begun to strike,
We'll never leave, till we have hewn thee down,
Or bath'd thy growing with our heated bloods

Edw. And, in this resolution, I defy thee;
Not willing any longer conference,
Since thou deny'st the gentle king to speak.—
Sound trumpets!—let our bloody colours wave!—
And either victory, or else a grave.

Q. Mar. Stay, Edward.

E. No, wrangling woman; we'll no longer stay;
These words will cost ten thousand lives to-day.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A FIELD OF BATTLE BETWEEN
TOWTON AND SAXTON IN YORKSHIRE.

Alarums: Excursions. Enter Warwick.

War. Forspent with toil, as runners with a race,
I lay me down a little while to breathe:
For strokes receiv'd, and many blows repaid,
Have robb'd my strong-knit sinews of their
strength,
And, spite of spite, needs must I rest a while.

Enter Edward, running.

Edw. Smile, gentle heaven! or strike, ungentle
death: [clouded.]

For this world frowns, and Edward's sun is
War. How now, my lord? what hap? what
hope of good?

Enter George.

Geo. Our hap is loss, our hope but sad despair;
Our ranks are broke, and ruin follows us:

What counsel give you, whither shall we fly?

E. Bootless is flight, they follow us with wings;
And weak we are, and cannot shun pursuit.

Enter Richard.

Rich. Ah, Warwick, why hast thou with-
drawn thyself?

Thy brother's blood the thirsty earth hath drunk,
Broach'd with the steely point of Clifford's lance:
And in the very pangs of death, he cried,—
Like to a dismal clangor heard from far,—

Warwick, revenge! brother, revenge my death!
So underneath the belly of their steeds,
That stain'd their fetlocks in his smoking blood,
The noble gentleman gave up the ghost.

War. Then let the earth be drunken with our
I'll kill my horse, because I will not fly. [blood:
Why stand we like soft-hearted women here,
Wailing our losses, whiles the foe doth rage?
And look upon, as if the tragedy

Were play'd in jest by counterfeiting actors?
Here on my knee I vow to God above,
I'll never pause again, never stand still,
Till either death hath clos'd these eyes of mine,
Or fortune given me measure of revenge.

Ed. O Warwick, I do bend my knee with thine;
And, in this vow, do chain my soul to thine;

And, ere my knee rise from the earth's cold face,
I throw my hands, mine eyes, my heart to thee,
Thou setter up and plucker down of kings!
Beseeching thee,—if with thy will it stands,
That to my foes this body must be prey,—
Yet that thy brazen gates of heaven may ope,
And give sweet passage to my sinful soul!—
Now, lords, take leave until we meet again,
Where'er it be, in heaven, or on earth.

Rich. Brother, give me thy hand;—and,
gentle Warwick,

Let me embrace thee in my weary arms:—
I, that did never weep, now melt with woe,
That winter should cut off our spring-time so.

War. Away, away! Once more, sweet lords,
farewell.

Geo. Yet let us all together to our troops,
And give them leave to fly that will not stay;
And call them pillars, that will stand to us;
And if we thrive, promise them such rewards
As victors wear at the Olympian games:
This may plant courage in their quailing breasts;
For yet is hope of life, and victory.—
Fore-slow¹ no longer, make we hence amain.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

THE SAME. ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Excursions. Enter Richard and Clifford.

Rich. Now, Clifford, I have singled thee alone:
Suppose, this arm is for the duke of York,
And this for Rutland; both bound to revenge,
Wert thou environ'd with a brazen wall.

Clif. Now, Richard, I am with thee here alone:
This is the hand, that stabb'd thy father York;
And this the hand that slew thy brother Rutland;
And here's the heart, that triumphs in their
death, [brother,

And cheers these hands, that slew thy sire and
To execute the like upon thyself;
And so have at thee.

[*They fight. Warwick enters; Clifford flies.*

R. Nay, Warwick, single out some other chase;
For I myself will hunt this wolf to death.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarum. Enter King Henry.

K. H. This battle fares like to the morning's war,
When dying clouds contend with growing light;
What time the shepherd, blowing of his nails,
Can neither call it perfect day, nor night,

Now sways it this way, like a mighty sea,
Forc'd by the tide to combat with the wind:
Now sways it that way, like the self-same sea
Forc'd to retire by fury of the wind:

Sometime, the flood prevails; and then, the wind;
Now, one the better; then, another best;
Both tugging to be victors; breast to breast,
Yet neither conqueror, nor conquered:
So is the equal poise of this fell war.

Here on this molehill will I sit me down,
To whom God will, there be the victory!
For Margaret, my queen, and Clifford too,
Have chid me from the battle; swearing both,
They prosper best of all when I am thence.

Would I were dead! if God's good will were so:

¹ Dilatory.

For what is in this world, but grief and woe?
 Alas! methinks, it were a happy life,
 To be no better than a homely swain;
 To sit upon a hill, as I do now,
 To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,
 Thereby to see the minutes how they run:
 How many make the hour full complete,
 How many hours bring about the day,
 How many days will finish up the year,
 How many years a mortal man may live.
 When this is known, then to divide the times:
 So many hours must I tend my flock;
 So many hours must I take my rest;
 So many hours must I contemplate;
 So many hours must I sport myself;
 So many days my ewes have been with young;
 So many weeks ere the poor fools will yean¹;
 So many years ere I shall shear the fleece:
 Sominutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years,
 Pass'd over to the end they were created,
 Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.
 Ah, what a life were this! how sweet! how lovely!
 Gives not the hawthorn bush a sweeter shade
 To shepherd, looking on their silly sheep,
 Than doth a rich embroider'd canopy
 To kings, that fear their subjects' treachery?
 O, yes it doth: a thousand-fold it doth.
 And to conclude,—the shepherd's homely curds,
 His cold thin drink out of his leather bottle,
 His wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade,
 All which secure and sweetly he enjoys,
 Is far beyond a prince's delicates,
 His viands sparkling in a golden cup,
 His body couched in a curious bed,
 When care, mistrust, and treason, wait on him.

Alarum. Enter a Son that has killed his Father, dragging in the dead Body.

Son. Ill blows the wind, that profits nobody.—
 This man, whom hand to hand I slew in fight,
 May be possessed with some store of crowns:
 And I, that haply take them from him now,
 May yet ere night yield both my life and them
 To some man else, as this dead man doth me.—
 Who's this?—O Heaven! it is my father's face,
 Whom in this conflict I unawares have killed.
 O heavy times, begetting such events!
 From London by the king was I press'd forth;
 My father, being the earl of Warwick's man,
 Came on the part of York, press'd by his master;
 And I, who at his hands receiv'd my life,
 Have by my hands of life bereaved him.—
 Pardon me, God, I knew not what I did!—
 And pardon, father, for I knew not thee!—
 My tears shall wipe away these bloody marks;
 And no more words, till they have flow'd their fill.

K. Hen. O piteous spectacle! O bloody times!
 Whilst lions war, and battle for their dens,
 Poor harmless lambs abide their enmity.—
 Weep, wretched man, I'll aid thee tear for tear;
 And let our hearts and eyes, like civil war,
 Be blind with tears, and break o'ercharg'd with grief.

Enter a Father, who has killed his Son, with the Body in his arms.

Fath. Thou that so stoutly hast resisted me,
 1 Bring forth.

Give me thy gold, if thou hast any gold;
 For I have bought it with an hundred blows.—
 But let me see:—is this our foeman's face?
 Ah, no, no, no, it is mine only son!—
 Ah, boy, if any life be left in thee.
 Throw up thine eye; see, see, what showers arise,
 Blown with the windy tempest of my heart,
 Upon thy wounds, that kill mine eye and heart!—
 O, pity, God, this miserable age!—
 What stratagems,¹ how fell, how butcherly,
 Erroneous, mutinous, and unnatural,
 This deadly quarrel daily doth beget!
 O boy, thy father gave thee life too soon,
 And hath bereft thee of thy life too late!

K. Hen. Woe above woe! grief more than common grief!

O, that my death would stay these ruthless deeds!
 O, pity, pity, gentle heaven, pity!—
 The red rose and the white are on his face,
 The fatal colours of our striving houses:
 The one, his purple blood right well resembles;
 The other, his pale cheeks, methinks, present:
 With one rose, and let the other flourish!
 If you contend, a thousand lives must wither.

Son. How will my mother, for a father's death,
 Take on with me, and ne'er be satisfied?

Fath. How will my wife, for slaughter of my
 Shed seas of tears, and ne'er be satisfied? [son,

K. Hen. How will the country, for these woful
 chances,

Misthink the king, and not be satisfied?

Son. Was ever son, so ru'd a father's death?

Fath. Was ever father, so bemoan'd a son?

K. Hen. Was ever king, so griev'd for subjects'
 woe?

Much is your sorrow; mine, ten times so much.

Son. I'll bear thee hence, where I may weep
 my fill. [Exit, with the Body.

Fath. These arms of mine shall be thy wind-
 ing sheet;

My heart, sweet boy, shall be thy sepulchre;
 For from my heart thine image ne'er shall go.

My sighing breast shall be thy funeral bell;

And so obsequious² will thy father be,

Sad for the loss of thee, having no more,

As Priam was for all his valiant sons.

I'll bear thee hence; and let them fight that will,
 For I have murder'd where I should not kill.

[Exit, with the body.

K. Hen. Sad-hearted men, much overgone
 with care,

Here sits a king more woful than you are.

*Alarums: Excursions. Enter Queen Margaret,
 Princess of Wales, and Exeter.*

Prince. Fly, father, fly! for all your friends
 are fled,

And Warwick rages like a chafed bull:

Away! for death doth hold us in pursuit.

Q. Mar. Mount you, my lord, towards Berwick
 post again:

Edward and Richard, like a brace of greyhounds
 Having the fearful flying hare in sight,

With fiery eyes, sparkling for very wrath,

And bloody steel grasp'd in their ireful hands,
 Are at our backs; and therefore hence again.

E. Away! for vengeance comes along with them:

1 Events. 2 Attentive to the obsequies.

Nay, stay not to expostulate, make speed ;
Or else come after, I'll away before.

K. Hen. Nay, take me with thee, good sweet
Exeter ;

Not that I fear to stay, but love to go
Whither the queen intends. Forward ; away !
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—THE SAME.

A loud Alarum. Enter Clifford, wounded.

Clif. Here burns my candle out, ay, here it dies,
Which, while it lasted, gave king Henry light.
O, Lancaster ! I fear thy overthrow,
More than my body's parting with my soul.
My love, and fear, glu'd many friends to thee ;
And now I fall, thy tough commixtures melt.
Impairing Henry, strength'ning mis-proud York,
The common people swarm like summer flies ;
And whither fly the gnats, but to the sun ?
And who shines now but Henry's enemies ?
O Phœbus ! hadst thou never given consent
That Phœton should check thy fiery steeds,
Thy burning car never had scorch'd the earth :
And, Henry, hadst thou sway'd as kings should
Or as thy father, and his father did, [do,
Giving no ground unto the house of York,
They never then had sprung like summer flies ;
I, and ten thousand in this luckless realm,
Had left no mourning widows for our death,
And thou this day hadst kept thy chair in peace,
For what doth cherish weeds but gentle air ?
And what makes robbers bold, but too much
lenity ?

Bootless are complaints, and cureless are my wounds ;
No way to fly, nor strength to hold out flight :
The foe is merciless, and will not pity ;
For, at their hands, I have deserv'd no pity.
The air hath got into my deadly wounds,
And much effuse of blood doth make me faint :—
Come, York, and Richard, Warwick, and the rest ;
I stabb'd your fathers' bosoms, split my breast.
[*He faints.*]

*Alarum and Retreat. Enter Edward, George,
Richard, Montague, Warwick, and Soldiers.*

Ed. Now breathe we, lords ; good fortune bids
us pause, [looks.]
And smooth the frowns of war with peaceful
Some troops pursue the bloody-minded queen ;—
That led calm Henry, though he were a king,
As doth a sail, fill'd with a fretting gust,
Command an argosy to stem the waves.
But think you, lords, that Clifford fled with them ?

War. No 'tis impossible he should escape :
For, though before his face I speak the words,
Your brother Richard mark'd him for the grave :
And, whereso'er he is, he's surely dead.

[*Clifford groans and dies.*]

Edw. Whose soul is that which takes her heavy
leave ? [departing.]

Rich. A deadly groan, like life and death's
Edw. See who it is ; and, now the battle's ended,
If friend, or foe, let him be gently us'd.

R. Revoke that doom of mercy, for 'tis Clifford ;
Who not contented that he lopp'd the branch
In hewing Rutland when his leaves put forth,
But set his murdering knife unto the root,

From whence that tender spray did sweetly
spring,

I mean our princely father, duke of York. [head,
War. From off the gates of York fetch down the
Your father's head, which Clifford placed there :
Instead whereof, let this supply the room ;
Measure for measure must be answered. [house,
Edw. Bring forth that fatal screech-owl to our
That nothing sung but death to us and ours :
Now death shall stop his dismal threatening
sound,

And his ill-boding tongue no more shall speak.

[*Attendants bring the body forward.*]

War. I think his understanding is bereft :—
Speak, Clifford, dost thou know who speaks to
thee ?—

Dark cloudy death o'ershades his beams of life,
And he nor sees, nor hears us what we say.

Rich. O, 'would he did ! and so, perhaps, he
'Tis but his policy to counterfeit, [doth ;
Because he would avoid such bitter taunts,
Which in the time of death he gave our father.

G. If so thou think'st, vex him with eager words.

Rich. Clifford, ask mercy, and obtain no grace.

Edw. Clifford, repent in bootless penitence.

War. Clifford, devise excuses for thy faults.

Geo. While we devise fell tortures for thy faults.

R. Thou didst love York, and I am son to York.

Edw. Thou pitiest Rutland, I will pity thee.

G. Where's captain Margaret, to fence you now ?

War. They mock thee, Clifford ! swear as thou
wast wont. [hard,

R. What, not an oath ? nay then the world goes
When Clifford cannot spare his friends an oath :—
I know by that, he's dead ; And, by my soul,
If this right hand would buy two hours' life,
That I in all despite might rail at him, [blood
Thishand should chop it off ; and with the issuing
Stifle the villain, whose unstaunched thirst
York and young Rutland could not satisfy.

W. Ay, but he's dead : Off with the traitor's head,
And rear it in the place your father's stands.—
And now to London with triumphant march,
There to be crowned England's royal king ;
From whence shall Warwick cut the sea to
And ask the lady Bona for thy queen : [France,
So shalt thou sinew both these lands together ;
And, having France thy friend, thou shalt not
dread

The scatter'd foe, that hopes to rise again ;
For though they cannot greatly sting to hurt,
Yet look to have them buz, to offend thine ears.
First, will I see the coronation ;
And then to Brittany I'll cross the sea,
To effect this marriage, so it please my lord.

E. Even as thou wilt, sweet Warwick, let it be :
For on thy shoulder do I build my seat ;
And never will I undertake the thing,
Wherein thy counsel and consent is wanting.—
Richard, I will create thee duke of Gloster ;—
And George, of Clarence—Warwick, as myself,
Shall do, and undo, as him pleaseth best.

Rich. Let me be duke of Clarence ; George, of
For Gloster's dukedom is too ominous. [Gloster ;

War. Tut, that's a foolish observation ;
Richard be duke of Gloster : Now to London,
To see these honours in possession. [Exeunt.

Act Third.

SCENE I.

A CHASE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Enter two Keepers, with Cross-bows in their Hands.

1 *Keeper.* Under this thick-grown brake we'll shroud ourselves;

For through this laund¹ anon the deer will come; And in this covert will we make our stand, Culling the principal of all the deer. [shoot.

2 *K.* I'll stay above the hill, so both may

1 *K.* That cannot be; the noise of thy cross-bow Will scare the herd, and so my shoot is lost. Here stand we both, and aim we at the best: And, for the time shall not seem tedious,

I'll tell thee what befell me on a day,

In this self-place where now we mean to stand.

2 *K.* Here comes a man, let's stay till he be past.

Enter King Henry, disguised, with a Prayer-book.

K. Hen. From Scotland am I stol'n even of pure love,

To greet mine own land with my wishful sight.

No, Harry, Harry, 'tis no land of thine;

Thy place is fill'd, thy scepter wrung from thee,

Thy balm wash'd off, wherewith thou wast anointed:

No bending knee will call thee Cæsar now,

No humble suitors press to speak for right,

No, not a man comes for redress of thee,

For how can I help them, and not myself? [see:

1 *K.* Ay, here's a deer whose skin's a keeper's. This is the *quondam* king, let's seize upon him.

K. H. Let me embrace these sour adversities:

For wise men say, it is the wisest course.

2 *K.* Why linger we? let us lay hands upon him.

1 *K.* Forbear a while: we'll hear a little more.

K. Hen. My queen and son, are gone to France for aid;

And, as I hear, the great commanding Warwick

Is thither gone, to crave the French king's sister

To wife for Edward: If this news be true,

Poor queen, and son, your labour is but lost;

For Warwick is a subtle orator,

And Lewis a prince soon won with moving words.

By this account, then, Margaret may win him;

For she's a woman to be pitied much:

Her sighs will make a battery in his breast;

Her tears will pierce into a marble heart;

The tiger will be mild, while she doth mourn;

And Nero will be tainted with remorse,

To hear, and see, her plaints, her brinish tears.

Ay, but she's come to beg; Warwick, to give;

She, on his left side, craving aid for Henry;

He, on his right, asking a wife for Edward.

She weeps, and says—her Henry is depos'd;

He smiles, and says—his Edward is install'd;

That she, poor wretch, for grief can speak no

more: [wrong,

While Warwick tells his titles, smooths the

Inferreth arguments of mighty strength;

And, in conclusion, wins the king from her,

With promise of his sister, and what else,

To strengthen and support king Edward's place.

1 *Lawn.*

O Margaret, thus 'twill be; and thou, poor soul, Art then forsaken as thou went'st forlorn.

2 *Keeper.* Say, what art thou, that talk'st of kings and queens? [born to:

K. H. More than I seem, and less than I was

A man at least, for less I should not be;

And men may talk of kings, and why not I?

2 *K.* Ay, but thou talk'st as if thou wert a king.

K. H. Why, so I am, in mind; and that's enough.

2 *K.* But, if thou be a king, where is thy crown?

K. H. My crown is in my heart, not on my head;

Not deck'd with diamonds, and Indian stones,

Nor to be seen: my crown is call'd, content;

A crown it is, that seldom kings enjoy. [tent,

2 *K.* Well, if you be a king crown'd with con-

your crown content, and you, must be contented

To go along with us: for, as we think,

You are the king, king Edward hath depos'd;

And we his subjects, sworn in all allegiance,

Will apprehend you as his enemy. [oath?

K. H. But did you never swear, and break an

2 *K.* No, never such an oath, nor will not now.

K. Hen. Where did you dwell, when I was

king of England? [remain.

2 *K.* Here in this country, where we now

K. H. I was anointed king at nine months old;

My father and my grandfather, were kings;

And you were sworn true subjects unto me:

And, tell me then, have you not broke your

1 *Keeper.* No; [oaths?

For we were subjects but while you were king.

K. H. Why, am I dead? do I not breathe a man?

Ah, simple men, you know not what you swear.

Look, as I blow this feather from my face,

And as the air blows it to me again,

Obeying with my wind when I do blow,

And yielding to another when it blows,

Commanded always by the greater gust;

Such is the lightness of you common men.

But do not break your oaths; for, of that sin

My mild entreaty shall not make you guilty.

Go where you will, the king shall be commanded;

And be you kings; command and I'll obey.

1 *Keeper.* We are true subjects to the king,

king Edward.

K. Hen. So would you be again to Henry,

If he were seated as king Edward is.

1 *Keeper.* We charge you in God's name, and in

To go with us unto the officers. [the king's,

K. Hen. In God's name lead; your king's

name be obey'd:

And what God will, then let your king perform;

And what he will, I humbly yield unto. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Edward, Gloster, Clarence, and

Lady Grey.

K. E. Brother of Gloster, at Saint Alban's field

This lady's husband, Sir John Grey, was slain,

His lands then seiz'd on by the conqueror:

Her suit is now, to repossess those lands;

Which we in justice cannot well deny,

Because in quarrel of the house of York

The worthy gentleman did lose his life.

Glo. Your highness shall do well to grant her

It were dishonour, to deny it her. [suit;

K. E. It were no less; but yet I'll make a pause.

Glo. Yea! is it so?
 I see, the lady hath a thing to grant,
 Before the king will grant her humble suit.
Clar. [*Aside.*] He knows the game; How true
 he keeps the wind!

Glo. [*Aside.*] Silence!
K. Edw. Widow, we will consider of your suit;
 And come some other time, to know our mind.

L. G. Right gracious lord, I cannot brook delay:
 May it please your highness to resolve me now;
 And what your pleasure is, shall satisfy me.

Glo. [*Aside.*] Ay, widow? then I'll warrant
 you all your lands,
 An if what pleases him, shall pleasure you.

K. Edw. How many children hast thou,
 widow? tell me.

L. Grey. Three, my most gracious lord.
K. Edw. 'Twere pity they should lose their
 father's land.

L. G. Be pitiful, dread lord, and grant it then.
K. Edw. Lords, give us leave; I'll try this
 widow's wit. [*leave,*

Glo. Ay, good leave have you; for you will have
 Till youth take leave, and leave you to the crutch.

[*Glo. and Clar. retire to the other side.*
K. Edw. Now tell me, madam, do you love
 your children?

L. Grey. Ay, full as dearly as I love myself.
K. Edw. And would you not do much to do
 them good? [*harm.*

L. Grey. To do them good, I would sustain some
K. Edw. Then get your husband's lands, to
 do them good.

L. Grey. Therefore I came unto your majesty.
K. Edw. I'll tell you how these lands are to
 be got. [*service.*

L. Grey. So shall you bind me to your highness?
K. Edw. What service wilt thou do me, if I
 give them? [*do.*

L. G. What you command, that rests in me to
K. E. But you will take exceptions to my boon.
L. G. No, gracious lord, except I cannot do it.

K. Edw. Ay, but thou canst do what I mean
 to ask. [*commands.*

L. Grey. Why, then I will do what your grace
Glo. [*Aside.*] He plies her hard; and much
 rain wears the marble.

Clar. [*Aside.*] As red as fire! nay, then her
 wax must melt. [*task?*

L. G. Why stops my lord? shall I not hear my
K. Edw. An easy task: 'tis but to love a king.
L. Grey. That's soon perform'd, because I
 am a subject.

K. Edw. Why then, thy husband's lands I
 freely give thee.
L. Grey. I take my leave with many thousand
 thanks. [*curt'sy.*

Glo. The match is made; she seals it with a
K. Edw. But stay thee, 'tis the fruits of love
 I mean.

L. G. The fruits of love I mean, my loving liege.
K. Edw. Ay, but, I fear me, in another sense.
 What love, think'st thou, I sue so much to get?

L. Grey. My love till death, my humble thanks,
 my prayers;
 That love, which virtue begs, and virtue grants.

K. Edw. No, by my troth, I did not mean
 such love.

L. Grey. Why then you mean not as I thought
 you did. [*mind.*

K. Edw. But now you partly may perceive my
L. G. My mind will never grant what I perceive
 Your highness aims at, if I aim aright.

K. Edw. Why, then thou shalt not have thy
 husband's lands. [*dower;*

L. Grey. Why, then mine honesty shall be my
 For by that loss I will not purchase them.

K. Edw. Therein thou wrong'st thy children
 mightily.

L. G. Herein your highness wrongs both them
 and me.

But, mighty lord, this merry inclination
 Accords not with the sadness of my suit;
 Please you, dismiss me, either with ay, or no.

K. Edw. Ay; if thou wilt say ay, to my request:
 No; if thou dost say no, to my demand.

L. G. Then, no, my lord. My suit is at an end.
Glo. [*Aside.*] The widow likes him not; she
 knits her brows.

Clar. [*Aside.*] He is the bluntest wooer in
 Christendom.

K. Edw. [*Aside.*] Her looks do argue her re-
 plete with modesty;

Her words do show her wit incomparable;
 All her perfections challenge sovereignty:
 One way, or other, she is for a king;

And she shall be my love, or else my queen.—
 Say, that king Edward take thee for his queen?

L. G. 'Tis better said than done, my gracious
 I am a subject fit to jest withal, [*lord;*

But far unfit to be a sovereign. [*thee,*

K. Edw. Sweet widow, by my state I swear to
 I speak no more than what my soul intends;

And that is to enjoy thee for my love.
L. Grey. And that is more than I will yield unto.

I know, I am too mean to be your queen;
 And yet too good to be your concubine.

K. E. You cavil, widow; I did mean my queen.
L. Grey. 'Twill grieve your grace, my sons
 should call you—father.

K. Edw. No more, than when thy daughters
 call thee mother.

Answer no more, for thou shalt be my queen.—
 Brothers, you muse what chat we two have had.

Glo. The widow likes it not, for she looks sad.
K. Edw. You'd think it strange if I should
 marry her.

Clar. To whom, my lord?

K. Edw. Why, Clarence, to myself.
G. That would beten days' wonder, at the least.

Clar. That's a day longer than a wonder lasts.
Glo. By so much is the wonder in extremes.

K. E. Well, jest on, brothers, I can tell you both,
 Her suit is granted for her husband's lands.

Enter a Nobleman.

Nob. My gracious lord, Henry your foe is taken,
 And brought your prisoner to your palace gate.

K. E. See that he be convey'd unto the Tower.—
 And go we, brothers, to the man that took him,
 To question of his apprehension.—

Widow, go you along; lords, use her honourable.
 [*Exeunt King Edw., Lady G., Clar., and Lord.*

Glo. Ay, Edward will use women honourably.
 'Would he were wasted, marrow, bones, and all,

1 Seriousness.

That from his loins no hopeful branch may spring,
To cross me from the golden time I look for !
And yet, between my soul's desire and me,
(The lustful Edward's title buried,) Is Clarence, Henry, and his son young Edward,
And all the unlook'd-for issue of their bodies,
To take their rooms, ere I can place myself :
A cold premeditation for my purpose !
Why, then I do but dream on sovereignty ;
Like one that stands upon a promontory,
And spies a far-off shore where he would tread,
Wishing his foot were equal with his eye ;
And chides the sea that sunders him from thence,
Saying—he'll lade¹ it dry to have his way :
So do I wish the crown, being so far off ;
And so I chide the means that keep me from it ;
And so I say—I'll cut the causes off,
Flattering me with impossibilities.
My eye's too quick, my heart o'erween's too much,
Unless my hand and strength could equal them.
Well, say there is no kingdom then for Richard ;
What other pleasure can the world afford ?
I'll deck my body in gay ornaments,
And witch sweet ladies with my words and looks.
O miserable thought ! and more unlikely,
Than to accomplish twenty golden crowns !
Why, love forsook me in my mother's womb :
And for I should not deal in her soft laws,
She did corrupt frail nature with some bribe
To shrink mine arm up like a wither'd shrub ;
To make an envious mountain on my back ;
Where sits deformity to mock my body ;
To shape my legs of an unequal size ;
To disproportion me in every part,
Like to a chaos, or an unlick'd bear-whelp,
That carries no impression like the dam.
And am I then a man to be belov'd ?
O, monstrous fault, to harbour such a thought !
Then, since this earth affords no joy to me,
But to command, to check, to o'erbear such
As are of better person than myself,
I'll make my heaven—to dream upon the crown ;
And, whiles I live, to account this world but hell,
Until my mis-shap'd trunk, that bears this head,
Be round impaled² with a glorious crown.
And yet I know not how to get the crown,
For many lives stand between me and home :
And I,—like one lost in a thorny wood,
That rents the thorns, and is rent with the thorns ;
Seeking a way, and straying from the way ;
Not knowing how to find the open air,
But toiling desperately to find it out,—
Torment myself to catch the English crown :
And from that torment I will free myself,
Or hew my way out with a bloody axe.
Why, I can smile, and murder while I smile ;
And cry, content, to that which grieves my heart,
And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
And frame my face to all occasions.
I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall ;
I'll slay more gazers than the basilisk ;
I'll play the orator as well as Nestor,
Deceive more sily than Ulysses could,
And, like a Sinon, take another Troy.
I can add colours to theameleon ;
Change shapes, with Proteus, for advantages,
And set the murd'rous Machiavel to school.

¹ Throw it out.² Encircled.

Can I do this, and cannot get a crown ?
Tut ! were it further off, I'd pluck it down. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—FRANCE. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Flourish. Enter Lewis the French King, and Lady Bona, attended ; the King takes his state. Then enter Queen Margaret, Prince Edward her Son, and the Earl of Oxford.

K. Lew. Fair queen of England, worthy Margaret, [*Rising.*]

Sit down with us ; it ill befits thy state,
And birth, that thou shouldst stand, while
Lewis doth sit. [*garet*]

Q. Mar. No, mighty king of France ; now Mar-
Must strike her sail, and learn a while to serve,
Where kings command. I was, I must confess,
Great Albion's queen in former golden days :
But now mischance hath trod my title down,
And with dishonour laid me on the ground,
Where I must take like seat unto my fortune,
And to my humble seat conform myself.

K. Lew. Why, say, fair queen, whence springs
this deep despair ?

Q. Mar. From such a cause as fills mine eyes
with tears, [*cares.*]
And stops my tongue, while heart is drown'd in
K. L. Whate'er it be, be thou still like thyself,
And sit thee by our side : yield not thy neck

[*Seats her by him.*]

To fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind
Still ride in triumph over all mischance.
Be plain, queen Margaret, and tell thy grief ;
It shall be eas'd, if France can yield relief.

Q. Mar. Those gracious words revive my
drooping thoughts,

And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.
Now, therefore, be it known to noble Lewis,—
That Henry, sole possessor of my love,
Is, of a king, become a banish'd man,
And forc'd to live in Scotland a forlorn ;
While proud ambitious Edward duke of York,
Usurps the regal title, and the seat
Of England's true-anointed lawful king.
This is the cause, that I, poor Margaret,—
With this my son, prince Edward, Henry's heir,—
Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid ;
And, if thou fail us, all our hope is done :
Scotland hath will to help, but cannot help ;
Our people and our peers are both misled,
Our treasure seiz'd, our soldiers put to flight,
And, as thou seest, ourselves in heavy plight.

K. Lew. Renowned queen, with patience calm
the storm,
While we bethink a means to break it off.

Q. Mar. The more we stay, the stronger
grows our foe. [*cour thee.*]

K. Lew. The more I stay, the more I'll suc-

Q. Mar. O, but impatience waiteth on true
sorrow :

And see, where comes the breeder of my sorrow.

Enter Warwick, attended.

K. Lew. What's he, approacheth boldly to our
presence ? [*friend.*]

Q. M. Our earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest
K. Lew. Welcome, brave Warwick ! What
brings thee to France ?

[*Descending from his state.* Q. Mar. rises.

Q. Mar. Ay, now begins a second storm to rise;
For this is he, that moves both wind and tide.

War. From worthy Edward, king of Albion,
My lord and sovereign, and thy vowed friend,
I come,—in kindness, and unfeigned love,—
First, to do greetings to thy royal person;
And, then, to crave a league of amity;
And, lastly, to confirm that amity
With nuptial knot, if thou vouchsafe to grant
That virtuous lady Bona, thy fair sister,
To England's king in lawful marriage.

Q. M. If that go forward, Henry's hopes done.

War. And, gracious madam, [*To Bona.*] in
our king's behalf,

I am commanded, with your leave and favour,
Humbly to kiss your hand, and with my tongue
To tell the passion of my sovereign's heart:
Where fame, late entering at his heedful ears,
Hath plac'd thy beauty's image, and thy virtue.

Q. Mar. King Lewis,—and lady Bona,—hear
me speak,

Before you answer Warwick. His demand
Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest
But from deceit, bred by necessity; [*love,*
For how can tyrants safely govern home,
Unless abroad they purchase great alliance?
To prove him tyrant, this reason may suffice,—
That Henry liveth still; but were he dead,
Yet here prince Edward stands, king Henry's
son, [*marriage*

Look therefore, Lewis, that by this league and
Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonour;
For though usurpers sway the rule awhile,
Yet heavens are just, and time suppresseth

War. Injurious Margaret. [*wrongs*
Prince. And why not queen?

War. Because thy father Henry did usurp;
And thou no more art prince, than she is queen.
O. Then Warwick disannuls great John of Gaunt,
Which did subdue the greatest part of Spain;
And after John of Gaunt, Henry the fourth,
Whose wisdom was a mirror to the wisest;
And, after that wise prince, Henry the fifth,
Who by his prowess conquered all France:
From these our Henry lineally descends.

War. Oxford, how haps it, in this smooth
discourse,

You told not, how Henry the sixth hath lost
All that which Henry the fifth had gotten?
Methinks, these peers of France should smile at
But for the rest,—You tell a pedigree [*that.*
Of threescore and two years; a silly time
To make prescription for a kingdom's worth.

Oxf. Why, Warwick, canst thou speak against
thy liege,

Whom thou obeyedst thirty and six years,
And not bewray thy treason with a blush?

War. Can Oxford, that did ever fence the right,
Now buckler falsehood with a pedigree?

For shame, leave Henry, and call Edward king.

O. Call him my king, by whose injurious doom
My elder brother, the Lord Aubrey Vere,
Was done to death? and more than so my father,
Even in the downfall of his mellow'd years,
When nature brought him to the door of death?
No, Warwick, no; while life upholds this arm,
This arm upholds the house of Lancaster.

War. And I the house of York.

K. Lew. Queen Margaret, prince Edward, and
Oxford,

Vouchsafe, at our request, to stand aside,
While I use further conference with Warwick.

Q. Mar. Heaven grant that Warwick's words
bewitch him not!

[*Retiring with the Prince and Oxford.*

K. Lew. Now, Warwick, tell me, even upon
thy conscience,

Is Edward your true king? for I were loath,
To link with him that were not lawful chosen.

W. Thereon I pawn my credit and mine honour.

K. Lew. But is he gracious in the people's eye?

War. The more, that Henry was unfortunate.

K. L. Then further,—all dissembling set aside,
Tell me for truth the measure of his love
Unto our sister Bona.

War. Such it seems,
As may beseech a monarch like himself.

Myself have often heard him say, and swear,—
That this his love was an eternal plant;

Whereof the root was fix'd in virtue's ground,
The leaves and fruit maintain'd with beauty's
Exempt from envy, but not from disdain, [sun
Unless the lady Bona quit his pain.

K. L. Now, sister, let us hear your firm resolve.

Bona. Your grant, or your denial, shall be mine:
Yet I confess, [*To War.*] that often ere this day,
When I have heard your king's desert recounted,
Mine ear hath tempted judgment to desire.

K. Lew. Then, Warwick, thus,—Our sister
shall be Edward's;

And now forthwith shall articles be drawn
Touching the jointure that your king must make,

Which with her dowry shall be counterpois'd?—
Draw near, queen Margaret; and be a witness,
That Bona shall be wife to the English king.

Pri. To Edward, but not to the English king.

Q. Mar. Deceitful Warwick! it was thy device
By this alliance to make void my suit;

Before thy coming, Lewis was Henry's friend.

K. L. And still is friend to him and Margaret.
But if your title to the crown be weak,—

As may appear by Edward's good success,—
Then 'tis but reason, that I be releas'd

From giving aid, which late I promis'd.
Yet shall you have all kindness at my hand,

That your estate requires, and mine can yield.

War. Henry now lives in Scotland, at his ease;
Where having nothing, nothing he can lose.

And as for you yourself, our *quondam* queen,—
You have a father able to maintain you;

And better 'twere you troubled him than Franco.

Q. M. Peace, impudent and shameless War-
wick, peace;

Proud setter-up and puller-down of kings!
I will not hence, till with my talk and tears,

Both full of truth, I make king Lewis behold
Thy sly conveyance,¹ and thy lord's false love;

For both of you are birds of self-same feather.
[*A Horn sounded within.*

K. L. Warwick, this is some post to us, or thee.
Enter a Messenger.

M. My lord ambassador, these letters are for
you;

Sent from your brother, marquis Montague.
These from our king unto your majesty.—
1 Juggling.

And, [*To Mar.*] madam, these for you; from whom I know not.

[*They all read their Letters.*]

O. I like it well, that our fair queen and mistress Smiles at her news, while Warwick frowns at his.

Pr. Nay, mark, how Lewis stamps as he were I hope all's for the best, *as of justice* [nettled;

K. Lew. Warwick, what are thy news? and yours, fair queen? *as of justice* [joys.]

Q. M. Mine, such as fill my heart with unhop'd W. Mine, full of sorrow, and heart's discontent.

K. Lew. What! has your king married the lady Grey?

And now, to soothe your forgery and his, Sends me a paper to persuade me patience?

Is this the alliance that he seeks with France? Dare he presume to scorn us in this manner?

Q. Mar. I told your majesty as much before: This proveth Edward's love, and Warwick's honesty.

War. King Lewis, I here protest,—in sight of heaven,

And by the hope I have of heavenly bliss,— That I am clear from this misdeed of Edward's;

No more my king, for he dishonours me; But most himself, if he could see his shame.—

Did I forget, that by the house of York My father came untimely to his death?

Did I let pass the abuse done to my niece? Did I impale him with the regal crown?

Did I put Henry from his native right; And am I guerdon'd^d at the last with shame?

Shame on himself! for my desert is honour. And to repair my honour lost for him,

I here renounce him, and return to Henry: My noble queen, let former grudges pass,

And henceforth I am thy true servitor; I will revenge his wrong to lady Bona,

And replant Henry in his former state.

Q. Mar. Warwick, these words have turn'd my hate to love;

And I forgive and quite forget old faults, And joy that thou becom'st king Henry's friend.

W. So much his friend, ay, his unfeigned friend, That, if king Lewis vouchsafe to furnish us

With some few bands of chosen soldiers, I'll undertake to land them on our coast,

And force the tyrant from his seat by war. 'Tis not his new-made bride shall succour him:

And as for Clarence,—as my letters tell me, He's very likely now to fall from him;

For matching more for wanton lust than honour, Or than for strength or safety of our country.

B. Dear brother, how shall Bona be reveng'd, But by thy help to this distressed queen?

Q. Mar. Renowned prince, how shall poor Henry live,

Unless thou rescue him from foul despair? B. My quarrel, and this English queen's, are one.

W. And mine, fair lady Bona, joins with yours. K. Lew. And mine, with hers, and thine, and Margaret's.

Therefore at last, I firmly am resolv'd, You shall have aid.

Q. M. Let me give humble thanks for all at once. K. L. Then England's messenger, return in post;

And tell false Edward, thy supposed king,—

1 Rewarded.

That Lewis of France is sending over maskers, To reveal it with him and his new bride:

Thou seest what's past, go fear! thy king withal.

Bona. Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,

I'll wear the willow garland for his sake. Q. Mar. Tell him, my mourning weeds are laid

And I am ready to put armour on. [aside, War. Tell him from me, That he hath done me wrong;

And therefore I'll uncrown him ere't be long There's thy reward; be gone. [*Exit Mess.*]

K. Lew. But, Warwick, thou, And Oxford, with five thousand men,

Shall cross the seas, and bid false Edward battle: And, as occasion serves, this noble queen

And prince shall follow with a fresh supply. Yet, ere thou go, but answer me one doubt;—

What pledge have we of thy firm loyalty? War. This shall assure my constant loyalty:—

That if our queen and this young prince agree, I'll join mine eldest daughter, and my joy,

To him forthwith in holy wedlock bands. Q. Mar. Yes, I agree, and thank you for your motion:—

Son Edward, she is fair and virtuous, Therefore delay not, give thy hand to Warwick:

And, with thy hand, thy faith irrevocable, That only Warwick's daughter shall be thine.

Pr. Yes, I accept her, for she well deserves it: And here to pledge my vow, I give my hand.

[*He gives his hand to Warwick.*]

K. Lew. Why stay we now? These soldiers shall be levied,

And thou, lord Bourbon, our high admiral, Shall waft them over with our royal fleet.—

I long, till Edward fall by war's mischance, For mocking marriage with a dame of France.

[*Exeunt all but Warwick.*]

War. I came from Edward as ambassador, But I return his sworn and mortal foe:

Matter of marriage was the charge he gave me, But dreadful war shall answer his demand.

Had he none else to make a stale,² but me? Then none but I shall turn his jest to sorrow.

I was the chief that rais'd him to the crown, And I'll be chief to bring him down again:

Not that I pity Henry's misery, But seek revenge on Edward's mockery. [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Gloster, Clarence, Somerset, Montague, and others.

Glo. Now tell me, brother Clarence, what think Of this new marriage with the lady Grey? [you

Hath not our brother made a worthy choice? C. Alas, you know, 'tis far from hence to France;

How could he stay till Warwick made return? Som. My lords, forbear this talk; here comes the king.

Flourish. Enter King Edward, attended; Lady Grey, as Queen; Pembroke, Stafford, Hastings, and others.

Glo. And his well-chosen bride.

1 Frighten. 2 Mock of.

Clar. I mind to tell him plainly what I think.

K. Edw. Now, brother of Clarence, how like you our choice,
That you stand pensive, as half malcontent?

Clar. As well as Lewis of France, or the earl of Warwick;

Which are so weak of courage, and in judgment,
That they'll take no offence at our abuse.

K. E. Suppose they take offence without a cause,
They are but Lewis and Warwick; I am Edward,
Your king and Warwick's, and must have my will.

Glo. And you shall have your will, because our
Yet hasty marriage seldom proveth well. [king;

K. Ed. Yea, brother Richard, are you offended
Glo. Not I: [too?

No; God forbid, that I should wish them sever'd
Whom he hath join'd together: ay, and 'twere pity,
To sunder them that yoke so well together.

K. Edw. Setting your scorns, and your mislike,
Tell me some reason, why the lady Grey [aside,
Should not become my wife, and England's
queen:—

And you too, Somerset, and Montague,
Speak freely what you think.

Clar. Then this is my opinion,—that king Lewis
Becomes your enemy, for mocking him
About the marriage of the lady Bona. [charge,

G. And Warwick, doing what you gave in
Is now dishonoured by this new marriage.

K. Edw. What, if both Lewis and Warwick be
By such invention as I can devise? [appeas'd,
Mont. Yet to have join'd with France in such
alliance, [wealth

Would more have strengthen'd this our common-
'Gainst foreign storms, than any home-bred
marriage.

Hast. Why, knows not Montague, that of itself
England is safe, if true within itself? [France.

Mont. Yes; but the safer, when 'tis back'd with
Hast. 'Tis better using France, than trusting
France:

Let us be back'd with heaven, and with the seas,
Which God hath given for fence impregnable,
And with their helps, only defend ourselves;
In them, and in ourselves, our safety lies.

Clar. For this one speech, lord Hastings well de-
To have the heir of the lord Hungerford. [serves

K. Edw. Ay, what of that? it was my will, and
grant;

And, for this once, my will shall stand for law.
Glo. And yet, methinks, your grace hath not
done well,

To give the heir and daughter of lord Scales
Unto the brother of your loving bride;
She better would have fitted me, or Clarence:
But in your bride you bury brotherhood.

Cl. Or else you would not have bestow'd the heir
Of the lord Bonville on your new wife's son,
And leave your brothers to go speed elsewhere.

K. Edw. Alas, poor Clarence! is it for a wife,
That thou art malcontent? I will provide thee.

Clar. In choosing for yourself, you show'd your
judgment;

Which being shallow, you shall give me leave
To play the broker in mine own behalf;
And, to that end, I shortly mind to leave.

K. E. Leave me, or tarry, Edward will be king,
And not be tied unto his brother's will.

Q. Eliz. My lords, before it pleas'd his majesty
To raise my state to title of a queen,
Do me but right, and you must all confess
That I was not ignoble of descent,
And meaner than myself have had like fortune.
But as this title honours me and mine,
So your dislikes, to whom I would be pleasing,
Do cloud my joys with danger and with sorrow.

K. Edw. My love, forbear to fawn upon their
frowns:

What danger, or what sorrow can befall thee,
So long as Edward is thy constant friend,
And their true sovereign, whom they must obey?
Nay, whom they shall obey, and love thee too,
Unless they seek for hatred at my hands:
Which if they do, yet will I keep thee safe,
And they shall feel the vengeance of my wrath.

Glo. [Aside.] I hear, yet say not much, but
think the more.

Enter a Messenger.

K. Edw. Now, messenger, what letters, or
From France? [what news,

Mess. My sovereign liege, no letters; and few
words,

But such as I without your special pardon,
Dare not relate.

K. E. Go to, we pardon thee: therefore, in brief,
Tell me their words as near as thou canst guess
them.

What answer makes king Lewis unto our letters?

Mess. At my depart these were his very words;
Go tell false Edward, thy supposed king,—
That Lewis of France is sending over maskers,
To reveal it with him and his new bride.

K. Edw. Is Lewis so brave? belike, he thinks
me Henry.

But what said lady Bona to my marriage?

Mess. These were her words, utter'd with mild
disdain:

Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,
I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.

K. Ed. I blame not her, she could say little less;
She had the wrong. But what said Henry's queen?
For I have heard that she was there in place.

M. Tell him, quoth she, my mourning weeds
And I am ready to put armour on. [are done,

K. Ed. Belike, she means to play the Amazon.
But what said Warwick to these injuries?

Mess. He, more incens'd against your majesty
Than all the rest, discharg'd me with these words;
Tell him from me, that he hath done me wrong,
And therefore, I'll uncrown him ere't be long.

K. Edw. Ha! durst the traitor breathe out so
proud words?

Well, I will arm me, being thus forewarn'd:
They shall have wars, and pay for their pre-
sumption.

But say, is Warwick friends with Margaret?

Mess. Ay, gracious sovereign; they are so link'd
in friendship, [daughter.

That young prince Edward marries Warwick's
Clar. Belike, the elder; Clarence will have
the younger.

Now, brother king, farewell, and sit you fast,
For I will hence to Warwick's other daughter;
That, though I want a kingdom, yet in marriage
I may not prove inferior to yourself.—

You, that love me and Warwick, follow me.

[*Exit Clarence, and Somerset follows.*]

Glo. [*Aside.*] Not I:

My thoughts aim at a further matter; I
Stay not for love of Edward, but the crown.

K. Edw. Clarence and Somerset both gone
to Warwick!

Yet am I arm'd against the worst can happen;
And haste is needful in this desperate case.—
Pembroke, and Stafford, you in our behalf
Go levy men, and make prepare for war;
They are already, or quickly will be landed:
Myself in person will straight follow you.

[*Exeunt Pembroke and Stafford.*]

But, ere I go, Hastings,—and Montague,—
Resolve my doubt. You twain, of all the rest,
Are near to Warwick, by blood, and by alliance:
Tell me, if you love Warwick more than me?
If it be so, then both depart to him;
I rather wish you foes than hollow friends;
But if you mind to hold your true obedience,
Give me assurance with some friendly vow,
That I may never have you in suspect.

M. So God help Montague, as he proves true!

H. And Hastings, as he favours Edward's cause!

K. Edw. Now, brother Richard, will you
stand by us? [*you.*]

G. Ay, in despite of all that shall withstand
K. Edw. Why so; then am I sure of victory.
Now therefore let us hence; and lose no hour,
Till we meet Warwick with his foreign power.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A PLAIN IN WARWICKSHIRE.

*Enter Warwick and Oxford, with French and
other Forces.*

War. Trust me, my lord, all hitherto goes well;
The common people by numbers swarm to us.

Enter Clarence and Somerset.

But, see, where Somerset and Clarence come;—
Speak suddenly, my lords, are we all friends?

Clar. Fear not that, my lord. [*Warwick;*]

War. Then, gentle Clarence, welcome unto
And welcome, Somerset:—I hold it cowardice,
To rest mistrustful where a noble heart
Hath pawn'd an open hand in sign of love;
Else might I think, that Clarence, Edward's
brother,

Were but a feigned friend to our proceedings:
But welcome, Clarence; my daughter shall be
thine.

And now what rests, but, in night's coverture,
Thy brother being carelessly encamp'd,
His soldiers lurking in the towns about,
And but attended by a simple guard,
We may surprise and take him at our pleasure?
Our scouts have found the adventure very easy:
That as Ulysses, and stout Diomed,
With sleight and manhood stole to Rhesus' tents,
And brought from thence the Thracian fatal
steeds;

So we, well cover'd with the night's black mantle,
At unawares may beat down Edward's guard,
And seize himself: I say not—slaughter him,
For I intend but only to surprise him.—
You, that will follow me to this attempt,

1 Quickly.

Applaud the name of Henry, with your leader.

[*They all cry Henry!*]

Why, then, let's on our way in silent sort:

For Warwick and his friends, God and saint
George! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

EDWARD'S CAMP NEAR WARWICK.

*Enter certain Watchmen, to guard the
King's Tent.*

1 *Watch.* Come on, my masters, each man
take his stand;

The king by this, is set him down to sleep.

2 *Watch.* What, will he not to bed? [*vow*]

1 *W.* Why, no: for he hath made a solemn
Never to lie and take his natural rest,

Till Warwick, or himself, be quite suppress'd.

2 *W.* To-morrow then, belike, shall be the day,

If Warwick be so near as men report. [*that,*]

3 *Watch.* But say, I pray, what nobleman is
That with the king here resteth in his tent?

1 *Watch.* 'Tis the lord Hastings, the king's
chiefest friend. [*king.*]

3 *W.* O, is it so? But why commands the
Thathischief followers lodge in towns about him,
While he himself keepeth in the cold field?

2 *Watch.* 'Tis the more honour, because more
dangerous. [*ness,*]

3 *Watch.* Ay; but give me worship and quiet-
I like it better than a dangerous honour.

If Warwick knew in what estate he stands,
'Tis to be doubted, he would waken him.

1 *Watch.* Unless our halberds did shut up
his passage. [*tent,*]

2 *W.* Ay; wherefore else guard we his royal
But to defend his person from night-foes?

*Enter Warwick, Clarence, Oxford, Somerset,
and Forces.*

War. This is his tent; and see, where stand
his guard.

Courage, my masters; honour now, or never!

But follow me, and Edward shall be ours.

1 *Watch.* Who goes there?

2 *Watch.* Stay, or thou diest.

[*War., and the rest, cry all—Warwick!
Warwick! and set upon the guard; who
fly, crying—Arm! Arm! Warw., and
the rest, following them.*]

*The Drum beating, and Trumpets sounding,
re-enter Warwick, and the rest, bringing the
King out in a Gown, sitting in a Chair;
Gloster and Hastings fly.*

Som. What are they that fly there?

War. Richard, and Hastings: let them go,
here's the duke.

K. E. The duke; why, Warwick, when we
Thou call'dst me king. [*parted last,*]

War. Ay, but the case is alter'd:

When you disgrac'd me in my embassy,

Then I degraded you from being king,

And come now to create you duke of York.

Alas! how should you govern any kingdom,

That know not how to use ambassadors;

Nor how to be contented with one wife;

Nor how to use your brothers brotherly;

Nor how to study for the people's welfare;

Nor how to shroud yourself from enemies?

K. E. Yea, brother of Clarence, art thou here too? Nay, then I see, that Edward needs must down.— Yet, Warwick, in despite of all mischance, Of thee thyself, and all thy complices, Edward will always bear himself as king: Though fortune's malice overthrow my state, My mind exceeds the compass of her wheel.

War. Then, for his mind, 't is Edward England's king: [Takes off his crown.

But Henry now shall wear the English crown, And be true king indeed; thou but the shadow.— My lord of Somerset, at my request, See that forthwith duke Edward be convey'd Unto my brother, Archbishop of York.

When I have fought with Pembroke and his I'll follow you, and tell what answer fellows, Lewis, and the lady Bona, send to him:

Now, for a while, farewell, good duke of York.

K. E. What fates impose, that men must needs It boots not to resist both wind and tide. [abide;

[Exit King Edw., led out; Somerset with him.

Oxf. What now remains, my lords, for us to do, But march to London with our soldiers?

W. Ay, that's the first thing that we have to do: To free king Henry from imprisonment, And see him seated in the regal throne. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Queen Elizabeth and Rivers.

Riv. Madam, what makes you in this sudden change?

Q. E. Why, brother Rivers, are you yet to learn, What late misfortune is befall'n king Edward?

Riv. What, loss of some pitch'd battle against Warwick?

Q. Eliz. No, but the loss of his own royal person.

Riv. Then is my sovereign slain?

Q. Eliz. Ay, almost slain, for he is taken prisoner; Either betray'd by falsehood of his guard, Or by his foe surpris'd at unawares:

And, as I further have to understand, Is new committed to the bishop of York, Fell Warwick's brother, and by that our foe.

Riv. These news, I must confess, are full of grief: Yet, gracious madam, bear it as you may; Warwick may lose, that now hath won the day.

Q. E. Till then, fair hope must hinder life's decay. And I the rather wean me from despair,

For love of Edward's offspring in my womb: This is it that makes me bridle passion,

And bear with mildness my misfortune's cross; Ay, ay, for this I draw in many a tear,

And stop the rising of blood-sucking sighs, Lest with my sighs or tears I blast or drown King Edward's fruit, true heir to the English crown.

R. But, madam, where is Warwick then become?

Q. Eliz. I am informed, that he comes towards London.

To set the crown once more on Henry's head: Guess thou the rest: king Edward's friends must But to prevent the tyrant's violence, [down. (To trust not him that hath once broken faith,)

I'll hence forthwith unto the sanctuary, To save at least the heir of Edward's right; There shall I rest secure from force, and fraud,

1 In his own fancy.

Come therefore, let us fly, while we may fly; If Warwick take us, we are sure to die. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A PARK NEAR MIDDLEHAM CASTLE IN YORKSHIRE.

Enter Gloster, Hastings, Sir William Stanley, and others.

Glo. Now, my lord Hastings, and Sir William Stanley,

Leave off to wonder why I drew you hither, Into this chieftest thicket of the park. [brother, Thus stands the case: You know, our king, my Is prisoner to the bishop here, at whose hands He hath good usage and great liberty; And often, but attended with weak guard, Comes hunting this way to disport himself, I have advertised him by secret means, That if about this hour, he make this way, Under the colour of his usual game, He shall here find his friends, with horse and men, To set him free from his captivity.

Enter King Edward, and a Huntsman.

Hunt. This way, my lord; for this way lies the game.

K. Edw. Nay, this way, man; see, where the huntsmen stand.— [rest,

Now, brother of Gloster, lord Hastings, and the Stand you thus close, to steal the bishop's deer?

Glo. Brother, the time and case requireth haste; Your horse stands ready at the park corner.

K. Edw. But whither shall we then?

Hast. To Lynn, my lord, and ship from thence to Flanders, [meaning,

Glo. Well guess'd, believe me; for that was my *K. Ed.* Stanley, I will requite thy forwardness.

Glo. But wherefore stay we? 'tis no time to talk.

K. Edw. Huntsman, what say'st thou? wilt thou go along.

Hunt. Better do so, than tarry and be hang'd.

Glo. Come then away; let's have no more ado.

K. Edw. Bishop, farewell: shield thee from Warwick's frown; And pray that I may repossess the crown. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A ROOM IN THE TOWER.

Enter King Henry, Clarence, Warwick, Somerset, Young Richmond, Oxford, Montague, Lieutenant of the Tower, and Attendants.

K. Hen. Master lieutenant, now that God and friends

Have shaken Edward from the regal seat; And turn'd my captive state to liberty,

My fear to hope, my sorrows unto joys;

At our enlargement what are thy due fees.

L. Subjects may challenge nothing of their sovereign; But, if an humble prayer may prevail, [reigns; I then crave pardon of your majesty.

K. H. For what, lieutenant? for well using me? Nay, be thou sure, I'll well requite thy kindness,

For that it made my imprisonment a pleasure: Ay, such a pleasure as incaged birds

Conceive, when, after many moody thoughts, At last, by notes of household harmony,

They quite forget their loss of liberty.—

But, Warwick, after God, thou set'st me free,
And chiefly therefore I thank God and thee;
He was the author, thou the instrument.
Therefore, that I may conquer fortune's spite,
By living low where fortune cannot hurt me;
And that the people of this blessed land
May not be punish'd with my thwarting stars;
Warwick, although my head still wear the crown,
I here resign my government to thee,
For thou art fortunate in all thy deeds.

War. Your grace hath still been fam'd for virtuous;

And now may seem as wise as virtuous,
By spying and avoiding fortune's malice,
For few men rightly temper with the stars¹:
Yet in this one thing let me blame your grace,
For choosing me, when Clarence is in place.²

C. No, Warwick, thou art worthy of the sway,
To whom the heavens, in thy nativity,
Adjung'd an olive branch, and laurel crown,
As likely to be blest in peace, and war;
And therefore I yield thee my free consent.

War. And I choose Clarence only for protector.

K. Hen. Warwick, and Clarence, give me both your hands; [hearts,
Now join your hands, and with your hands, your
That no dissension hinder government:
I make you both protectors of this land;
While I myself will lead a private life,
And in devotion spend my latter days,
To sin's rebuke, and my Creator's praise.

War. What answers Clarence to his sovereign's will?

C. That he consents, if Warwick yield consent;
For on thy fortune I repose myself. [tent:

W. Why then, though loath, yet must I be con-
We'll yoke together, like a double shadow
To Henry's body, and supply his place;
I mean in bearing weight of government,
While he enjoys the honour, and his ease.

And, Clarence, now then it is more than needful,
Forthwith that Edward be pronounc'd a traitor,
And all his lands and goods be confiscate.

Clar. What else? and that succession be deter-
min'd. [part.

War. Ay, therein Clarence shall not want his
K. Hen. But, with the first of all your chief
affairs,

Let me entreat, (for I command no more,) [
That Margaret your queen, and my son Edward,
Be sent for, to return from France with speed:
For, till I see them here, by doubtful fear
My joy of liberty is half eclips'd.

C. It shall be done, my sovereign, with all speed.

K. H. My lord of Somerset, what youth is that,
Of whom you seem to have so tender care?

Som. My liege, it is young Henry, earl of
Richmond.

K. H. Come hither, England's hope: If secret
powers, [Lays his hand on his head.
Suggest but truth to my divining thoughts,
This pretty lad³ will prove our country's bliss.
His looks are full of peaceful majesty;
His head by nature fram'd to wear a crown,
His hand to wield a scepter; and himself

Likely, in time, to bless a regal throne.
Make much of him, my lords; for this is he,
Must help you more than you are hurt by me.

Enter a Messenger.

War. What news, my friend?

M. That Edward is escaped from your brother,
And fled, as he hears since, to Burgundy.

W. Unsavoury news: But how made he escape?

M. He was convey'd by Richard duke of Gloster,
And the lord Hastings, who attended him
In secret ambush on the forest side,
And from the bishop's huntsmen rescued him;
For hunting was his daily exercise.

W. My brother was too careless of his charge.—
But let us hence, my sovereign, to provide
A salve for any sore that may betide.

[*Exeunt King Henry, War., Clar., Lieut.,
and Attendants.*

S. My lord, I like not of this flight of Edward's:
For, doubtless, Burgundy will yield him help;
And we shall have more wars, before 't be long.
As Henry's late presaging prophecy

Did glad my heart, with hope of this young
Richmond;

So doth my heart misgive me, in these conflicts
What may befall him, to his harm, and ours:
Therefore, lord Oxford, to prevent the worst,
Forthwith we'll send him hence to Brittany,
Till storms be past of civil enmity.

Oxf. Ay; for, if Edward repossess the crown,
'Tis like that Richmond with the rest shall down.

Som. It shall be so; he shall to Brittany.
Come therefore, let's about it speedily. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VII.—BEFORE YORK.

*Enter King Edward, Gloster, Hastings, and
Forces.*

K. Edw. Now, brother Richard, lord Hastings,
and the rest;

Yet thus far fortune maketh us amends,
And says—that once more I shall interchange
My waned state for Henry's regal crown.

We'll have we pass'd, and now repass'd the seas,
And brought desired help from Burgundy;

What then remains, we being thus arriv'd
From Ravenspurg haven before the gates of

But that we enter, as into our dukedom? [York,
Glo. The gates made fast!—Brother, I like
not this;

For many men, that stumble at the threshold,
Are well foretold—that danger lurks within.

K. Edw. Tush, man! abodements must not
now affright us;

By fair or foul means we must enter in,
For hither will our friends repair to us. [them.

Hast. My liege, I'll knock once more to summon

*Enter, on the Walls, the Mayor of York, and
his Brethren.*

May. My lords, we were forewarned of your
coming,

And shut the gates for safety of ourselves;
For now we owe allegiance unto Henry.

K. E. But, master mayor, if Henry be your king,
Yet Edward, at the least, is duke of York.

M. True, my good lord; I know you for no less,

¹ Conform their temper to their destiny.

² Present.

³ Afterward Henry VII.

K. Edw. Why, and I challenge nothing but my dukedom;
 As being well content with that alone.
Glo. [*Aside.*] But when the fox hath once got in his nose,
 He'll soon find means to make the body follow.
Hast. Why, master mayor, why stand you in a doubt?
 Open the gates, we are king Henry's friends.
May. Ay, say you so? the gates shall then be open'd. [*Exeunt from above.*]
Glo. A wise stout captain, and persuaded soon!
Hast. The good old man would fain that all were well,
 So 'twere not long of him: but, being enter'd,
 I doubt not, I, but we shall soon persuade
 Both him and all his brothers unto reason.

Re-enter the Mayor and two Aldermen, below.

K. E. So, master mayor: these gates must not
 But in the night or in the time of war. [be shut,
 What! fear not, man, but yield me up the keys;
 [*Takes his keys.*]

For Edward will defend the town and thee,
 And all those friends that deign to follow me.

Drum. Enter Montgomery, and Forces, marching.

Glo. Brother, this is Sir John Montgomery,
 Our trusty friend, unless I be deceiv'd.

K. Edw. Welcome, Sir John! But why come you in arms?

Mont. To help king Edward in his time of
 As every loyal subject ought to do. [storm,

K. E. Thanks, good Montgomery: But we now
 Our title to the crown; and only claim [forget
 Our dukedom, till Heaven please to send the rest.

M. Then fare you well, for I will hence again;
 I came to serve a king, and not a duke,—
 Drummer, strike up, and let us march away.

[*A March begun.*]

K. Edw. Nay, stay, Sir John, a while; and
 we'll debate,

By what safe means the crown may be recover'd.

M. What, talk you of debating? in few words,
 If you'll not here proclaim yourself our king,
 I'll leave you to your fortune; and be gone,
 To keep them back that come to succour you:
 Why should we fight, if you pretend no title?

G. Why, brother, wherefore stand you on nice
 points?

K. E. When we grow stronger, then we'll
 make our claim:

Till then, 'tis wisdom to conceal our meaning.
Hast. Away with scrupulous wit! now arms
 must rule. [crowns,

Glo. And fearless minds climb soonest unto
 Brother, we will proclaim you out of hand;
 The bruit thereof will bring you many friends.

K. E. Then be it as you will; for 'tis my right,
 And Henry but usurps the diadem.

M. Ay, now my sovereign speaketh like him—
 And now will I be Edward's champion. [self;

Hast. Sound, trumpet; Edward shall be here
 proclaim'd:—

Come, fellow-soldier, make thou proclamation.

[*Gives him a paper.* Flourish.

1 Report.

Sold. [*Reads.*] Edward the Fourth, by the
 grace of God, king of England and France, and
 lord of Ireland, &c.

M. And whosoe'er gainsays king Edward's
 By this I challenge him to single fight. [right,
 [*Throws down his Gauntlet.*]

All. Long live Edward the fourth!

K. Edw. Thanks, brave Montgomery;—and
 thanks unto you all.

If fortune serve me, I'll requite this kindness.
 Now for this night, let's harbour here in York:

And, when the morning sun shall raise his car
 Above the border of this horizon,

We'll forward towards Warwick, and his mates;
 For, well I wot,¹ that Henry is no soldier.—

Ah, forward Clarence!—how evil it becometh thee,
 To flatter Henry, and forsake thy brother!

Yet, as we may, we'll meet both thee and War-
 wick.—

Come on, brave soldiers; doubt not of the day;
 And, that once gotten, doubt not of large pay.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VIII.

LONDON. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Henry, Warwick, Clarence,
 Montague, Exeter, and Oxford.

W. What counsel, lords? Edward from Belgia,
 With hasty Germans, and blunt Hollanders,

Hath pass'd in safety through the narrow seas,
 And with his troops doth march amain to Lon-

And many giddy people flock to him. [don;

Oxf. Let's levy men, and beat him back again.

Clar. A little fire is quickly trodden out;
 Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench.

War. In Warwickshire I have true-hearted
 Not mutinous in peace, yet bold in war; [friends,

Those will I muster up—and thou, son Clarence,
 Shalt stir, in Suffolk, Norfolk, and in Kent,

The knights and gentlemen to come with thee:—
 Thou, brother Montague, in Buckingham,

Northampton, and in Leicestershire, shalt find
 Men well inclin'd to hear what thou command'st:—

And thou, brave Oxford, wondrous well belov'd
 In Oxfordshire shall muster up thy friends.—

My sovereign, with the loving citizens,—
 Like to his island, girt in with the ocean,

Shall rest in London, till we come to him.—
 Fair lords, take leave, and stand not to reply.—

Farewell, my sovereign. [true hope.

K. H. Farewell, my Hector, and my Troy's
Cl. In sign of truth, I kiss your highness' hand.

K. Hen. Well-minded Clarence, be thou
 fortunate!

M. Comfort, my lord;—and so I take my leave.
Oxf. And thus [*kissing Henry's hand.*] I seal
 my truth, and bid adieu.

K. H. Sweet Oxford, and my loving Montague,
 And all at once, once more a happy farewell.

War. Farewell, sweet lords; let's meet at
 Coventry.

[*Exeunt War., Clar., Oxf., and Mont.*]
K. Hen. Here at the palace will I rest a while.

Cousin of Exeter, what thinks your lordship?
 Methinks, the power that Edward hath in field,
 Should not be able to encounter mine.

1 Know.

Exe. The doubt is, that he will seduce the rest.
K. Hen. That's not my fear, my meed¹ hath got me fame.

I have not stopp'd mine ears to their demands,
 Nor posted off their suits with slow delays;
 My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,
 My mildness hath allay'd their swelling griefs,
 My mercy dry'd their water-flowing tears:
 I have not been desirous of their wealth,
 Nor much oppress'd them with great subsidies,
 Nor forward of revenge, though they much err'd;
 Then why should they love Edward more than
 No, Exeter, these graces challenge grace: [me?
 And, when the lion fawns upon the lamb,
 The lamb will never cease to follow him.

[*Shout within.*] A Lancaster! A Lancaster!

Exe. Hark, hark, my lord! what shouts are these?

Enter King Edward, Gloster, and Soldiers.

K. Edw. Seize on the shame-fac'd Henry,
 bear him hence,
 And once again proclaim us king of England.—
 You are the fount, that makes small brooks to
 flow; {dry,
 Now stops thy spring; my sea shall suck them
 And swell so much the higher by their ebb.—
 Hence with him to the tower; let him not speak.

[*Exeunt some with King Henry.*

And, lords, towards Coventry bend we our course,
 Where peremptory Warwick now remains:
 The sun shines hot, and, if we use delay,
 Cold biting winter mars our hop'd-for hay.

Glo. Away betimes, before his forces join,
 And take this great-grown traitor unawares;
 Brave warriors, march a main towards Coventry.
 [*Exeunt.*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—COVENTRY.

Enter, upon the Walls, Warwick, the Mayor of Coventry, two Messengers, and others.

War. Where is the post that came from valiant Oxford?

How far hence is thy lord, mine honest fellow?
 1 *M.* By this at Dunsmore, marching hitherward.

War. How far off is our brother Montague?
 Where is the post that came from Montague?
 2 *M.* By this at Daintry, with a puissant troop.

Enter Sir John Somerville.

W. Say, Somerville, what says my loving son?
 And, by the guess, how nigh is Clarence now?
S. At Southam I did leave him with his forces,
 And do expect him here some two hours hence.

[*Drum heard.*

W. Then Clarence is at hand, I hear his drum.
Som. It is not his, my lord; here Southam lies;
 The drum your honour hears marcheth from Warwick.

War. Who should that be? belike, unlook'd-for friends. [know.

Som. They are at hand, and you shall quickly

1 Merit.

Drums. Enter King Edward, Gloster, and Forces, marching.

K. Edw. Go, trumpet, to the walls, and sound a parle. [wall.

Glo. See, how the surly Warwick mans the *W.* O, unbid spite! is sportful Edward come? Where slept our scouts, or how are they seduc'd, That we could hear no news of his repair?

K. Edw. Now, Warwick, wilt thou ope the city gates, [knee?—

Speak gentle words, and humbly bend thy Call Edward—king, and at his hands beg mercy, And he shall pardon thee these outrages.

W. Nay, rather wilt thou draw thy forces hence, Confess who set thee up and pluck'd thee down?—

Call Warwick—patron, and be penitent, And thou shalt still remain the duke of York.

Glo. I thought, at least, he would have said—the king;

Or did he make the jest against his will?

War. Is not a dukedom, sir, a goodly gift?
Glo. Ay, by my faith, for a poor earl to give;

I'll do thee service for so good a gift.

War. 'Twas I, that gave the kingdom to thy brother. [Warwick's gift.

K. Edw. Why, then, 'tis mine, if but by *War.* Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight;

And, weakling, Warwick takes his gift again; And Henry is my king, Warwick his subject.

K. Edw. But Warwick's king is Edward's prisoner:

And gallant Warwick, do but answer this,— What is the body, when the head is off?

Glo. Alas, that Warwick had no more forecast, But, whiles he thought to steal the single ten,

The king was slyly finger'd from the deck¹! You left poor Henry at the bishop's palace,

And, ten to one, you'll meet him in the Tower. *K. E.* 'Tis even so; yet you are Warwick still.

Glo. Come, Warwick, take the time, kneel down, kneel down:

Nay, when? strike now, or else the iron cools.

War. I had rather chop this hand off at a blow, And with the other fling it at thy face,

Than bear so low a sail, to strike to thee. *K. E.* Sail how thou canst, have wind and tide thy friend;

This hand, fast wound about thy coal-black hair, Shall, whiles the head is warm, and new cut off,

Write in the dust this sentence with thy blood,— *Wind changing Warwick now can change no more.*

Wind changing Warwick now can change no more.

Enter Oxford, with Drum and Colours.
W. O cheerful colours! see where Oxford comes!

Oxf. Oxford, Oxford, for Lancaster!
 [Oxford and his Forces enter the City.

Glo. The gates are open, let us enter too.

K. Edw. So other foes may set upon our backs: Stand we in good array; for they, no doubt,

Will issue out again, and bid us battle: If not, the city, being but of small defence,

We'll quickly rouse the traitors in the same. *W.* O, welcome, Oxford! for we want thy help.

Enter Montague, with Drum and Colours.
Mont. Montague, Montague, for Lancaster!

[He and his Forces enter the City.
 1 A pack of cards was formerly termed a deck of cards.

Glo. Thou and thy brother both shall buy this treason

Even with the dearest blood your bodies bear.

K. E. The harder match'd, the greater victory;
My mind presageth happy gain, and conquest.

Enter Somerset, with Drum and Colours.

Som. Somerset, Somerset, for Lancaster!

[*He and his Forces enter the City.*]

Glo. Two of thy name, both Dukes of Somerset,
Have sold their lives unto the house of York;
And thou shalt be the third, if this sword hold.

Enter Clarence, with Drum and Colours.

War. And lo, where George of Clarence sweeps
Of force enough to bid his brother battle; [along,
With whom an upright zeal to right prevails,
More than the nature of a brother's love:—
Come, Clarence, come; thou wilt, if Warwick calls.

Clar. Father of Warwick, know you what this means? [*Taking the Red Rose out of his Cap.*]

Look here, I throw my infamy at thee:

I will not ruinate my father's house,
Who gave his blood to lime the stones together,
And set up Lancaster. Why, trow'st thou;

Warwick,

That Clarence is so harsh, so blunt,¹ unnatural,
To bend the fatal instruments of war
Against his brother, and his lawful king?

Perhaps, thou wilt object my holy oath:

To keep that oath, were more impiety,
Than Jephtha's, when he sacrificed his daughter.

I am so sorry for my trespass made,
That to deserve well at my brother's hands,
I here proclaim myself thy mortal foe;

With resolution, wheresoe'er I meet thee,
(As I will meet thee, if thou stir abroad,)
To plague thee for thy foul misleading me,

And so, proud-hearted Warwick, I defy thee,
And to my brother turn my blushing cheeks.

Pardon me, Edward, I will make amends;
And, Richard, do not frown upon my faults,

For I will henceforth be no more unconstant.

K. Edw. Now welcome more, and ten times
more belov'd,

Than if thou never hadst deserv'd our hate.

G. Welcome, good Clarence; this is brother-like.

War. O passing² traitor, perjur'd, and unjust!

K. Edw. What, Warwick, wilt thou leave the
town, and fight?

Or shall we beat the stones about thine ears?

War. Alas, I am not coop'd here for defence:
I will away towards Barnet presently,

And bid thee battle, Edward, if thou dar'st.

K. Edw. Yes, Warwick, Edward dares, and
leads the way:—

Lords, to the field; saint George, and victory.
[*March. Exit.*]

SCENE II.—A FIELD OF BATTLE NEAR BARNET.
*Alarums and Excursions. Enter King Edward,
bringing in Warwick wounded.*

K. E. So, lie thou there: die thou, and die our fear;
For Warwick was a bug³ that fear'd⁴ us all.—

Now, Montague, sit fast; I seek for thee,
That Warwick's bones may keep thine company.

[*Exit.*]

¹ Dull in feeling.

² Egregious.

³ Bugbear.

⁴ Terrified.

War. Ah, who is nigh? come to me friend, or foe,
And tell me, who is victor, York, or Warwick?
Why ask I that? my mangled body shows,
My blood, my want of strength, my sick heart
That I must yield my body to the earth, [shows,
And, by my fall, the conquest to my foe.

Thus yields the cedar to the axe's edge,
Whose arms gave shelter to the princely eagle,
Under whose shade the ramping lion slept; [tree,
Whose top-branch overpeer'd Jove's spreading

And kept low shrubs from winter's powerful
wind. [black veil,
These eyes that now are dimm'd with death's

Have been as piercing as the mid-day sun,
To search the secret treasons of the world:

The wrinkles in my brows, now fill'd with blood,
Were liken'd oft to kingly sepulchres;

For who liv'd king, but I could dig his grave?
And who durst smile, when Warwick bent his

brow?

Lo, now my glory smear'd in dust and blood!
My parks, my walks, my manors that I had,
Even now forsake me: and, of all my lands,
Is nothing left me, but my body's length!

Why, what is pomp, rule, reign, but earth and
And, live we how we can, yet die we must. [dust!]

Enter Oxford and Somerset.

S. Ah, Warwick, Warwick! wert thou as we are,
We might recover all our loss again! [pouer;

The queen from France hath brought a puissant
Even now we heard the news: Ah, couldst thou

fly!

W. Why, then I would not fly.—Ah, Montague,
If thou be there, sweet brother, take my hand,
And with thy lips keep in my soul a while!

Thou lov'st me not; for, brother, if thou didst,
Thy tears would wash this cold congealed blood,
That glues my lips, and will not let me speak.

Come quickly, Montague, or I am dead. [last;

Som. Ah, Warwick, Montague hath breath'd his
And to the latest gasp, cried out for Warwick,

And said—Commend me to my valiant brother.
And more he would have said; and more he spoke,

Which sounded like a cannon in a vault,
That might not be distinguish'd; but at last,

I well might hear deliver'd with a groan,—
O, farewell, Warwick!

War. Sweet rest to his soul!—
Fly, lords, and save yourselves: for Warwick bids
You all farewell, to meet again in heaven. [Dies.

O. Away, away, to meet the queen's great power.
[*Exeunt, bearing off Warwick's body.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

*Flourish. Enter King Edward in triumph;
with Clarence, Gloster, and the rest.*

K. Edw. Thus far our fortune keeps an up-
ward course,

And we are grac'd with wreaths of victory.
But in the midst of this bright-shining day,
I spy a black, suspicious, threat'ning cloud,

That will encounter with our glorious sun,
Ere he attain his easeful western bed:

I mean, my lords, those powers that the queen
Hath rais'd in Gallia, have arriv'd our coast,

And, as we hear, march on to fight with us.
Clar. A little gale will soon disperse that cloud,

And blow it to the source from whence it came:
Thy very beams will dry those vapours up;
For every cloud engenders not a storm.

G. The queen is valued thirty thousand strong,
And Somerset, with Oxford, fled to her;
If she have time to breathe, be well assur'd,
Her faction will be full as strong as ours.

K. E. We are advertis'd by our loving friends,
That they do hold their course towards Tewks-
We, having now the best at Barnet field, [bury
Will thither straight, for willingness rids way;
And, as we march, our strength will be aug-
In every country as we go along.— [ment
Strike up the drum; cry—Courage! and away.
[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—PLAINS NEAR TEWKSBURY.

*March. Enter Queen Margaret, Prince Edward,
Somerset, Oxford, and Soldiers.*

Q. Mar. Great lords, wise men ne'er sit and
wail their loss,
But cheerly seek how to redress their harms.
What though the mast be now blown over-board,
The cable broke, the holding anchor lost,
And half our sailors swallow'd in the flood?
Yet lives our pilot still: Is't meet that he
Should leave the helm, and, like a fearful lad,
With tearful eyes add water to the sea, [much;
And give more strength to that which hath too
Whiles, in his moan, the ship splits on the rock,
Which industry and courage might have sav'd?
Ah, what a shame! ah, what a fault were this!
Say, Warwick was our anchor; What of that?
And Montague our top-mast; What of him?
Our slaughter'd friends the tackles; What of
Why, is not Oxford here another anchor? [these?
And Somerset another goodly mast; [lings?
The friends of France our shrouds and tack-
And, though unskilful, why not Ned and I
For once allow'd the skilful pilot's charge?
We will not from the helm, to sit and weep;
But keep our course, though the rough wind
say—no, [wreck.

From shelves and rocks that threaten us with
As good to chide the waves as speak them fair.
And what is Edward, but a ruthless sea?
What Clarence, but a quicksand of deceit?
And Richard, but a ragged fatal rock?
All these the enemies to our poor bark.
Say, you can swim, alas, 'tis but a while;
Tread on the sand, why there you quickly sink;
Bestride the rock, the tide will wash you off,
Or else you famish, that's a threefold death.
This speak I, lords, to let you understand,
In case one of you would fly from us,
That there's no hop'd-former cy with the brothers,
More than with ruthless waves, with sands, and
rocks.

Why, courage, then! what cannot be avoided,
'Twere childish weakness to lament or fear.

Pr. Methinks, a woman of this valiant spirit
Should, if a coward heard her speak these words,
Infuse his breast with magnanimity,
And make him, naked, foil a man at arms.
I speak not this as doubting any here:
For, did I but suspect a fearful man,
He should have leave to go away betimes;

Lest, in our need, he might infect another
And make him of like spirit to himself.
If any such be here, as heaven forbid!
Let him depart, before we need his help.

O. Women and children of so high a courage!
And warriors faint! why, 'twere perpetual
shame.—

O, brave young prince! thy famous grandfather
Doth live again in thee; Long mayst thou live,
To bear his image, and renew his glories!

S. And he, that will not fight for such a hope,
Go home to bed, and, like the owl by day,
If he arise, be mock'd and wonder'd at.

Q. Mar. Thanks, gentle Somerset:—sweet
Oxford, thanks, [and his grandfather] [else.

P. And take his thanks, that yet hath nothing

Enter a Messenger.

M. Prepare you, lords, for Edward is at hand,
Ready to fight; therefore be resolute.

Oxf. I thought no less: it is his policy,
To haste thus fast, to find us unprovided.

Som. But he's deceiv'd, we are in readiness.

Q. Mar. This cheers my heart, to see your
forwardness. [budge.

Oxf. Here pitch our battle, hence we will not

*March. Enter, at a distance, King Edward,
Clarence, Gloster, and Forces.*

K. Edw. Brave followers, yonder stands the
thorny wood, [strength,
Which, by the heaven's assistance, and your
Must by the roots be hewn up yet ere night.
I need not add more fuel to your fire,
For, well I wot, ye blaze to burn them out:
Give signal to the fight, and to it, lords.

Q. Mar. Lords, knights, and gentlemen, what
I should say,

My tears gainsay; for every word I speak,
Ye see, I drink the water of mine eyes.
Therefore, no more but this:—Henry, your sove-
Is prisoner to the foe; his state usurp'd, reign,
His realm a slaughter-house, his subjects slain,
His statutes cancell'd, and his treasure spent;
And yonder is the wolf that makes this spoil.
You fight in justice; then, in God's name, lords,
Be valiant, and give signal to the fight.

[Exeunt both Armies.

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE SAME.

*Alarums: Excursions: and afterwards a Re-
treat. Then enter King Edward, Clarence,
Gloster, and Forces; with Queen Margaret,
Oxford, and Somerset, Prisoners.*

K. E. Now, here a period of tumultuous broils,
Away with Oxford to Hammes' castle² straight:
For Somerset, off with his guilty head. [speak.
Go, bear them hence; I will not hear them
O. For my part, I'll not trouble thee with words.
S. Nor I; but stoop with patience to my fortune.

[Exeunt Oxford and Somerset, guarded,

Q. M. So part we sadly in this troublous world,
To meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem. [Edward,
K. E. Is proclamation made,—that, who finds
Shall have a high reward, and he his life?

G. It is; and, lo, where youthful Edward comes,

1 Know. 2 In Picardy.

Enter Soldiers, with Prince Edward.

K. Edw. Bring forth the gallant, let us hear him speak:

What! can so young a thorn begin to prick? Edward, what satisfaction canst thou make, For bearing arms, for stirring up my subjects, And all the trouble thou hast turn'd me to?

P. Speak like a subject, proud ambitious York! Suppose that I am now my father's mouth; Resign thy chair, and, where I stand, kneel thou, Whilst I propose the self same words to thee, Which, traitor, thou wouldst have me answer to.

Q. M. Ah, that thy father had been so resolv'd!

G. That you might still have worn the petticoat, And ne'er have stol'n the breech from Lancaster.

Prince. Let *Æsop* fable in a winter's night; His currish riddles sort not with this place.

G. By heaven, brat, I'll plague you for that word. [men.]

Q. M. Ay, thou wast born to be a plague to *Glo.* For heaven's sake, take away this captive scold. [rather.]

Pr. Nay, take away this scolding crook-back

K. E. Peace, wilful boy, or I will charm your tongue.

Clar. Untutor'd lad, thou art too malapert.

Pr. I know my duty; you are all undutiful; Lascivious Edward, and thou perjurd George, And thou mis-shapen Dick, — I tell ye all, I am your better, traitors as ye are; — And thou usurp'st my father's right and mine.

K. E. Take that, the likeness of this railer here. [Stabs him.]

Glo. Sprawl'st thou? take that to end thy agony. [Glo. stabs him.]

Clar. And there's for twitting me with perjury. [Clar. stabs him.]

Q. Mar. O, kill me too!

Glo. Marry, and shall. [Offers to kill her.]

K. E. Hold, Richard, hold, for we have done too much.

G. Why should she live, to fill the world with words?

K. Ed. What! doth she swoon? use means for her recovery.

C. Clarence, excuse me to the king my brother: I'll hence to London on a serious matter:

Ere ye come there, be sure to hear some news.

Clar. What? what?

Glo. The Tower, the Tower! [Exit.]

Q. M. O, Ned, sweet Ned! speak to thy mother, boy!

Canst thou not speak? — O traitors! murderers! — They, that stabb'd *Cæsar*, shed no blood at all, Did not offend, nor were not worthy blame, If this foul deed were by, to equal it.

He was a man: this, in respect, a child; And men ne'er spend their fury on a child.

What's worse than murderer, that I may name it? No, no; my heart will burst, an if I speak: — And I will speak, that so my heart may burst. — Butchers and villains, bloody cannibals!

How sweet a plant have you untimely cropp'd! You have no children, butchers! if you had, The thought of them would have stirr'd up remorse:

But, if you ever chance to have a child, Look in his youth to have him so cut off,

As, deathsmen! you have rid this sweet young prince!

K. Ed. Away with her; go bear her hence perforce.

Q. Mar. Nay, never bear me hence, despatch me here; [death:]

Here sheath thy sword, I'll pardon thee my What! wilt thou not? — then, Clarence, do it thou.

C. By heaven, I will not do thee so much ease.

Q. Mar. Good Clarence, do; sweet Clarence, do thou do it.

Clar. Didst thou not hear me swear, I would not do it?

Q. M. Ay, but thou usest to forswear thyself; 'Twas sin before, but now 'tis charity. [butcher, What! wilt thou not? where is that devil's Hard-favour'd Richard? Richard, where art thou?

Thou art not here: Murder is thy alms-deed; Petitioners for blood thou ne'er put'st back.

K. E. Away, I say; I charge ye bear her hence.

Q. Mar. So come to you, and yours, as to this prince! [Exit, led out forcibly.]

K. Edw. Where's Richard gone?

Clar. To London all in post; and, as I guess, To make a bloody supper in the Tower.

K. E. He's sudden, if a thing comes in his head. Now march we hence: discharge the common sort With pay and thanks, and let's away to London, And see our gentle queen how well she fares; By this, I hope, she hath a son for me. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VI. — LONDON. A ROOM IN THE TOWER.

King Henry is discovered sitting with a Book in his Hand, the Lieutenant attending. Enter Gloster.

Glo. Good day, my lord? What, at your book so hard?

K. Hen. Ay, my good lord: My lord, I should say rather;

'Tis sin to flatter, good was little better; Good Gloster, and good devil, were alike,

And both preposterous; therefore, not good lord. *G.* Sirrah, leave us to ourselves: we must confer. [Exit Lieutenant.]

K. Hen. So flies the reckless shepherd from the wolf:

So first the harmless sheep doth yield his fleece, And next his throat unto the butcher's knife. —

What scene of death hath *Roscius* now to act? *Glo.* Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind; The thief doth fear each bush an officer.

K. H. The bird, that hath been limed in a bush, With trembling wings misdoubteth every bush: And I, the hapless male to one sweet bird,

Have now the fatal object in my eye, [kill'd.] Where my poor young was lim'd, was caught, and

G. Why, what a peevish fool was that of Crete, That taught his son the office of a fowl?

And yet, for all his wings, the fool was drown'd.

K. Hen. I, *Dædalus*; my poor boy, *Icarus*; Thy father, *Minos*, that denied our course;

The sun, that sear'd the wings of my sweet boy, Thy brother *Edward*; and thyself, the sea,

Whose envious gulf did swallow up his life. Ah, kill me with thy weapon, not with words!

My breast can better brook thy dagger's point,
Than can my ears that tragick history.—

But wherefore dost thou come? is't for my life?

Glo. Think'st thou, I am an executioner?

K. Hen. A persecutor, I am sure, thou art;

If murdering innocents be executing,

Why, then thou art an executioner.

Glo. Thy son I kill'd, for his presumption.

K. Hen. Hadst thou been kill'd, when first
thou didst presume,
Thou hadst not liv'd to kill a son of mine.

And thus I prophesy,—that many a thousand,

Which now mistrust no parcel of my fear;

And many an old man's sigh, and many a widow's,

And many an orphan's water-standing eye,—

Men for their sons', wives for their husbands' fate,

And orphans for their parents' timeless death,—

Shall rue the hour that ever thou wast born.

The owl shriek'd at thy birth, an evil sign;

The night-crow cried, aboding luckless time;

Dogs howl'd, and hideous tempests shook down

trees;

The raven rook'd¹ her on the chimney's top,

And chattering pies² in dismal discords sung.

Thy mother felt more than a mother's pain,

And yet brought forth less than a mother's hope;

To wit,—an indigest deformed lump,

Not like the fruit of such a goodly tree. [born,

Teeth hadst thou in thy head, when thou wast

To signify,—thou cam'st to bite the world:

And, if the rest be true which I have heard,

Thou cam'st—

Glo. I'll hear no more;—Die, prophet, in thy
speech; [Stabs him.

For this, amongst the rest, was I ordain'd.

K. H. Ay, and for much more slaughter after
this.

O God! forgive my sins, and pardon thee! [*Dies.*

Glo. What, will the aspiring blood of Lancaster
Sink in the ground? I thought it would have

mounted. [death!

See, how my sword weeps for the poor king's

O, may such purple tears be always shed

From those that wish the downfal of our house!—

If any spark of life be yet remaining,

Down, down to hell; and say—I sent thee thither.

[Stabs him again.

I, that have neither pity, love, nor fear.—

Indeed, 'tis true, that Henry told me of;

As I have often heard my mother say,

I came into the world with my legs forward:

Had I not reason, think ye, to make haste,

And seek their ruin that usurp'd our right?

The midwife wonder'd; and the women cried,

O, Heaven bless us, he is born with teeth!

And so I was; which plainly signified—

That I should snarl, and bite, and play the dog.

Then, since the heavens have shap'd my body so,

Let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it.

I have no brother, I am like no brother:

And this word—love, which greybeards call

Be-resident in men like one another, [divine,

And not in me; I am myself alone.—

Clarence, beware; thou keep'st me from the light;

But I will sort³ a pitchy day for thee:

For I will buz abroad such prophecies,

That Edward shall be fearful of his life;

And then, to purge his fear, I'll be thy death.

King Henry, and the prince his son, are gone:

Clarence, thy turn is next, and then the rest;

Counting myself but bad, till I be best,—

I'll throw thy body in another room,

And triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom. [*Exit.*

SCENE VII.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

King Edward is discovered sitting on his Throne;

Queen Elizabeth with the infant Prince, Clarence,

Gloucester, Hastings, and others near him.

K. Edw. Once more we sit in England's royal
throne,

Re-purchas'd with the blood of enemies.

What valiant foemen, like to autumn's corn,

Have we mow'd down, in tops of all their pride?

Three dukes of Somerset, threefold renown'd

For hardy and undoubted champions:

Two Cliffords, as the father and the son,

And two Northumberland; two brave men

Ne'er spur'd their coursers at the trumpet's

sound: [Montague,

With them, the two brave bears, Warwick and

That in their chains fetter'd the kingly lion,

And made the forest tremble when they roar'd.

Thus have we swept suspicion from our seat,

And made our footstool of security.—

Come hither, Bess, and let me kiss my boy:—

Young Ned, for thee, thine uncles, and myself,

Have in our armours watch'd the winter's night;

Went all a-foot in summer's scalding heat,

That thou might'st repossess the crown in peace;

And of our labours thou shalt reap the gain.

Glo. [*Aside.*] I'll blast his harvest, if your

head were laid;

For yet I am not look'd on in the world.

This shoulder was ordain'd so thick, to heave;

And heave it shall some weight, or break my

back:—

Work thou the way,—and thou shalt execute.

K. Edw. Clarence, and Gloucester, love my

lovely queen;

And kiss your princely nephew, brothers both.

Clar. The duty that I owe unto your majesty,

I seal upon the lips of this sweet babe.

K. Edw. Thanks, noble Clarence; worthy

brother, thanks.

Glo. And, that I love the tree from whence

thou sprang'st,

Witness the loving kiss I give the fruit?—

[*Aside.*] To say the truth, so Judas kiss'd his

master;

And cried—all hail! when as he meant—all harm.

K. Edw. Now am I seated as my soul delights,

Having my country's peace, and brothers' loves.

Clar. What will your grace have done with

Margaret?

Reignier, her father, to the king of France

Hath pawn'd the Sicils and Jerusalem,

And hither have they sent it for her ransom.

K. Edw. Away with her, and waft her hence

to France.

And now what rests, but that we spend the time

With stately triumphs, mirthful comick shows,

Such as befit the pleasures of the court?—

Sound, drums and trumpets!—farewell, sour

annoy!

For here, I hope, begins our lasting joy. [*Exeunt.*

Life and Death of King Richard III.

Persons Represented.

KING EDWARD THE FOURTH.	
EDWARD, <i>Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward V.,</i>	} Sons to the King.
RICHARD, <i>Duke of York.</i>	
GEORGE, <i>Duke of Clarence,</i>	} Brothers to the King.
RICHARD, <i>Duke of Gloster, afterwards King Richard III.,</i>	
A young son of Clarence.	
HENEY, <i>Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII.</i>	
CARDINAL BOURCHIER, <i>Archbishop of Canterbury.</i>	
THOMAS ROTHERHAM, <i>Archbishop of York.</i>	
JOHN MORTON, <i>Bishop of Ely.</i>	
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.	
DUKE OF NORFOLK.	
EARL OF SURREY, <i>his Son.</i>	
EARL OF RIVERS, <i>Brother to King Edward's Queen.</i>	
MARQUIS OF DORSET, and LORD GREY, <i>her Sons.</i>	
EARL OF OXFORD.	
LORD HASTINGS.	
LORD STANLEY.	
LORD LOVELL.	
	SIR THOMAS VAUGHAN.
	SIR RICHARD RATCLIFF.
	SIR WILLIAM CATESBY.
	SIR JAMES TYRREL.
	SIR JAMES BLOUNT.
	SIR WALTER HERBERT.
	SIR ROBERT BRAKENBURY, <i>Lieutenant of the Tower.</i>
	CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, <i>a Priest.</i>
	Another Priest.
	Lord Mayor of London.
	Sheriff of Wiltshire.
	ELIZABETH, <i>Queen of King Edward IV.</i>
	MARGARET, <i>Widow of King Henry VI.</i>
	DUCHESS OF YORK, <i>Mother to King Edward IV., Clarence, and Gloster.</i>
	LADY ANNE, <i>Widow of Edward, Prince of Wales, Son to King Henry VI.; afterwards married to the Duke of Gloster.</i>
	A young Daughter of Clarence.
	Lords, and other Attendants; two Gentlemen, a Pursuivant, Scrivener, Citizens, Murderers, Messengers, Ghosts, Soldiers, &c.

SCENE.—England.

Act First.

SCENE I.—LONDON. A STREET.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York;
And all the clouds, that low'r'd upon our house,
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried. [wreaths;
Now are our brows bound with victorious
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;
Our stern alarums chang'd to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.¹
Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled
front;

And now,—instead of mounting barbed steeds,
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,—
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber,
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.

But I,—that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,
Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass;
I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's ma-
To strut before a wanton ambling nymph; [jesty,
I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time
Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
And that so lamely and unfashionable,

1 Dances.

That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them;—
Why I, in this weak piping time of peace,
Have no delight to pass away the time;
Unless to spy my shadow in the sun,
And descant on mine own deformity;
And therefore,—since I cannot prove a lover,
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,—
I am determin'd to prove a villain,
And hate the idle pleasures of these days. †
Plots have I laid, inductions¹ dangerous,
By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,
To set my brother Clarence, and the king,
In deadly hate the one against the other:
And, if King Edward be as true and just
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up;
About a prophecy, which says—that G
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul! here Clarence
comes.

Enter Clarence, guarded, and Brakenbury.

Brother, good day: What means this armed
That waits upon your grace? [guard

Clar. His majesty,
Tendering my person's safety, hath appointed
This conduct to convey me to the Tower.

Glo. Upon what cause?

1 Preparations for mischief.

Clar. Because my name is—George.

Glo. Alack, my lord, that fault is none of yours; He should, for that, commit your godfathers:—Belike his majesty hath some intent, That you shall be new christen'd in the Tower. But what's the matter, Clarence? may I know?

Clar. Yea, Richard, when I know; for I protest, As yet I do not: But, as I can learn, He hearkens after prophecies and dreams; And from the cross-row plucks the letter G, And says—a wizard told him, that by G His issue disinherited should be; And, for my name of George begins with G, It follows in his thought that I am he: These as I learn, and such like toys as these, Have mov'd his highness to commit me now.

Glo. Why, this it is, when men are rul'd by women:—

'Tis not the king, that sends you to the Tower; My lady Grey, his wife, Clarence, 'tis she, That tempers him to this extremity. Was it not she, and that good man of worship, Antony Woodville, her brother there, That made him send lord Hastings to the Tower; From whence this present day he is deliver'd? We are not safe, Clarence, we are not safe.

Clar. By heaven, I think, there is no man secure, [heralds

But the queen's kindred, and night-walking That trudge betwixt the king and mistress Shore. Heard you not what an humble suppliant Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery?

Glo. Humbly complaining to her deity Got my lord chamberlain his liberty. I'll tell you what,—I think, it is our way, If we will keep in favour with the king, To be her men, and wear her livery: The jealous o'er-worn widow, and herself,¹ Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewomen, Are mighty gossips in this monarchy.

Brak. I beseech your graces both to pardon me; His majesty hath straitly given in charge, That no man shall have private conference, Of what degree soever with his brother.

Glo. Even so? an please your worship, Bra— You may partake of anything we say: [kenbury, We speak no treason, man;—We say, the king Is wise, and virtuous; and his noble queen Well struck in years; fair, and not jealous: We say, that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot, A cherry lip,

A bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue; And the queen's kindred are made gentlefolks: How say you, sir? can you deny all this?

B. With this, my lord, myself have nought to do, And I beseech your grace to pardon me; and, withal,

Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

Clar. We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and will obey.

Glo. We are the queen's subjects, and must obey. Brother, farewell: I will unto the king; And whatsoever you will employ me in,—Were it, to call king Edward's widow—sister,—I will perform it to enfranchise you. Mean time, this deep disgrace in brotherhood, Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

¹ The queen and Shore.

Clar. I know it pleaseth neither of us well.

Glo. Well, your imprisonment shall not be long; I will deliver you, or else lie for you: Mean time, have patience.

Clar. I must perforce; farewell.

[*Exeunt Clar., Brak., and Guard.*

G. Go, tread the path that thou shalt ne'er return, Simple, plain Clarence!—I do love thee so, That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven, If heaven will take the present at our hands. But who comes here? the new-deliver'd Hastings?

Enter Hastings.

Hast. Good time of day unto my gracious lord!

Glo. As much unto my good lord chamberlain! Well are you welcome to this open air.

How hath your lordship brook'd imprisonment?

Hast. With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must:

But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks, That were the cause of my imprisonment.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt; and so shall Clarence too;

For they, that were your enemies, are his, And have prevail'd as much on him, as you.

Hast. More pity that the eagle should be mew'd, While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

Glo. What news abroad?

Hast. No news so bad abroad, as this at home;—The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy, And his physicians fear him mightily.

G. Now, by saint Paul, this news is bad indeed. O, he hath kept an evil diet long, And over-much consum'd his royal person; 'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.

What, is he in his bed?

Hast. He is.

Glo. Go you before, and I will follow you.

[*Exit Hastings.*

He cannot live, I hope; and must not die Till George be pack'd with post-horse up to hear—I'll in, to urge his hatred more to Clarence, [even, With lies well steel'd with weighty arguments; And, if I fail not in my deep intent, Clarence hath not another day to live: Which done, heaven take king Edward to his mercy,

And leave the world for me to bustle in! For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter: What though I killed her husband, and her father? The readiest way to make the wench amends, Is—to become her husband, and her father: The which will I; not all so much for love, As for another secret close intent, By marrying her, which I must reach unto. But yet I run before my horse to market: Clarence still breathes: Edward still lives, and reigns;

When they are gone, then must I count my gains. [Exit.

SCENE II.—ANOTHER STREET.

Enter the Corpse of King Henry the sixth, borne in an open Coffin; Gentlemen bearing Halberds, to guard it; and Lady Anne, as Mourner.

A. Set down, set down your honourable load,—If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,—

Whilst I a while obsequiously¹ lament
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.—
Poor key-cold figure of a holy king!
Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster!
Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood!
Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,
To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son,
Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these
wounds!

Lo, in these windows, that let forth thy life,
I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes:—
O, cursed be the hand that made these holes!
Cursed the heart, that had the heart to do it!
Cursed the blood, that let this blood from hence!
More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
That makes us wretched by the death of thee,
Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,
Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives!
If ever he have child, abortive be it,
Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,
Whose ugly and unnatural aspect
May fright the hopeful mother at the view;
And that be heir to his unhappiness!
If ever he have wife, let her be made
More miserable by the death of him,
Than I am made by my young lord, and thee!—
Come, now, toward Chertsey with your holy
Taken from Paul's to be interred there; [load,
And still, as you are weary of the weight,
Rest you, while I lament king Henry's corse.
[The Bearers take up the Corpse, and advance.

Enter Gloucester.

G. Stay you that bear the corse, and set it down.
A. What black magician conjures up this fiend,
To stop devoted charitable deeds? [Paul,
G. Villains, set down the corse; or, by saint
I'll make a corse of him that disobeys. [pass.
1 G. My lord, stand back, and let the coffin
Glo. Unmanner'd dog: stand thou when I
command:

Advance thy halberd higher than my breast,
Or, by saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,
And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.

[The Bearers set down the Coffin.

A. What, do you tremble? are you all afraid?
Alas, I blame you not; for you are mortal,
And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.—
Avaunt, thou dreadful minister of hell!
Thou hadst but power over his mortal body,
His soul thou canst not have; therefore, begone.

Glo. Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.

Anne. Foul devil, for heaven's sake, hence,
and trouble us not;

For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,
Fill'd it with cursing cries, and deep exclams.
If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,
Behold this pattern of thy butcheries:—
O, gentlemen, see, see! dead Henry's wounds
Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed afresh!—
Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity;
For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood
From cold and empty veins, where no blood
Thy deed, inhuman and unnatural, [dwells;
Provokes this deluge most unnatural.—[death!
O Thou, which this blood mad'st, revenge his

¹ With funeral obsequies.

O earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his
death! [derer dead,

Either, Heaven, with lightning strike the mur-
Or, earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick;
As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered!

Glo. Lady, you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

A. Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor man;
No beast so fierce, but knows some touch of pity.

G. But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

A. O wonderful, when devils tell the truth!

G. More wonderful, when angels are so angry.—
Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman,
Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,
By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

Anne. Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

G. Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me
Some patient leisure to excuse myself. [have

A. Fouler than heart can think thee, thou canst
No excuse current, but to hang thyself. [make

G. By such despair, I should accuse myself.

A. And, by despairing, shalt thou stand excus'd;
For doing worthy vengeance on thyself,
That didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

Glo. Say that I slew them not?

Anne. Why, then, they are not dead:

But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee.
Glo. I did not kill your husband.

Anne. Why, then he is alive.

G. Nay, he is dead; and slain by Edward's hand.

Anne. In thy soul's throat thou liest: queen

Margaret saw

Thy murd'rous faulchion smoking in his blood;
Thewhich thou once didst bend against her breast,
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

G. I was provoked by her slanderous tongue,
That laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoulders.

A. Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind
That never dreamt on aught but butcheries;
Didst thou not kill this king?

Glo. I grant ye.

Anne. Dost grant me, hedge-hog;
O, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous. [him.

G. The fitter for the king of heaven that hath
A. He is in heaven, where thou shalt never
come. [him thither;

Glo. Let him thank me, that help to send
For he was fitter for that place than earth.

Anne. And thou unfit for any place but hell.

G. Yes, one place else, if you will hear me

Anne. Some dungeon. [name it:
Glo. Your bed-chamber.

A. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou liest!

Glo. So will it, madam, till I lie with you.

Anne. I hope so.

Glo. I know so.—But, gentle lady Anne,—

To leave this keen encounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower method;—
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner? [effect.

A. Thou wast the cause, and most accurs'd
Glo. Your beauty was the cause of that effect;
Your beauty which did haunt me in my sleep,
To undertake the death of all the world.

Anne. If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,
These nails should rend that beauty from my
cheeks. [wreck ;

Glo. These eyes could not endure that beauty's
You should not blemish it, if I stood by :

As all the world is cheered by the sun,
So I by that ; it is my day, my life. [thy life !

A. Black night o'ershade thy day, and death
G. Curse not thyself, fair creature ; thou art both.

Anne. I would I were, to be reveng'd on thee.

Glo. It is a quarrel most unnatural,
To be reveng'd on him that loveth thee.

Anne. It is a quarrel just and reasonable,
To be reveng'd on him that kill'd my husband.

Glo. He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,
Did it to help thee to a better husband.

A. His better doth not breathe upon the earth.

G. He lives, that loves you better than he could.
Anne. Name him.

Glo. Plantagenet.

Anne. Why, that was he.
Glo. The self-same name, but one of better

Anne. Where is he ? [nature.

Glo. Here : [She spits at him.] Why dost
thou spit at me ?

A. 'Would it were mortal poison for thy sake !

Glo. Never came poison from so sweet a place.

Anne. Never hung poison on a fouler toad.
Out of my sight ! thou dost infect mine eyes.

Glo. Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.

Anne. 'Would they were basilisks, to strike
thee dead !

Glo. I would they were, that I might die at once ;
For now they kill me with a living death. [tears,

Those eyes of thine from mine have lrawn salt
Sham'd their aspects with store of childish drops :

These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear,—
Nor when my father York and Edward wept

To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made,
When black-fac'd Clifford shook his sword at

Nor when thy warlike father, like a child, [him :
Told the sad story of my father's death ;

And twenty times made pause, to sob and weep,
That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,

Like trees bedash'd with rain : in that sad time,
My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear ;

And what these sorrows could not hence exhale,
Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with

I never su'd to friend, nor enemy ; [weeping.
My tongue could never learn sweet soothing

But now thy beauty is propos'd my fee, [word ;
My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue

to speak. [She looks scornfully at him.
Teach not thy lip such scorn ; for it was made

For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.
If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,

Lo ! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword ;
Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,

And let the soul forth that adareth thee,
I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,

And humbly beg the death upon my knee.
[He lays his Breast open ; she offers at it

with his Sword.
Nay, do not pause ; for I did kill king Henry ;—

But 'twas thy beauty that provok'd me.
Nay, now despatch ; 'twas I that stabb'd young

Edward ;—[She again offers at his Breast.

1 Pitying.

But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.

[She lets fall the Sword.
Take up the sword again, or take up me.

A. Arise, dissembler : though I wish thy death,
I will not be thy executioner.

Glo. Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.

Anne. I have already.

Glo. That was in thy rage :

Speak it again, and, even with the word,
This hand, which for thy love, did kill thy love,

Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love ;
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessory.

Anne. I would, I knew thy heart.

Glo. 'Tis figur'd in my tongue.

Anne. I fear me, both are false.

Glo. Then man was never true.

Anne. Well, well, put up your sword.

Glo. Say then, my peace is made.

Anne. That shall you know hereafter.

Glo. But shall I live in hope ?

Anne. All men, I hope, live so.

Glo. Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

Anne. To take, is not to give.

[She puts on the Ring.
G. Look, how this ring encompasseth thy finger,

Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart ;
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine ;

And if thy poor devoted servant may
But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,

Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.
Anne. What is it ? [designs

Glo. That it may please you leave these sad
To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,

And presently repair to Crosby-place :
Where—after I have solemnly interr'd,

At Chertsey monast'ry this noble king,
And wet his grave with my repentant tears,—

I will with all expedient duty see you.
For divers unknown reasons, I beseech you,

Grant me this boon.
A. With all my heart ; and much it joys me

To see you are become so penitent.— [too.
Tressel, and Berkley go along with me.

Glo. Bid me farewell.

Anne. 'Tis more than you deserve ;
But, since you teach me how to flatter you,

Imagine I have said farewell already.

[Exeunt Lady Anne, Tressel, and Berkley.
Glo. Take up the corpse, sirs.

Gent. Towards Chertsey, noble lord ?
Glo. No, to White Friars ; there attend my

coming. [Exeunt the rest, with the Corpse.
Was ever woman in this humour woo'd ?

Was ever woman in this humour won ?
I'll have her,—but I will not keep her long.

What ! I, that kill'd her husband, and his father,
To take her in her heart's extremest hate ;

With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes,
The bleeding witness of her hatred by ;

With Heaven, her conscience, and these bars
against me,

And I no friends to back my suit withal,
But the plain devil and dissembling looks,

And yet to win her,—all the world to nothing !
Ha !

Hath she forgot already that brave prince,
Edward, her lord, whom I some three months

Stabb'd in my angry mood at Tewksbury ? [since,

A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,—
 Fram'd in the prodigality of nature,
 Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right royal,—
 The spacious world cannot again afford:
 And will she yet abase her eyes on me,
 That cropp'd the golden prime of this sweet
 And made her widow to a woful bed? [prince,
 On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety?
 On me, that halt, and am mis-shapen thus?
 My dukedom to a beggarly denier,¹
 I do mistake my person all this while:
 Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot,
 Myself to be a marvellous proper man.
 I'll be at charges for a looking-glass;
 And entertain a score or two of tailors,
 To study fashions to adorn my body;
 Since I am crept in favour with myself,
 I will maintain it with some little cost.
 But, first, I'll turn yon' fellow in his grave;
 And then return lamenting to my love.—
 Shine out, fair sun, till I have bought a glass,
 That I may see my shadow as I pass. [Exit.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Queen Elizabeth, Lord Rivers, and Lord Grey.

Riv. Have patience, madam; there's no doubt,
 his majesty
 Will soon recover his accustom'd health.

Grey. In that you brook it ill, it makes him
 worse: [fort,
 Therefore, for heaven's sake, entertain good com-
 And cheer his grace with quick and merry words.

Q. E. If he were dead, what would betide of me?

Grey. No other harm but loss of such a lord.

Q. E. The loss of such a lord includes all harms.

Grey. The heavens have blessed you with a
 goodly son,

To be your comforter, when he is gone.

Q. Eliz. Ah, he is young; and his minority
 Is put unto the trust of Richard Gloster,
 A man that loves not me, nor none of you.

Riv. Is it concluded, he shall be protector?

Q. E. It is determin'd, not concluded yet:
 But so it must be, if the king miscarry.

Enter Buckingham and Stanley.

Grey. Here come the lords of Buckingham
 and Stanley.

Buck. Good time of day unto your royal grace!
 Stan. Heaven make your majesty joyful as
 you have been!

Q. Eliz. The countess Richmond, good my
 lord of Stanley,

To your good prayer will scarcely say—amen.
 Yet, Stanley, notwithstanding she's your wife,
 And loves not me, be you, good lord, assur'd,
 I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

Stan. I do beseech you, either not believe
 The envious slanders of her false accusers;
 Or, if she be accus'd on true report,
 Bear with her weakness, which, I think, proceeds
 From wayward sickness, and no grounded
 malice. [Stanley?

Q. Eliz. Saw you the king to-day, my lord of

Stan. But now the duke of Buckingham, and I,
 Are come from visiting his majesty.

1 A small French coin.

Q. E. What likelihood of his amendment, lords?
 Buck. Madam, good hope; his grace speaks
 cheerfully. [with him?

Q. E. God grant him health! Did you confer

B. Ay, madam, he desires to make atonement
 Between the duke of Gloster and your brothers,
 And between them and my lord chamberlain;
 And sent to warn them to his royal presence.

Q. Eliz. Would all were well!—But that will
 never be;—

I fear, our happiness is at the height.

Enter Gloster, Hastings, and Dorset.

G. They do me wrong, and I will not endure it.—
 Who are they, that complain unto the king,
 That I, forsooth, am stern, and love them not?
 By holy Paul, they love his grace but lightly,
 That fill his ears with such dissentious rumours.
 Because I cannot flatter, and speak fair,
 Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,¹
 Duck with French nods, and apish courtesy,
 I must be held a rancorous enemy.
 Cannot a plain man live, and think no harm,
 But thus his simple truth must be abus'd
 By silken, sly, insinuating Jacks? [grace?

Grey. To whom in all this presence speaks your
 Glo. To thee, that hast nor honesty, nor grace.
 When have I injur'd thee? when done thee wrong?

Or thee?—or thee?—or any of your faction?

A plague upon you all! His royal grace,—
 Whom God preserve better than you would wish!—
 Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing-while,
 But you must trouble him with rude complaints.

Q. Eliz. Brother of Gloster, you mistake the
 The king, of his own royal disposition, [matter:
 And not provok'd by any suitor else:
 Aiming, belike, at your interior hatred,
 That in your outward action shows itself,
 Against my children, brothers, and myself,
 Makes him to send; that thereby he may gather
 The ground of your ill-will, and so remove it.

Glo. I cannot tell;—The world is grown so bad,
 That wrens may prey where eagles dare not
 Since every Jack² became a gentleman, [perch.
 There's many a gentle person made a Jack.

Q. Eliz. Come, come, we know your meaning,
 brother Gloster:

You envy my advancement, and my friends;
 Heaven grant, we never may have need of you!

Glo. Meantime, heaven grants that we have
 need of you!

Our brother is imprison'd by your means,
 Myself disgrac'd, and the nobility
 Held in contempt; while great promotions
 Are daily given, to ennoble those
 That scarce, some two days since, were worth a
 noble.³ [height

Q. Eliz. By him that rais'd me to this careful
 From that contented hap which I enjoy'd,
 I never did incense his majesty
 Against the duke of Clarence, but have been
 An earnest advocate to plead for him.
 My lord, you do me shameful injury,
 Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

Glo. You may deny that you were not the cause
 Of my lord Hastings' late imprisonment.

Riv. She may, my lord; for—

1 Chest, 2 Low fellow. 3 6s. 8d.

G. She may, lord Rivers?—why, who knows not She may do more, sir, than denying that: [so? She may help you to many fair preferences; And then deny her aiding hand therein, And lay those honours on your high desert.

What may she not? She may,—ay, marry may Riv. What, marry, may she? [she.—

G. What, marry, may she? marry with a king, A bachelor, a handsome stripling too:

I wis,¹ your grandam had a worser match.

Q. E. My lord of Gloster, I have too long borne Your blunt upbraidings, and your bitter scoffs: By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty, Of those gross taunts I often have endur'd.

I had rather be a country servant-maid,

Than a great queen with this condition—

To be so baited, scorn'd, and stormed at:

Small joy have I in being England's queen.

Enter Queen Margaret, behind.

Q. Mar. And lessen'd be that small, Heaven, I beseech thee!

Thy honour, state, and seat, is due to me.

G. What? threaten you with telling of the king? Tell him, and spare not: look, what I have said

I will avouch, in presence of the king:

I dare adventure to be sent to the Tower.

'Tis time to speak, my pains are quite forgot.

Q. M. Out, devil! I remember them too well:

Thou kill'dst my husband Henry in the Tower,

And Edward, my poor son, at Tewksbury.

G. Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband

I was a pack-horse in his great affairs; [king,

A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,

A liberal rewarder of his friends:

To royalize his blood, I spilt mine own.

Q. Mar. Ay, and much better blood than his, or thine. [Grey,

G. In all which time, you, and your husband

Were factious for the house of Lancaster;—

And, Rivers, so were you:—Was not your husband

In Margaret's battle at Saint Alban's slain?

Let me put in your minds, if you forget,

What you have been ere now, and what you are;

Withal, what I have been, and what I am.

Q. M. A murd'rous villain, and so still thou art.

G. Poor Clarence did forsake his father Warwick,

Ay, and forswore himself,—Which Jesu pardon!—

Q. Mar. Which God revenge!

G. To fight on Edward's party, for the crown;

And, for his meed, poor lord, he is mew'd up:

I would to heaven, my heart were flint like Ed-

Or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine; [ward's,

I am too childish-foolish for this world.

Q. M. Hie thee to hell for shame, and leave this

Thou caco-dæmon²! there thy kingdom is. [world:

Riv. My lord of Gloster, in those busy days,

Which here you urge to prove us enemies,

We follow'd then our lord, our lawful king;

So should we you, if you should be our king.

G. If I should be?—I had rather be a pedlar.

Far be it from my heart, the thought thereof!

Q. Eliz. As little joy, my lord, as you suppose

You should enjoy, were you this country's

As little joy you may suppose in me, [king;

That I enjoy, being the queen thereof.

Q. Mar. A little joy enjoys the queen thereof;

¹ Think.

² Evil spirit.

For I am she, and altogether joyless.

I can no longer hold me patient.—[*Advancing.*

Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fall out

In sharing that which you have pill'd¹ from me:

Which of you trembles not, that looks on me:

If not, that I being queen, you bow like subjects;

Yet that, by you depos'd, you quake like rebels?—

Ah, gentle villain, do not turn away! [sight?

G. Foulwrinkled witch, what mak'st thou in my

Q. M. But repetition of what thou hast marr'd;

That will I make, before I let thee go.

Glo. Wert thou not banished on pain of death?

Q. Mar. I was; but I do find more pain in

banishment,

Than death can yield me here by my abode.

A husband, and a son, thou ow'st to me,—

And thou, a kingdom;—all of you, allegiance:

This sorrow that I have, by right is yours;

And all the pleasures you usurp are mine.

Glo. The curse my noble father laid on thee,

When thou didst crown his warlike brows with

paper,

And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes;

And then, to dry them, gav'st the duke a clout,

Steep'd in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland;—

His curses, then from bitterness of soul

Denounced against thee, are all fall'n upon thee;

And God, not we, hath plagu'd thy bloody deed.

Q. Eliz. So just is God, to right the innocent.

Hast O, 'twas the foulest deed to slay that babe,

And the most merciless, that e'er was heard of.

Riv. Tyrants themselves wept when it was re-

ported.

Dors. No man but prophesied revenge for it.

B. Northumberland, then present, wept to see it.

Q. M. What! were you snarling all, before I

Ready to catch each other by the throat, [came,

And turn you all your hatred now on me?

Did York's dread curse prevail so much with

heaven,

That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,

Their kingdom's loss, my woful banishment,

Could all but answer for that peevish brat?

Can curses pierce the clouds, and enter heaven?

Why, then give way, dull clouds, to my quick

curses!—

Though not by war, by surfeit die your king,

As ours by murder, to make him a king!

Edward, thy son, that now is prince of Wales,

For Edward, my son, that was prince of Wales

Die in his youth, by like untimely violence!

Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,

Outlive thy glory like my wretched self!

Long mayst thou live, to wail thy children's loss;

And see another, as I see thee now,

Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art stall'd in mine!

Long die thy happy days before thy death;

And after many lengthen'd hours of grief,

Die neither mother, wife, nor England's queen!

Rivers,—and Dorset,—you were standers by,—

And so wast thou, lord Hastings,—when my son

Was stabb'd with bloody daggers; God, I pray him,

That none of you may live your natural age,

But by some unlook'd accident cut off! [hag.

G. Have done thy charm, thou hateful wither'd

Q. Mar. And leave out thee? stay, dog, for thou

shalt hear me.

¹ Pillaged.

If heaven have any grievous plague in store,
Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee,
O, let them keep it, till thy sins be ripe,
And then hurl down their indignation
On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace!
The worm of conscience still be-gnaw thy soul!
Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liv'st,
And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends!
No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,
Unless it be while some tormenting dream
Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils!
Thou elvish mark'd, abortive, rooting hog!
Thou that wast seal'd in thy nativity
The slave of nature, and the son of hell!
Thou rag of honour! thou detested—

Glo. Margaret.

Q. Mar. Richard!

Glo. Ha?

Q. Mar. I call thee not.

Glo. I cry thee mercy then; for I did think,
That thou hadst call'd me all these bitter names.

Q. Mar. Why, so I did; but look'd for no reply.
O, let me make the period to my curse.

Glo. 'Tis done by me; and ends in—Margaret.

Q. Eliz. Thus have you breath'd your curse
against yourself. [fortune!]

Q. Mar. Poor painted queen, vain flourish of my
Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottl'd spider,
Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

Fool, fool! thou whet'st a knife to kill thyself.
The day will come, that thou shalt wish for me
To help thee curse this pois'nous hunch-back'd
toad.

H. False-boding woman, end thy frantic curse;
Lest, to thy harm, thou move our patience.

Q. Mar. Foul shame upon you! you have all
mov'd mine.

Riv. Were you well serv'd, you would be taught
your duty. [duty,

Q. Mar. To serve me well, you all should do me
Teach me to be your queen, and you my subjects;
O, serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty.

Dors. Dispute not with her, she is lunatick.

Q. M. Peace, master marquis, you are malapert:
Your fire-new stamp of honour is scarce current²:

O, that your young nobility could judge,
What 'twere to lose it and be miserable! [them;
They that stand high, have many blasts to shake
And, if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.

Glo. Good counsel, marry;—learn it, learn it,
marquis.

Dors. It touches you, my lord, as much as me.

Glo. Ay, and much more: But I was born so high,
Our airy³ buildeth in the cedar's top,
And dallies with the wind, and scorns the sun.

Q. M. And turns the sun to shade;—alas! alas!—
Witness my son, now in the shade of death;
Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy
Hath in eternal darkness folded up. [wrath
Your airy buildeth in our airy's nest:—
O God, that seest it, do not suffer it;
As it was won with blood, lost be it so!

Buck. Peace, peace, for shame, if not for charity.

Q. Mar. Urge neither charity nor shame to me;
Uncharitably with me have you dealt,
And blamefully by you my hopes are butcher'd.

¹ Blasted.

³ Nest.

² Grey was just created Marquis of Dorset.

My charity is outrage, life my shame,—
And in my shame still live my sorrow's rage!

Buck. Have done, have done.

Q. M. O princely Buckingham, I kiss thy hand,
In sign of league and amity with thee:

Now fair befall thee, and thy noble house!
Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,
Nor thou within the compass of my curse.

Buck. Nor no one here; for curses never pass
The lips of those that breathe them in the air.

Q. Mar. I'll not believe but they ascend the sky.
O Buckingham, beware of yonder dog; [bites,
Look, when he fawns, he bites; and, when he
His venom tooth will rankle to the death:

Have not to do with him, beware of him;
Sin, death, and hell have set their marks on him;

And all their ministers attend on him.

Glo. What doth she say, my lord of Buckingham?

Buck. Nothing that I respect, my gracious lord.

Q. Mar. What, dost thou scorn me for my
gentle counsel?

And soothe the devil that I warn thee from?

O, but remember this another day,
When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow;

And say, poor Margaret was a prophetess.—
Live each of you the subjects to his hate,

And he to yours, and all of you to God's! [*Exit.*
H. My hair doth stand on end to hear her curses.

Riv. And so doth mine; I muse, why she's at
Glo. I cannot blame her. [liberty.

She hath had too much wrong, and I repent
My part thereof, that I have done to her.

Q. Eliz. I never did her any, to my knowledge.
Glo. Yet you have all the vantage of her wrong.

I was too hot to do some body good,
That is too cold in thinking of it now.

Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repaid;
He is frank'd¹ up to fattening for his pains;—
Heaven pardon them that are the cause thereof!

Riv. A virtuous and a Christian-like conclusion,
To pray for them that have done scath² to us.

Glo. [*Aside.*] So do I ever, being well advis'd;—
For had I curs'd now, I had curs'd myself.

Enter Catesby.

Cates. Madam, his majesty doth call for you,—
And for your grace,—and you, my noble lords.

Q. Eliz. Catesby, I come;—Lords, will you go
with me?

Riv. Madam, we will attend upon your grace.
[*Exeunt all but Gloucester.*

Glo. I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.
The secrets mischiefs that I set abroad,

I lay unto the grievous charge of others.
Clarence,—whom I, indeed, have laid in dark-

ness,—
I do bewep to many simple gulls;

Namely, to Stanley, Hastings, Buckingham;
And tell them—'tis the queen, and her allies,

That stir the king against the duke my brother.
Now they believe it; and withal whet me
To be reveng'd on Rivers, Vaughan, Grey:

But then I sigh, and, with a piece of scripture,
Tell them—that God bids us do good for evil:

And thus I close my naked villainy
With old odd ends, stol'n forth of holy writ:

And seem a saint, when most I play the devil.

¹ Put in a sty.

² Harm.

Enter two Murderers.

But soft, here come my executioners.—
How now, my hardy, stout resolved mates?
Are you now going to despatch this thing?

1 *Murd.* We are, my lord; and come to have
the warrant,

That we may be admitted where he is.

Glo. Well thought upon, I have it here about
me: *[Gives the Warrant.]*

When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.

But, sirs, be sudden in the execution,

Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead;

For Clarence is well spoken, and, perhaps,

May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.

1 *Murd.* Tut, tut, my lord, we will not stand
to prate,

We go to use our hands, and not our tongues.

Talkers are no good doers; be assur'd.

Glo. Your eyes drop mill-stones, when fools'
eyes drop tears:

I like you, lads;—about your business straight;

Go, go, despatch.

1 *Murd.* We will, my noble lord. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE TOWER.

Enter Clarence and Brakenbury.

Brak. Why looks your grace so heavily to-day?

Clar. O, I have passed a miserable night,
So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights,
That as I am a Christian faithful man,
I would not spend another such a night,
Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days;
So full of dismal terror was the time.

Brak. What was your dream, my lord? I pray
you, tell me. *[Tower,*

Clar. Methought that I had broken from the
And was embark'd to cross to Burgundy;
And, in my company, my brother Gloster:
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk
Upon the hatches; thence we look'd toward
And cited up a thousand heavy times [England,
During the wars of York and Lancaster
That had befallen us. As we pac'd along
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches, [ing,
Methought, that Gloster stumbled; and, in fall-
Struck me, that thought to stay him, overboard,
Into the tumbling billows of the main. [drown!
O heaven! methought, what pain it was to
What dreadful noise of water in mine ears!
What sights of ugly death within mine eyes!
Methought, I saw a thousand fearful wrecks;
A thousand men, that fishes gnaw'd upon;
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,
Inestimable stones, unvalu'd jewels,
All scattered in the bottom of the sea. [holes
Some lay in dead men's skulls; and, in those
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept
(As 'twere in scorn of eyes) reflecting gems,
That woo'd the slimy bottom of the deep, [by.
And mock'd the dead bones that lay scatter'd

Brak. Had you such leisure in the time of
To gaze upon these secrets of the deep? [death,

Clar. Methought, I had; and often did I strive
To yield the ghost: but still the envious flood
Kept in my soul, and would not let it forth
To seek the empty, vast, and wand'ring air;

But smother'd it within my panting bulk,
Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.

Brak. Awak'd you not with this sore agony?

Clar. O, no, my dream was lengthen'd after
O, then began the tempest to my soul! [life;
I pass'd, methought, the melancholy flood,
With that grim ferryman which poets write of,
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.

The first that there did greet my stranger soul,

Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick,

Who cry'd aloud—*What scourge for perjury*

Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?

And so he vanish'd. Then came wand'ring by

A shadow like an angel, with bright hair

Dabbled in blood; and he shriek'd out aloud,—

Clarence is come,—false, fleeting, perjured
Clarence,—

That stabb'd me in the field by Tewksbury;—

Seize on him, furies, take him to your torments!

With that, methought, a legion of foul fiends

Environ'd me, and howled in mine ears

Such hideous cries, that, with the very noise,

I trembling wak'd, and, for a season after,

Could not believe but that I was in hell;

Such terrible impression made my dream.

B. No marvel, lord, though it affrighted you;

I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

C. O, Brakenbury, I have done these things,

That now give evidence against my soul,—

For Edward's sake; and, see, how he requites

me! *[thee,*

O God! if my deep prayers cannot appease

But thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,

Yet execute thy wrath on me alone: [dren!—

O, spare my guiltless wife, and my poor child—

I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me:

My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep.

Brak. I will, my lord; God give your grace
good rest!—

[Clarence reposes himself on a chair.]

Sorrow breaks seasons, and reposing hours,

Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide

night.

Princes have but their titles for their glories,

An outward honour for an inward toil;

And, for unfelt imaginations,

They often feel a world of restless cares:

So that between their titles, and low name,

There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

Enter the two Murderers.

1 *Murd.* Ho! who's here?

Brak. What would'st thou, fellow? and how
cam'st thou hither?

1 *Murd.* I would speak with Clarence, and I
came hither on my legs.

Brak. What, so brief? *[tedious:—*

2 *Murd.* O, sir, 'tis better to be brief than
Let him see our commission; talk no more.

*[A paper is delivered to Brakenbury,
who reads it.]*

Brak. I am, in this, commanded to deliver

The noble Duke of Clarence to your hands:—

I will not reason what is meant hereby,

Because I will be guiltless of the meaning.

Here are the keys;—there sits the duke asleep:

I'll to the king; and signify to him,

That I thus have resign'd to you my charge.

1 *Murd.* You may, sir; 'tis a point of wisdom:
Fare you well. [*Exit Brakenbury.*]

2 *Murd.* What, shall we stab him as he sleeps?

1 *Murd.* No; he'll say, 'twas done cowardly,
when he wakes.

2 *Murd.* When he wakes! why, fool, he shall
never wake until the great judgment day.

1 *Murd.* Why, then he'll say, we stabb'd him
sleeping.

2 *Murd.* The urging of that word, judgment,
hath bred a kind of remorse in me.

1 *Murd.* What? art thou afraid?

2 *Murd.* Not to kill him, having a warrant
for it; but to be damn'd for killing him, from
the which no warrant can defend me.

1 *Murd.* I thought, thou hadst been resolute.

2 *Murd.* So I am, to let him live.

1 *Murd.* I'll back to the duke of Gloster,
and tell him so.

2 *Murd.* Nay, I pr'ythee, stay a little: I hope
this holy humour of mine will change; it was
wont to hold me but while one would tell twenty.

1 *Murd.* How dost thou feel thyself now?

2 *Murd.* 'Faith some certain dregs of con-
science are yet within me.

1 *Murd.* Remember our reward, when the
deed's done.

2 *Murd.* Come, he dies; I had forgot the reward.

1 *Murd.* Where's thy conscience now?

2 *Murd.* In the duke of Gloster's purse.

1 *Murd.* So when he opens his purse to give
us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

2 *Murd.* 'Tis no matter; let it go; there's
few, or none, will entertain it.

1 *Murd.* What, if it come to thee again?

2 *Murd.* I'll not meddle with it, it is a dan-
gerous thing, it makes a man a coward; a man
cannot steal, but it accuseth him; a man cannot
swear, but it checks him. 'Tis a blushing shame-
faced spirit, that mutinies in a man's bosom; it
fills one full of obstacles: it made me once re-
store a purse of gold, that by chance I found; it
beggars any man that keeps it: it is turned out
of all towns and cities for a dangerous thing;
and every man, that means to live well, endea-
vours to trust to himself, and live without it.

1 *Murd.* 'Zounds, it is even now at my elbow,
persuading me not to kill the duke.

2 *Murd.* Take the devil in thy mind, and
believe him not: he would insinuate with thee,
but to make thee sigh.

1 *Murd.* I am strong-fram'd, he cannot pre-
vail with me.

2 *Murd.* Spoke like a tall¹ fellow, that respects
his reputation. Come, shall we fall to work?

1 *Murd.* Take him over the costard² with the
hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the
malmsey-butt, in the next room.

2 *Murd.* O excellent device! and make a sop
of him.

1 *Murd.* Soft! he wakes.

2 *Murd.* Strike.

1 *Murd.* No, we'll reason with him.

Clar. Where art thou, keeper? give me a cup
of wine.

1 *Murd.* You shall have wine enough, my
lord, anon.

1 Brave.

2 Head.

Clar. In heaven's name, what art thou?

1 *Murd.* A man, as you are.

Clar. But not, as I am, royal.

1 *Murd.* Nor you, as we are, loyal.

Clar. Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are
humble.

1 *Murd.* My voice is now the king's, my
looks mine own.

Clar. How darkly, and how deadly dost thou
speak!

Your eyes do menace me: Why look you pale?
Who sent you hither? Wherefore do you come?

Both *Murd.* To, to, to,——

Clar. To murder me?

Both *Murd.* Ay, ay.

Clar. You scarcely have the hearts to tell meso,
And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it.
Wherein, my friends, have I offended you?

1 *Murd.* Offended us you have not, but the king.

Clar. I shall be reconcil'd to him again.

2 *M.* Never, my lord; therefore prepare to die.

C. Are you call'd forth from out a world of men,
To slay the innocent? What is my offence?
Where is the evidence that doth accuse me?

What lawful quest¹ have given their verdict up
Unto the frowning judge? or who pronounc'd
The bitter sentence of poor Clarence's death?

Before I be convict by course of law,
To threaten me with death is most unlawful.

I charge you, as you hope for any goodness,
By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins,

That you depart, and lay no hands on me;
The deed you undertake is damnable.

1 *Mu.* What we will do, we do upon command.

2 *M.* And he, that hath commanded, is our king.

Cl. Erroneous vassal! the great King of kings
Hath in the table of his law commanded,

That thou shalt do no murder: Wilt thou then
Spurn at his edict, and fulfil a man's?

Take heed; for he holds vengeance in his hand,
To hurl upon their heads that break his law.

2 *Murd.* And that same vengeance doth he
hurl on thee,

For false forswearing, and for murder too:

Thou didst receive the sacrament, to fight
In quarrel of the house of Lancaster.

1 *Murd.* And like a traitor to the name of God,
Didst break that vow; and, with thy treacherous
blade,

Unrip'dst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.

2 *Murd.* Whom thou wast sworn to cherish and
defend. [*law to us,*]

1 *Murd.* How canst thou urge God's dreadful
When thou hast broke it in such dear degree?

Clar. Alas! for whose sake did I that ill deed?
For Edward, for my brother, for his sake:

He sends you not to murder me for this;

For in that sin he is as deep as I.

If God will be avenged for the deed,

O, know you, that he doth it publicly;

Take not the quarrel from his powerful arm;

He needs no indirect nor lawless course,

To cut off those that have offended him.

1 *Murd.* Who made thee then a bloodyminister,
When gallant-springing, brave Plantagenet,

That princely novice, was struck dead by thee?

Clar. My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.

1 Jury.

1 *M.* Thy brother's love, our duty, and thy fault,
Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.

Clar. If you do love my brother, hate not me;
I am his brother, and I love him well.
If you are hir'd for meed, I go back again,
And I will send you to my brother Gloster;
Who shall reward you better for my life,
Than Edward will for tidings of my death.

2 *Murd.* You are deceiv'd, your brother Gloster hates you.

C. O, no; he loves me, and he holds me dear:
Go you to him from me.

Both Murd. Ay, so we will.

C. Tell him, when that our princely father York
Bless'd his three sons with his victorious arm,
And charg'd us from his soul to love each other,
He little thought of this divided friendship:
Bid Gloster think on this, and he will weep.

1 *M.* Ay, mill-stones; as he less'n'd us to weep.

Clar. O, do not slander him, for he is kind.

1 *Murd.* Right, as snow in harvest.—Come,
you deceive yourself;

'Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

Clar. It cannot be; for he bewept my fortune,
And hugg'd me in his arms, and swore, with sobs,
That he would labour my delivery.

1 *Murd.* Why, so he doth, when he delivers you
From this earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.

2 *Murd.* Make peace with God, for you must
die, my lord.

Clar. Hast thou that holy feeling in thy soul,
To counsel me to make my peace with God,
And art thou yet to thy own soul so blind,
That thou wilt war with God, by murd'ring me?
Ah, sirs, consider, he that set you on
To do this deed, will hate you for the deed.

2 *Murd.* What shall we do?

Clar. Relent, and save your souls.

1 *Murd.* Relent! 'tis cowardly, and womanish.

C. Not to relent, is beastly, savage, devilish.—
Which of you, if you were a prince's son,
Being pent² from liberty, as I am now,—
If two such murderers as yourselves came to
Would not entreat for life?— [you,—

My friend, I spy some pity in thy looks;
O, if thine eye be not a flatterer,
Come thou on my side, and entreat for me,
As you would beg, were you in my distress.
A begging prince, what beggar pities not?

2 *Murd.* Look behind you, my lord.

1 *Murd.* Take that, and that; if all this will
not do, [Stabs him.]
I'll drown you in the malmsey-butt within.

[Exit with the body.]

2 *Murd.* A bloody deed, and desperately despatch'd!

How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands
Of this most grievous guilty murder done!

Re-enter first Murderer.

1 *Murd.* How now? what mean'st thou, that
thou help'st me not?
By heaven, the duke shall know how slack you
have been. [brother!]

2 *Murd.* I would he knew, that I had sav'd his
Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say;
For I repent me that the duke is slain. [Exit.]

1 *Reward.*

2 *Shut up.*

1 *Murd.* So do not I: go, coward, as thou art.—
Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole,
Till that the duke give order for his burial:
And when I have my meed, I will away;
For this will out, and then I must not stay.

[Exit.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter King Edward (led in sick), Queen Elizabeth, Dorset, Rivers, Hastings, Buckingham, Grey, and others.

K. Edw. Why, so:—now have I done a good
day's work;—

You peers continue this united league:

I every day expect an embassy

From my Redeemer to redeem me hence;

And more in peace my soul shall part to heaven,
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth,
Rivers, and Hastings, take each other's hand;
Dissemble not your hatred, swear your love.

Riv. By heaven, my soul is purg'd from grudg-
ing hate!

And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

Hast. So thrive I, as I truly swear the like!

K. Edw. Take heed, you dally not before your
king;

Lest he, that is the supreme King of kings,
Confound your hidden falsehood, and award
Either of you to be the other's end.

Hast. So prosper I, as I swear perfect love!

Riv. And I, as I love Hastings with my heart!

K. E. Madam, yourself are not exempt in this,—
Nor your son Dorset,—Buckingham, nor you;—
You have been factious one against the other.
Wife, lov'd lord Hastings, let him kiss your hand;
And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

Q. Eliz. There, Hastings;—I will never more
remember

Our former hatred; So thrive I, and mine!

K. Edw. Dorset, embrace him,—Hastings,
love lord marquis.

Dors. This interchange of love, I here protest,
Upon my part shall be inviolable.

Hast. And so swear I. [Embraces Dorset.]

K. Edw. Now, princely Buckingham, seal
thou this league,

With thy embracements to my wife's allies,
And make me happy in your unity.

Buck. Whenever Buckingham doth turn his
hate [duteous love]

Upon your grace, [To the Queen.] but with all
Doth cherish you, and yours, Heaven punish me
With hate in those where I expect most love!
When I have most need to employ a friend,
And most assured that he is a friend,
Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile,
Be he unto me! this do I beg of heaven,
When I am cold in love, to you or yours.

[Embracing Rivers, &c.]

K. E. A pleasing cordial, princely Buckingham,
Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart.

There wanteth now our brother Gloster here,
To make the blessed period of this peace.

B. And, in good time, here comes the noble duke.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. Good morrow to my sovereign king, and queen;

And, princely peers, a happy time of day!

K. E. Happy, indeed, as we have spent the Brother, we have done deeds of charity; [day:—Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate, Between these swelling wrong-incensed peers.

G. A blessed labour, my most sovereign liege.—Among this princely heap, if any here, By false intelligence, or wrong surmise, Hold me a foe;

If I unwittingly, or in my rage, Have aught committed that is hardly borne By any in this presence, I desire To reconcile me to his friendly peace:

'Tis death to me, to be at enmity; I hate it, and desire all good men's love.—First, madam, I entreat true peace of you, Which I will purchase with my duteous service;—Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham, If ever any grudge were lodg'd between us; Of you, lord Rivers,—and lord Grey, of you, That all without desert have frown'd on me;—Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen; indeed, of all. I do not know that Englishman alive, With whom my soul is any jot at odds, More than the infant that is born to-night; I thank my God for my humility. [after:—

Q. E. A holy-day shall this be kept here.—I would to heaven all strifes were well compounded.—

My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

Glo. Why, madam, have I offer'd love for this, To be so flouted in this royal presence?

Who knows not, that the gentle duke is dead?

[*They all start.*

You do him injury to scorn his corse. [he is?

K. E. Who knows not he is dead! who knows

Q. E. All-seeing heaven, what a world is this!

Buck. Look I so pale, lord Dorset, as the rest?

Dors. Ay, my good lord; and no man in the presence,

But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks.

K. E. Is Clarence dead? the order was revers'd.

Glo. But he, poor man, by your first order died, And that a winged Mercury did bear; Some tardy-cripple bore the countermand, That came too lag¹ to see him buried:—[loyal, Heaven grant, that some, less noble, and less Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood, Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did, And yet go current from suspicion!

Enter Stanley.

S. A boon, my sovereign, for my service done.

K. Edw. I pry'thee, peace, my soul is full of sorrow.

S. I will not rise, unless your highness hear me.

K. Edw. Then say at once, what is it thou request'st.

S. The forfeit,² sovereign, of my servant's life; Who slew to-day a riotous gentleman, Lately attendant on the duke of Norfolk. [death,

K. E. Have I a tongue to doom my brother's And shall that tongue give pardon to a slave?

¹ Tardy.

² Remission of forfeit

My brother kill'd no man, his fault was thought, And yet his punishment was bitter death.

Who sued to me for him? who, in my wrath,

Kneel'd at my feet, and bade me be advis'd?

Who spoke of brotherhood? who spoke of love?

Who told me, how the poor soul did forsake

The mighty Warwick, and did fight for me?

Who told me, in the field of Tewksbury,

When Oxford had me down, he rescued me,

And said, *Dear brother, live, and be a king?*

Who told me, when we both lay in the field,

Frozen almost to death, how he did lap me

Even in his garments; and did give himself,

All thin and naked, to the numb-cold night?

All this from my remembrance brutish wrath

Sinfully pluck'd, and not a man of you

Had so much grace to put it in my mind.

But when your carters or your waiting vassals,

Have done a drunken slaughter, and defac'd

The precious image of our dear Redeemer,

You straight are on your knees for pardon, pardon;

And I, unjustly too, must grant it you:—

But for my brother, not a man would speak,—

Nor I (ungracious) speak unto myself

For him, poor soul.—The proudest of you all

Have been beholden to him in his life;

Yet none of you would once plead for his life.—

O Heaven! I fear thy justice will take hold

On me, and you, and mine, and yours, for this.—

On me, Hastings, help me to my closet. O,

Poor Clarence!

[*Exeunt King, Queen, Hastings, Rivers,*

Dorset, and Grey.

G. This is the fruit of rashness!—Mark'd you

How that the guilty kindred of the queen [not,

Look'd pale, when they did hear of Clarence's death?

O! they did urge it still unto the king;

Heaven will revenge it. Come, lords; will you

To comfort Edward with our company? [go,

Buck. We wait upon your grace. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter the Duchess of York, with a Son and Daughter of Clarence.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father dead?

Duch. No, boy. [breast:

Daugh. Why do you weep so oft? and beat your And cry—O, Clarence, my unhappy son!

S. Why do you look on us, and shake your head,

And call us—orphans, wretches, cast-aways,

If that our noble father be alive?

Duch. My pretty cousins, you mistake me both.

I do lament the sickness of the king,

As loath to lose him, not your father's death;

It were lost sorrow, to wail one that's lost.

S. Then, grandam, you conclude that he is dead.

The king my uncle is to blame for this.

God will revenge it; whom I will importune

With earnest prayers all to that effect.

Daugh. And so will I.

Duch. Peace, children, peace! the king doth love you well?

Incapable and shallow innocents, [death.

You cannot guess who caus'd your father's

S. Grandam, we can: for my good uncle Gloster

Told me, the king, provok'd to't by the queen,

Devis'd impeachments to imprison him:

And when my uncle told me so, he wept,
And pitied me, and kindly kiss'd my cheek;
Bade me rely on him, as on my father,
And he would love me dearly as his child.

Du. Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle
And with a virtuous visor hide deep vice! [shapes,
He is my son, ay, and therein my shame,
Yet from my breast he drew not this deceit.

Son. Think you, my uncle did dissemble, gran-

Du. Ay, boy. [dam?

Son. I cannot think it. Hark! what noise is this?

*Enter Queen Elizabeth, distractedly; Rivers
and Dorset following her.*

Q. Eliz. Ah! who shall hinder me to wail and
To chide my fortune, and torment myself? [weep?
I'll join with black despair against my soul,
And to myself become an enemy.

Du. What means this scene of rude impatience?

Q. Eliz. To make an act of tragick violence:—
Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead.
Why grow the branches, when the root is gone?
Why wither not the leaves, that want their sap?—
If you will live, lament; if die, be brief;
That our swift-winged souls may catch the
Or, like obedient subjects, follow him [king's;
To his new kingdom of perpetual rest.

Du. Ah, so much interest have I in thy sorrow,
As I had title in thy noble husband!

I have bewept a worthy husband's death,
And liv'd by looking on his images;
But now two mirrors of his princely semblance
Are crack'd in pieces by malignant death;
And I for comfort have but one false glass,
That grieves me when I see my shame in him.
Thou art a widow; yet thou art a mother,
And hast the comfort of thy children left thee:
But death has snatched my husband from my
arms,

And pluck'd two crutches from my feeble hands,
Clarence and Edward. O, what cause have I,
(Thine being but a moiety of my grief,)
To over-go thy plaints, and drown thy cries!

S. Ah, aunt! you weep not for our father's death;
How can we aid you with our kindred tears?

Dau. Our fatherless distress was left unmoan'd,
Your widow-dolour likewise be unwept!

Q. Eliz. Give me no help in lamentation,
I am not barren to bring forth laments:
All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,
That I, being govern'd by the wat'ry moon,
May send forth plenteous tears to drown the
world!

Ah, for my husband, for my dear lord Edward!

Chil. Ah, for our father, for our dear lord
Clarence! [Clarence!

Du. Alas, for both, both mine, Edward and
Q. Eliz. What stay had I, but Edward? and
he's gone. [gone.

Chil. What stay had we, but Clarence? and he's
Du. What stays had I, but Clarence? and they are
Q. E. Was never widow had so dear a loss. [gone.

Chil. Were never orphans, had so dear a loss.
Du. Was never mother, had so dear a loss.

Alas! I am the mother of these griefs;
Their woes are parcel'd, mine are general.
She for an Edward weeps, and so do I;
I for a Clarence weep, so doth not she:

1 Divided.

These babes for Clarence weep, and so do I:

I for an Edward weep, so do not they:

Alas! you three, on me, threefold distress'd,
Pour all your tears; I am your sorrow's nurse,
And I will pamper it with lamentations. [pleas'd,

Dors. Comfort, dear mother; God is much dis-
That you take with unthankfulness his doing;
In common worldly things, 'tis called—ungrate-
With dull unwillingness to repay a debt, [ful,
Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent;
Much more to be thus opposite with heaven,
For it requires the royal debt it lent you.

Riv. Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,
Of the young prince your son: send straight
for him.

Let him be crown'd; in him your comfort lives:
Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave,
And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.
*Enter Gloster, Buckingham, Stanley, Hastings,
Ratcliffe, and others.*

Glo. Sister, have comfort: all of us have cause
To wail the dimming of our shining star;
But none can cure their harms by wailing them.—
Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy,
I did not see your grace:—Humbly on my knee
I crave your blessing. [breast.

Du. God bless thee; and put meekness in thy
Love, charity, obedience, and true duty!

G. Amen; and make me die a good old man!—
[Aside.] That is the butt-end of a mother's bless-
I marvel that her grace did leave it out. [ing;

Buc. You cloudy princes, and heart-sorrowing
That bear this mutual heavyload of moan, [peers,
Now cheer each other in each other's love:
Though we have spent our harvest of this king,
We are to reap the harvest of his son.

The broken rancour of your high-swoln hearts,
But lately splinted, knit, and join'd together,
Must gently be preserv'd, cherish'd, and kept:
Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,
Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be
Hither to London, to be crown'd our king. [fetch'd

Riv. Why with some little train, my lord of
Buckingham?

B. Marry, my lord, lest by a multitude, [out;
The new-heal'd wound of malice should break
Which would be so much the more dangerous,
By how much the estate is green, and yet un-
governed:

Where every horse bears his commanding reign,
And may direct his course as please himself,
As well the fear of harm, as harm apparent,
In my opinion, ought to be prevented.

Glo. I hope, the king made peace with all of
And the compact is firm, and true, in me. [us;

Riv. And so in me; and so, I think, in all:
Yet, since it is but green, it should be put
To no apparent likelihood of breach, [urg'd:
Which, haply, by much company might be
Therefore, I say, with noble Buckingham,
That it is meet so few should fetch the prince.

Hast. And so say I.

Glo. Then be it so; and go we to determine
Who they shall be that straight shall post to Lud-
Madam,--and you my mother,--will you go [low.
To give your censures! in this weighty business?

[Exeunt all but Buckingham and Gloster.

1 Opinions.

Buck. My lord, whoever journeys to the prince,
For heaven's sake, let not us two stay at home:
For, by the way, I'll sort occasion,
As index¹ to the story we late talk'd of, [prince.
To part the queen's proud kindred from the
Glo. My other self, my counsel's consistory,
My oracle, my prophet!—My dear cousin,
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.
Towards Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—A STREET.

Enter two Citizens, meeting.

- 1 *Cit.* Good morrow, neighbour: Whither
away so fast?
2 *Cit.* I promise you, I scarcely know myself:
Hear you the news abroad?
1 *Cit.* Yes; the king's dead.
2 *Cit.* Ill news, by'r lady; seldom comes the
I fear, I fear, 'twill prove a giddy world. [better:

Enter another Citizen.

- 3 *Cit.* Neighbours, God speed.
1 *Cit.* Give you good morrow, sir.
3 *Cit.* Doth the newshold of good king Edward's
2 *Cit.* Ay, sir, it is too true. [death?
3 *Cit.* Then, masters, look to see a troublous
world. [reign.
1 *Cit.* No, no; by God's good grace, hisson shall
3 *Cit.* Woe to that land, that's govern'd by a
child!
2 *Cit.* In him there is a hope of government;
That in this nonage,² council under him,
And, in his full and ripen'd years, himself,
No doubt, shall then, and till then, govern well.
1 *Cit.* So stood the state, when Henry the sixth
Was crown'd in Paris but at nine months old.
3 *Cit.* Stood the states so? no, no, good friends, not
For then this land was famously enrich'd [so;
With politick grave counsel; then the king
Had virtuous uncles to protect his grace. [mother.
1 *Cit.* Why, so hath this, both by his father and
3 *Cit.* Better it were they all came by his father;
Or, by his father, there were none at all:
For emulation now, who shall be nearest,
Will touch us all too near, if heaven prevent not.
O, full of danger is the duke of Gloster;
And the queen's sons, and brothers, haught and
And were they to be rul'd, and not to rule. [proud:
This sickly land might solace as before.

- 1 *Cit.* Come, come, we fear the worst; all will
be well. [cloaks;
3 *Cit.* When clouds are seen, wise men put on their
When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand;
When the sun sets, who doth not look for night?
Untimely storms make men expect a dearth:
All may be well; but, if heaven sort it so,
'Tis more than we deserve, or I expect.
2 *Cit.* Truly, the hearts of men are full of fear:
You cannot reason³ almost with a man
That looks not heavily, and full of dread.
3 *Cit.* Before the days of change, still is it so:
By a divine instinct, men's minds mistrust
Ensuing danger; as, by proof, we see
The water swell before a boisterous storm.
But leave it all to heaven. Whither away?

1 Prelude. 2 Minority. 3 Converse.

- 2 *Cit.* Marry, we were sent for to the justices.
3 *Cit.* And so was I; I'll bear you company.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter the Archbishop of York, the young Duke of York, Queen Elizabeth, and the Duchess of York.

- Arch.* Last night, I heard, they lay at Stony-
Stratford;
And at Northampton they do rest to-night:
To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.
D. I long with all my heart to see the prince;
I hope, he is much grown since last I saw him.
Q. E. But I hear no; they say my son of York
Hath almost overtaken him in his growth.
York. Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.
Duch. Why, my young cousin? it is good to
grow.

Y. Grandam, one night, as we did sit at supper,
My uncle Rivers talk'd how I did grow
More than my brother; *Ay*, quoth my uncle
Gloster, [apace:
Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow
And since, methinks, I would not grow so fast,
Because sweet flowers are slow, and weeds make
haste.

- D.* 'Good faith, 'good faith, the saying did not
In him that did object the same to thee: [hold
He was the wretched'st thing, when he was young,
So long a growing, and so leisurely,
That, if his rule were true, he should be gracious.
A. And so, no doubt, he is, my gracious madam.
Duch. I hope, he is; but yet let mothers doubt.
York. Now, by my troth, if I had been re-
member'd,

I could have given my uncle's grace a flout,¹
To touch his growth, nearer than he touch'd mine.
Duch. How, my young York? I pry thee, let
me hear it.

- York.* Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast,
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old;
'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.
Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.
D. I pry thee, pretty York, who told you this?
York. Grandam, his nurse. [born.
D. His nurse? why, she was dead ere thou wast
Y. If 'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.
Q. E. A parlous boy: Go to, you are too shrewd.
Arch. Good madam, be not angry with the
Q. Eliz. Pitchers have ears. [child.

Enter a Messenger.

- Arch.* Here comes a messenger:
What news?
Mess. Such news, my lord,
As grieves me to unfold.
Q. Eliz. How doth the prince?
Mess. Well, madam, and in health.
Duch. What is thy news?
Mess. Lord Rivers, and Lord Grey, are sent
to Pomfret,
With them Sir Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.
Duch. Who hath committed them?
Mess. The mighty dukes,
Gloster and Buckingham.
1 Mock.

Q. Eliz. For what offence?

Mess. The sum of all I can, I have disclos'd; Why, or for what, the nobles were committed, Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

Q. Eliz. Ah me, I see the ruin of my house! The tiger now hath seized the gentle hind: Insulting tyranny begins to jut Upon the innocent and awless throne:— Welcome destruction, blood, and massacre! I see, as in a map, the end of all.

Duch. Accursed and unquiet wrangling days! How many of you have mine eyes beheld? My husband lost his life to get the crown; And often up and down my sons were tost, For me to joy and weep, their gain and loss: And being seated, and domestic broils Clean over-blown, themselves, the conquerors, Make war upon themselves; brother to brother, Blood to blood, self 'gainst self:—O, preposterous And frantick courage, end thy wicked spleen! Or let me die, to look on death no more!

Q. Eliz. Come, come, my boy, we will to sanctuary.—
Madam, farewell.

Duch. Stay, I will go with you.

Q. Eliz. You have no cause.

Arch. My gracious lady, go,
[To the Queen.]

And thither bear your treasure and your goods. For my part, I'll resign unto your grace The seal I keep; And so betide me, As well I tender you, and all of yours! Come, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary. [Exeunt.]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A STREET.

The Trumpets sound. Enter the Prince of Wales, Gloster, Buckingham, Cardinal Bourchier, and others.

Buck. Welcome, sweet prince, to London, to your chamber. [reign:]

Glo. Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sove-The weary way hath made you melancholy.

Prince. No, uncle; but our crosses on the way Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy: I want more uncles here to welcome me. [years]

Glo. Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your Hath not yet div'd into the world's deceit: No more can you distinguish of a man, Than of his outward show; which, heaven knows, Seldom, or never, jumpeth with the heart. Those uncles, which you want, were dangerous; Your grace attended to their sugar'd words, But look'd not on the poison of their hearts: Heaven keep you from them, and from such false friends!

Prince. Heaven keep me from false friends! but they were none.

Glo. My lord, the mayor of London comes to greet you.

Enter the Lord Mayor, and his Train.

May. God bless your grace with health and happy days!

Prince. I thank you, good my lord,—and thank you all.— [Exeunt Mayor, &c.] I thought my mother, and my brother York, Would long ere this have met us on the way: Fie! what a slug is Hastings, that he comes not To tell us, whether they will come, or no.

Enter Hastings.

Buck. And in good time, here comes the sweating lord.

Prince. Welcome, my lord; What, will our mother come?

Hast. On what occasion, heaven knows, not I, The queen your mother, and your brother York, Have taken sanctuary: The tender prince Would fain have come with me to meet you But by his mother was perforce withheld. [grace.]

Buck. Fie! what an indirect and peevish course Is this of hers!—Lord cardinal, will your grace Persuade the queen to send the duke of York, Unto his princely brother presently?

If she deny,—lord Hastings, go with him, And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

C. My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory Can from his mother win the duke of York, Anon expect him here; But if she be obdurate To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid We should infringe the holy privilege Of blessed sanctuary! not for all this land, Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.

Buck. You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord, Too ceremonious, and traditional:

Weigh it but with the grossness of this age, You break not sanctuary in seizing him, The benefit thereof is always granted To those whose dealings have deserv'd the place, And those who have the wit to claim the place: This prince hath neither claim'd it, nor deserv'd it, And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it: Then, taking him from thence, that is not there, You break no privilege, nor charter there. Oft have I heard of sanctuary men;

But sanctuary children, ne'er till now. [once.—]

Card. My lord, you shall o'er-rule my mind for Come on, lord Hastings, will you go with me?

Hast. I go, my lord.

Pr. Good lords, make all the speedy haste you may. [Exeunt Cardinal and Hastings.]

Say, uncle Gloster, if our brother come, Where shall we sojourn till our coronation?

Glo. Where it seems best unto your royal self. If I may counsel you, some day or two, Your highness shall repose you at the Tower: Then where you please, and shall be thought For your best health and recreation. [most fit]

Prince. I do not like the Tower, of any place:— Did Julius Cæsar build that place, my lord?

Glo. He did, my gracious lord, begin that place: Which, since succeeding ages have re-edified.

Prince. Is it upon record? or else reported? Successively from age to age he built it?

Buck. Upon record, my gracious lord.

Prince. But say, my lord, it were not register'd; Methinks, the truth should live from age to age, As 'twere retail'd to all posterity, Even to the general all-ending day.

Glo. [Aside.] So wise so young, they say, do ne'er live long.

Prince. What say you, uncle? [long.]

Glo. I say, without characters, fame lives
[*Aside.*] Thus like the formal vice,¹ Iniquity,
I moralize two meanings in one word. [man;

Prince. That Julius Cæsar was a famous
With what his valour did enrich his wit,
His wit set down to make his valour live:
Death makes no conquest of this conqueror;
For now he lives in fame, though not in life.—
I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham.

Buck. What, my gracious lord?

Prince. An if I live until I be a man,
I'll win our ancient right in France again,
Or die a soldier, as I liv'd a king.

Glo. [*Aside.*] Short summers lightly² have a
forward spring.

Enter York, Hastings, and the Cardinal.

Buck. Now, in good time, here comes the
duke of York. [loving brother?

Prince. Richard of York! how fares our
Y. Well, my dread lord; so must I call you
now. yours;

Prince. Ay, brother; to our grief, as it is
Too late³ he died, that might have kept that title,
Which by his death hath lost much majesty.

G. How fares our cousin, noble lord of York?

Y. I thank you, gentle uncle. O, my lord,
You said, that idle weeds are fast in growth:
The prince, my brother, hath outgrown me far.

Glo. He hath, my lord.

York. And therefore is he idle?

Glo. O, my fair cousin, I must not say so.

Y. Then is he more beholden to you, than I.

Glo. He may command me, as my sovereign;
But you have power in me as in a kinsman.

Y. I pray you, uncle, then, give me this
dagger. [heart.]

Glo. My dagger, little cousin? with all my
Prince. A beggar, brother? [give;

York. Of my kind uncle, that I know will

And being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

G. A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin.

Y. A greater gift! O, that's the sword to it?

Glo. Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough.

Y. O then, I see, you'll part but with light
gifts;

In weightier things you'll say a beggar nay.

G. It is too weighty for your grace to wear.

York. I weigh it lightly, were it heavier.

Glo. What, would you have my weapon,
little lord? [call me.]

York. I would, that I might thank you as you
Glo. How?

York. Little.

P. My lord of York will still be cross in talk;—
Uncle, your grace knows how to bear with him.

York. You mean, to bear me, not to bear
with me:—

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me;
Because that I am little, like an ape,
He thinks that you should bear me on your
shoulders. [sons!]

B. With what a sharp-provided wit he rea-
To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle,
He prettily and aptly taunts himself:

¹ Vice, the buffoon in the old plays. ³ Lately.

² Commonly.

So cunning, and so young, is wonderful. [along?

G. My gracious lord, will't please you pass
Myself, and my good cousin Buckingham,
Will to your mother; to entreat of her,

To meet you at the Tower, and welcome you.

Y. What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord?

P. My lord protector needs will have it so.

York. I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

Glo. Why, sir, what should you fear?

York. Marry, my uncle Clarence's angry ghost;
My grandam told me, he was murder'd there.

Prince. I fear no uncles dead.

Glo. Nor none that live, I hope.

P. An if they live, I hope, I need not fear.

But come, my lord, and, with a heavy heart,
Thinking on them, go I unto the Tower.

[*Exeunt Prince, York, Hastings, Cardinal,
and Attendants.*

B. Think you, my lord, this little prating York
Was not incensed¹ by his subtle mother,
To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?

G. No doubt, no doubt; O, 'tis a parlous boy;
Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable²;
He's all the mother's, from the top to toe.

Buck. Well, let them rest.—

Come hither, gentle Catesby; thou art sworn
As deeply to effect what we intend,

As closely to conceal what we impart:

Thou know'st our reasons urg'd upon the way:—

What think'st thou, is it not an easy matter

To make William lord Hastings of our mind,

For the instalment of this noble duke

In the seat royal of this famous isle? [prince,

Cate. He for his father's sake so loves the
That he will not be won to aught against him.

Buck. What think'st thou then of Stanley?
will not he?

Cate. He will do all in all as Hastings doth.

Buck. Well then, no more but this: Go,
gentle Catesby,

And, as it were far off, sound thou lord Hastings,
How he doth stand affected to our purpose;

And summon him to-morrow to the Tower,

To sit about the coronation.

If thou dost find him tractable to us,

Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons:

If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling,

Be thou so too; and so break off the talk,

And give us notice of his inclination:

For we to-morrow hold divided³ councils,

Wherein thyself shalt highly be employ'd.

Glo. Commend me to Lord William: tell
him, Catesby,

His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries

To-morrow are let blood at Pomfret-castle;

And bid my friend for joy of this good news,

Give mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.

Buck. Good Catesby, go, effect this business
soundly.

Cate. My good lords both, with all the heed I
can. sleep?

Glo. Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we

Cate. You shall, my lord,

Glo. At Crosby-place, there shall you find
us both. [Exit Catesby.]

Buck. Now, my lord, what shall we do, if we
perceive

¹ Incited. ² Intelligent. ³ Private or separate.

Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots ?

Glo. Chop off his head, man :—somewhat we will do :—

And, look, when I am king, claim thou of me The earldom of Hereford, and all the movables Whereof the king my brother was possess'd.

B. I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

G. And look to have it yielded with all kindness.

Come, let us sup betimes ; that afterwards

We may digest our complots in some form.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—BEFORE LORD HASTINGS' HOUSE.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. My lord, my lord,— [Knocking.]

Hast. [Within.] Who knocks?

Mess. One from lord Stanley.

Hast. [Within.] What is't o'clock?

Mess. Upon the stroke of four.

Enter Hastings.

H. Cannot thy master sleep the tedious nights?

Mess. So it should seem by that I have to say.

First he commends him to your noble lordship.

Hast. And then,—

Mess. And then he sends you word, he dreamt

To-night the boar had ras'd off his helm :

Besides, he says, there are two councils held ;

And that may be determin'd at the one,

Which may make you and him to rue at the other.

Therefore he sends to know your lordship's pleasure,—

If presently, you will take horse with him,
And with all speed post with him toward the north,

To shun the danger that his soul divines.

Hast. Go, fellow, go, return unto thy lord ;

Bid him not fear the separated councils :

His honour, and myself, are at the one ;

And, at the other, is my good friend Catesby ;

Where nothing can proceed, that toucheth us,

Whereof I shall not have intelligence.

Tell him, his fears are shallow, wanting instance¹ :

And for his dreams—I wonder, he's so fond²

To trust the mockery of unquiet slumbers :

To fly the boar, before the boar pursues,

Were to incense the boar to follow us,

And make pursuit, where he did mean no chase.

Go, bid thy master rise and come to me ;

And we will both together to the Tower,

Where, he shall see, the boar³ will use us kindly.

M. I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you say.

[*Exit.*]

Enter Catesby.

Cate. Many good morrows to my noble lord !

Hast. Good morrow, Catesby ; you are early stirring :

What news, what news, in this our tottering state?

Cate. It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord ;

And, I believe, will never stand upright,

Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

Hast. How ! wear the garland ? dost thou mean the crown ?

Cate. Ay, my good lord.

Hast. I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders,

Before I'll see the crown so foul misplac'd.

But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it ?

Cate. Ay, on my life ; and hopes to find you forward

Upon his party, for the gain thereof ;

And, thereupon, he sends you this good news,—

That, this same very day, your enemies,

The kindred of the queen, must die at Pomfret.

Hast. Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,

Because they have been still my adversaries :

But, that I'll give my voice on Richard's side,

To bar my master's heirs in true descent,

God knows, I will not do it, to the death.

Cate. God keep your lordship in that gracious mind !

Hast. But I shall laugh at this a twelve-month hence,

That they, who brought me in my master's hate,
I live to look upon their tragedy.

Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older,

I'll send some packing, that yet think not on't.

Cate. 'Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,

When men are unprepar'd, and look not for it.

H. O monstrous, monstrous ! and so falls it out

With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey : and so 'twill do

With some men else, who think themselves as safe

As thou, and I ; who, as thou know'st, are dear

To princely Richard, and to Buckingham.

C. The princes both make high account of you,—

[*Aside.*] For they account his head upon the bridge.

H. I know, they do ; and I have well deserv'd it !

Enter Stanley.

Come on, come on, where is your boar-spear, man ?

Fear you the boar, and go so unprovided ?

S. My lord, good morrow ; and good morrow, Catesby :—

You may jest on, but, by the holy rood,¹

I do not like these several² councils, I.

Hast. My lord, I hold my life as dear as yours ;

And never, in my life, I do protest,

Was it more precious to me than 'tis now :

Think you, but that I know our state secure,

I would be so triumphant as I am ?

Stan. The lords at Pomfret, when they rode from London,

Were jocund, and suppos'd their states were sure,

And they, indeed, had no cause to mistrust ;

But yet, you see, how soon the day o'er-cast.

This sudden stab of rancour I misdoubt ;

Pray heaven, I say, I prove a needless coward !

What, shall we toward the Tower ? the day is spent.

Hast. Come, come, have with you.—Wot³ you what, my lord ?

To-day, the lords you talk of are beheaded.

Stan. They for their truth, might better wear their heads,

Than some, that have accus'd them, wear their

But come, my lord, let's away. [Hats.]

Enter a Pursuivant.

Hast. Go on before, I'll talk with this good fellow. [*Exeunt Stanley and Catesby.*]

How now, sirrah, how goes the world with thee ?

1 Foundation. 2 Weak. 3 The arms of Gloster.

1 Cross. 2 Separate or private. 3 Know.

P. The better that your lordship please to ask.
Hast. I tell thee, man, 'tis better with me now,
 Than when thou met'st me last where now we meet:

Then was I going prisoner to the Tower,
 By the suggestion of the queen's allies;
 But now I tell thee, (keep it to thyself,)
 This day those enemies are put to death,
 And I in better state than e'er I was. [Content.

Purs. Heaven hold it, to your honour's good

Hast. Gramercy, fellow: There, drink that
 for me. [Throwing him his Purse.

Purs. I thank your honour. [Exit Pursuiv.

Enter a Priest.

Pr. Well met, my lord; I am glad to see your
 honour. [Heart.

Hast. I thank thee, good Sir John, with all my
 I am in your debt for your last exercise;
 Come the next Sabbath, and I will content you.

Enter Buckingham.

Buck. What, talking with a priest, lord
 chamberlain?

Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the priest;
 Your honour hath no shriving¹ work in hand.

Hast. Good faith, and when I met this holyman,
 The men you talk of came into my mind.

What, go you toward the Tower?

B. I do, my lord; but long I cannot stay there:
 I shall return before your lordship thence.

Hast. Nay, like enough, for I stay dinner there.

Buck. And supper too, although thou know'st
 it not. [Aside.

Come, will you go?

Hast. I'll wait upon your lordship. [Exit.

SCENE III.—POMFRET. BEFORE THE CASTLE.

*Enter Ratcliff, with a Guard, conducting Rivers,
 Grey, and Vaughan, to Execution.*

Rat. Come, bring forth the prisoners.

Riv. Sir Richard Ratcliff, let me tell thee this,—
 To-day, shalt thou behold a subject die,
 For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

G. God keep the prince from all the pack of you!
 A knot you are of cursed bloodsuckers.

Vaugh. You live, that shall cry woe for this
 hereafter.

Rat. Despatch; the limit of your lives is out.

Riv. O Pomfret, Pomfret! O thou bloody prison,
 Fatal and ominous to noble peers!

Within the guilty closure of thy walls,
 Richard the second here was hack'd to death:

And, for more slander to thy dismal seat,
 We give thee up our guiltless blood to drink.

Grey. Now Margaret's curse is fall'n upon
 our heads,

When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you, and I,
 For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

Riv. Then curs'd she Hastings, curs'd she
 Buckingham,

Then curs'd she Richard:—O, remember, God,
 To hear her prayers for them, as now for us!

And for my sister, and her princely sons,—
 Be satisfied, great God, with our true bloods,
 Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt!

Rat. Make haste, the hour of death is expiate.²

¹ Confession (before execution). ² Expired.

Riv. Come, Grey,—come, Vaughan,—let us
 here embrace:

Farewell, until we meet again in heaven.

[Exit.

SCENE IV.

LONDON. A ROOM IN THE TOWER.

*Buckingham, Stanley, Hastings, the Bishop of
 Ely, Catesby, Lovel, and others, sitting at a
 Table: Officers of the Council attending.*

H. Now, noble peers, the cause why we are met
 Is—to determine of the coronation:

In God's name speak, when is the royal day?

Buck. Are all things ready for that royal time?

Stan. They are; and wants but nomination.

Ely. To-morrow, then, I judge a happy day.

B. Who knows the lord protector's mind
 herein?

Who is most inward¹ with the noble duke?

Ely. Your grace, we think, should soonest
 know his mind.

B. We know each other's faces; for our hearts,—
 He knows no more of mine, than I of yours;

Nor I, of his, my lord, than you of mine:—
 Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

H. I thank his grace, I know he loves me well;
 But, for his purpose in the coronation,

I have not sounded him, nor he deliver'd
 His gracious pleasure any way therein:

But you, my noble lord, may name the time;
 And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,

Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

Enter Gloster.

E. In happy time, here comes the duke himself.

G. My noble lords and cousins, all goodmorrow:
 I have been long a sleeper; but, I trust,

My absence doth neglect no great design,
 Which by my presence might have been con-

cluded.

B. Had you not come upon your cue,² my lord,
 William lord Hastings had pronounc'd your

part,—
 I mean, your voice,—for crowning of the king.

Glo. Than my lord Hastings, no man might be
 bolder;

His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.—
 My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,

I saw good strawberries in your garden there;
 I do beseech you, send for some of them.

Ely. Marry, and will, my lord, with all my
 heart. [Exit Ely.

Glo. Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you.

[Takes him aside.

Catesby hath sounded Hastings on our business;
 And finds the testy gentleman so hot,

That he will lose his head, ere give consent,
 His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,

Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

Buc. Withdraw yourself awhile, I'll go with you.

[Exit Buckingham and Gloster.

Stan. We have not yet set down this day of
 triumph.

To-morrow, in my judgment, is too sudden;
 For I myself am not so well provided,

As else I would be were the day prolong'd.

¹ Intimate. ² At the proper time.

Re-enter Bishop of Ely.

Ely. Where is my lord protector? I have sent For these strawberries.

Hast. His grace looks cheerfully and smooth this morning;

There's some conceit¹ or other likes him well, When he doth bid good morrow with such spirit. I think, there's ne'er a man in Christendom, Can lesser hide his love, or hate, than he; For by his face straight shall ye know his heart.

Stan. What of his heart perceive you in his By any likelihood he show'd to-day? [face,

H. Marry, that with no man here he is offended; For, were he, he had shown it in his looks.

Re-enter Gloster and Buckingham.

Glo. I pray you all, tell me what they deserve, That do conspire my death with devilish plots Of damned witchcraft; and that have prevail'd Upon my body with their hellish charms?

H. The tender love I bear your grace, my lord, Makes me most forward in this noble presence To doom the offenders: Whosoe'er they be, I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

G. Then be your eyes the witness of their evil. Look how I am bewitch'd; behold mine arm Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up: And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch, Consorted with that harlot, strumpet Shore, That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

H. If they have done this deed, my noble lord;—

Glo. If! thou protector of this cursed wanton, Talk'st thou to me of ifs?—Thou art a traitor:— Off with his head:—now, by saint Paul I swear, I will not dine until I see the same.—

Lovel, and Catesby, look that it be done; The rest that love me, rise, and follow me.

[*Exeunt Council, with Glo. and Buck.*

Hast. Woe, woe, for England! not a whit for me; For I, too fond,² might have prevented this: Stanley did dream, the boar did rase his helm; But I disdain'd it, and did scorn to fly, Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble,

And startled, when he look'd upon the Tower, As loath to bear me to the slaughter-house. O, now I want the priest that spake to me:

I now repent I told the pursuivant, As too triumphing, how mine enemies To-day at Pomfret bloodily were butcher'd, And I myself secure in grace and favour.

O, Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head.

Cate. Despatch, my lord, the duke would be at dinner;

Make a short shrift, he longs to see your head.

Hast. O momentary grace of mortal men, Which we more hunt for than the grace of Heaven,

Who builds his hope in air of your fair looks, Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast; Ready, with every nod, to tumble down Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

Lov. Come, come, despatch; 'tis bootless to exclaim.

Hast. O, bloody Richard!—miserable England! I prophesy the fearful'st time to thee,

1 Idea.

2 Silly.

That ever wretched age hath look'd upon.— Come, lead me to the block, bear him my head; They smile at me, who shortly shall be dead.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—THE TOWER WALLS.

Enter Gloster and Buckingham, in rusty Armour, marvellous ill-favour'd.

Glo. Come cousin, canst thou quake, and change thy colour?

Murder thy breath in middle of a word,—

And then again begin, and stop again, As if thou wert distraught, and mad with terror?

B. Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian; Speak, and look back, and pry on every side,

Tremble and start at wagging of a straw, Intending¹ deep suspicion: ghastly looks

Are at my service, like enforced smiles;

And both are ready in their offices,

At any time, to grace my stratagems.

But what, is Catesby gone?

Glo. He is; and, see, he brings the mayor along.

Enter the Lord Mayor and Catesby.

Buck. Let me alone to entertain him.—Lord mayor,—

Glo. Look to the draw-bridge there.

Buck. Hark, hark! a drum.

Glo. Catesby, o'erlook the walls.

Buck. Lord mayor, the reason we have sent for you,—

Glo. Look back, defend thee, here are enemies.

Buck. Heaven and our innocence defend and guard us!

Enter Lovel, and Ratcliff, with Hastings' Head.

Glo. Be patient, they are friends; Ratcliff, and Lovel.

Lov. Here is the head of that ignoble traitor, The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

Glo. So dear I lov'd the man, that I must weep. I took him for the plainest harmless't creature,

That breath'd upon the earth a Christian; Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded

The history of all her secret thoughts:

Sosmooth he daub'd his vice with show of virtue,

That, his apparent open guilt omitted,—

I mean, his conversation with Shore's wife,—

He liv'd from all attainer of suspect.

Buck. Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd traitor

That ever liv'd.—Look you, my lord mayor,

Would you imagine, or almost believe, (Were't not, that by great preservation

We live to tell it you,) the subtle traitor

This day had plotted in the council-house

To murder me, and my good lord of Gloster?

May. What! had he so?

Glo. What! think you we are Turks, or infidels? Or that we would, against the form of law,

Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death;

But that the extreme peril of the case,

The peace of England, and our persons' safety,

Enforc'd us to this execution?

M. Now, fair befall you! he deserv'd his death;

And your good graces both have well proceeded,

To warn false traitors from the like attempts,

1 Pretending.

I never look'd for better at his hands,
After he once fell in with mistress Shore.

Buck. Yet had we not determin'd he should die,
Until your lordship came to see his end;
Which now the loving haste of these our friends,
Somewhat against our meaning, hath prevented:
Because, my lord, we would have had you heard
The traitor speak, and timorously confess
The manner and the purpose of his treasons;
That you might well have signified the same
Unto the citizens, who, haply, may
Misconstrue us in him, and wail his death.

May. But, my good lord, your grace's word
shall serve,

As well as I had seen, and heard him speak:
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens
With all your just proceedings in this case.

G. And to that end we wish'd your lordship here,
To avoid the censures of the carping world.

Buck. But since you came too late of our intent,
Yet witness what you hear we did intend;
And so, my good lord mayor, we bid farewell.

[*Exit Lord Mayor.*]

Glo. Go after, after, cousin Buckingham.
The mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all
post:—

There, at your meetest vantage of the time,
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children:
Tell them, how Edward put to death a citizen,
Only for saying—he would make his son
Heir to the crown; meaning, indeed, his house,
Which, by the sign thereof, was termed so.
Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
And restless appetite in change of lust;
Which stretch'd unto their servants, daughters,
wives,

Even where his raging eye, or savage heart,
Without controul, listed to make his prey.
Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person:—
Tell them, when that my mother went with child
Of that insatiate Edward, noble York,
My princely father, then had wars in France;
And, by just computation of the time,
Found, that the issue was not his begot;
Which well appeared in his lineaments,
Being nothing like the noble duke my father:
Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off;
Because, my lord, you know, my mother lives.

Buck. Doubt not, my lord; I'll play the orator,
As if the golden fee, for which I plead,
Were for myself: and so, my lord, adieu.

Glo. If you thrive well, bring them to Bay-
nard's castle;

Where you shall find me well accompanied,
With reverend fathers, and well-learned bishops.

Buck. I go; and, towards three or four o'clock,
Look for the news that the Guildhall affords.

[*Exit Buckingham.*]

G. Go, Lovel, with all speed to doctor Shaw,—
[*To Cat.*] Go thou to friar Penker;—bid them
both

Meet me, within this hour, at Baynard's castle.

[*Exeunt Lovel and Catesby.*]

Now will I in, to take some privy order
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight;
And to give notice, that no manner of person
Have, any time, recourse unto the princes. [*Exit.*]

SCENE VI.—A STREET.

Enter a Scrivener.

Scriv. Here is the indictment of the good lord
Hastings;

Which in a set hand fairly is engross'd,
That it may be to-day read o'er in Paul's.
And mark how well the sequel hangs together:—
Eleven hours I have spent to write it over,
For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me;
The precedent¹ was full as long a doing:
And yet within these five hours Hastings liv'd,
Untainted, unexamined, free, at liberty.
Here's a good world the while!—Who is so gross,
That cannot see this palpable device?
Yet who so bold, but says—he sees it not?
Bad is the world; and all will come to nought,
When such bad dealing must be seen in thought.
[*Exit.*]

SCENE VII.—COURT OF BAYNARD'S CASTLE.

Enter Gloster and Buckingham, meeting.

G. How now, how now? what say the citizens?

Buck. The citizens are mum, say not a word.
Glo. Touch'd you the bastardy of Edward's
children?

Buck. I did; with his contract with lady Lucy,
And his contract by deputy in France:
The insatiate greediness of his desires,
And his enforcement of the city wives;
His tyranny for trifles; his own bastardy,—
As being got, your father then in France;
And his resemblance, being not like the duke.
Withal, I did infer your lineaments,—
Being the right idea of your father,
Both in your form and nobleness of mind:
Laid open all your victories in Scotland,
Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,
Your bounty, virtue, fair humility;
Indeed, left nothing, fitting for your purpose,
Untouch'd, or slightly handled, in discourse.
And, when my oratory grew to an end,
I bade them, that did love their country's good,
Cry—*God save Richard, England's royal king!*

Glo. And did they so?

B. No, so Heaven help me, they spake not a
word;

But like dumb statues, or breathless stones,
Star'd on each other, and look'd deadly pale.
Which when I saw I reprehended them;
And ask'd the mayor, what meant this wilful
silence:

His answer was,—the people were not us'd
To be spoke to, but by the recorder.
Then he was urg'd to tell my tale again:
Thus saith the duke, thus hath the duke infer'd;
But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.
When he had done, some followers of mine own,
At lower end o' the hall, hurl'd up their caps,
And some ten voices cried, *God save king Richard!*
And thus I took the 'vantage of those few,—
Thanks, gentle citizens, and friends, quoth I;
This general applause, and cheerful shout,
Argues your wisdom, and your love to Richard:
And even here brake off and came away.

Glo. What tongueless blocks were they; Would they not speak?

Will not the mayor then, and his brethren, come?

B. The mayor is here at hand; intend¹ some fear; Be not you spoke with, but by mighty suit: And look you, get a prayer-book in your hand, And stand between two churchmen, good my lord;

For on that ground I'll make a holy descant: And be not easily won to our request.

Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and take it,

Glo. I go; and if you plead as well for them, As I can say nay to thee for myself, No doubt we'll bring it to a happy issue.

Buc. Go, go, up to the leads; the lord mayor knocks. [Exit Gloster.]

Enter the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens.

Welcome, my lord; I dance attendance here; I think the duke will not be spoke withal.—

Enter, from the Castle, Catesby.

Now, Catesby! what says your lord to my request?

C. He doth entreat your grace, my noble lord, To visit him to-morrow, or next day: He is within, with two right reverend fathers, Divinely bent on meditation; And in no worldly suit would he be mov'd, To draw him from his holy exercise.

B. Return, good Catesby, to the gracious duke: Tell him, myself, the mayor and aldermen, In deep designs, in matter of great moment, No less importing than our general good, Are come to have some conference with his grace.

Cate. I'll signify so much unto him straight. [Exit.]

Buck. Ah, ha, my lord, this prince is not an Edward!

He is not lolling on a lewd day-bed,² But on his knees at meditation; Not dallying with a brace of courtézans, But meditating with two deep divines; Not sleeping, to engross³ his idle body, But praying, to enrich his watchful soul: Happy were England, would this virtuous prince Take on himself the sovereignty thereof: But sure, I fear, we shall ne'er win him to it.

May. Marry, heaven forbid, his grace should say us nay!

B. I fear, he will; Here Catesby comes again;—

Re-enter Catesby.

Now, Catesby, what says his grace?

C. He wonders to what end you have assembled Such troops of citizens to come to him; His grace not being warn'd thereof before, He fears, my lord, you mean no good to him.

Buck. Sorry I am, my noble cousin should Suspect me, that I mean no good to him: By heaven, we come to him in perfect love; And so once more return and tell his grace.

[Exit Catesby.]

When holy and devout religious men Are at their beads, 'tis hard to draw them thence; So sweet is zealous contemplation.

Enter Gloster, in a Gallery above, between two Bishops. Catesby returns.

May. See, where his grace stands 'tween two clergymen!

Buc. Two props of virtue for a Christian prince, To stay him from the fall of vanity: And, see, a book of prayer in his hand; True ornaments to know a holy man.— Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince, Lend favourable ear to our requests; And pardon us the interruption Of thy devotion, and right-Christian zeal.

Glo. My lord, there needs no such apology; I rather do beseech you pardon me, Who, earnest in the service of my God, Neglect the visitation of my friends. But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure?

Buck. Even that, I hope, which pleaseth Heaven above, And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

Glo. I do suspect, I have done some offence, That seems disgraceful in the city's eye; And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

Bu. You have, mylord; Would it might please your grace,

On our entreaties to amend your fault!

G. Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land?

Bu. Know, then, it is your fault, that you resign The supreme seat, the throne majestical, The scepter'd office of your ancestors, Your state of fortune, and your due of birth, The lineal glory of your royal house, To the corruption of a blemish'd stock:

Whilst, in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts, (Which here we waken to our country's good,) The noble isle doth want her proper limbs; Her face defac'd with scars of infamy, Her royal stock graft with ignoble plants, And almost shoulder'd¹ in the swallowing gulf Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion.

Which to recure,² we heartily solicit Your gracious self to take on you the charge And kingly government of this your land:

Not as protector, steward, substitute, Or lowly factor for another's gain:

But as successively, from blood to blood, Your right of birth, your empery,³ your own. For this, consorted with the citizens, Your very worshipful and loving friends, And by their vehement instigation, In this just suit come I to move your grace.

Glo. I cannot tell, if to depart in silence, Or bitterly to speak in your reproof, Best fitteth my degree, or your condition: If, not to answer,—you might haply think, Tongue-tied ambition, not replying, yielded To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty, Which fondly you would here impose on me; If to reprove you for this suit of yours, So season'd with your faithful love to me, Then, on the other side, I check'd my friends. Therefore—to speak, and to avoid the first; And, then in speaking, not to incur the last,— Definitely thus I answer you.

Your love deserves my thanks; but my desert Unmeritable, shuns your high request.

First, if all obstacles were cut away,

¹ Pretend. ² Sofa. ³ Pamper.

¹ Thrust into. ² Recover. ³ Empire.

And that my path were even to the crown,
As the right revenue and due of birth;
Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,
So mighty, and so many my defects,
That I would rather hide me from my greatness,—
Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,
Than in my greatness covet to be hid,
And in the vapour of my glory smother'd.
But, Heaven be thank'd, there is no need of me;
(And much I need¹ to help you, if need were;)
The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,
Which mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,
Will well become the seat of majesty,
And make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.
On him I lay what you would lay on me,
The right and fortune of his happy stars,—
Which, God defend, that I should wring from him!

Buck. My lord, this argues conscience in your grace;

But the respects thereof are nice² and trivial,
All circumstances well considered.
You say, that Edward is your brother's son;
So say we too, but not by Edward's wife:
For first he was contrait to lady Lucy,
Your mother lives a witness to his vow;
And afterwards by substitute betroth'd
To Bona, sister to the king of France.
These both put by, a poor petitioner,
A care-craz'd mother to a many sons,
A beauty-waning and distressed widow,
Even in the afternoon of her best days,
Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye,
Seduc'd the pitch and height of all his thoughts
To base declension and loath'd bigamy:
By her, in his unlawful bed, he got
This Edward, whom our manners call—the prince.
More bitterly could I expostulate,
Save that, for reverence to some alive,
I give a sparing limit to my tongue;
Then, good my lord, take to your royal self
This proffer'd benefit of dignity:
If not to bless us and the land withal,
Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry
From the corruption of abusing time,
Unto a lineal true-derived course.
M. Do, good my lord; your citizens entreat you.
B. Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd love.
C. O make them joyful, grant their lawful suit.
G. Alas, why would you heap those cares on me?

I am unfit for state and majesty:—
I do beseech you, take it not amiss;
I cannot, nor I will not, yield to you.

Buck. If you refuse it,—as in love and zeal,
Loath to depose the child, your brother's son;
As well we know your tenderness of heart,
And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse,³
Which we have noted in you to your kindred,
And equally, indeed, to all estates,—
Yet know, wher you accept our suit or no,
Your brother's son shall never reign our king;
But we will plant some other in your throne,
To the disgrace and downfall of your house.
And, in this resolution, here we leave you;
Come, citizens, we will entreat no more.

[*Exeunt Buckingham and Catesby.*]

1 Want ability. 2 Minute. 3 Pity.

Cate. Call them again, sweet prince, accept their
If you deny them, all the land will rue it. [*suit*;
Glo. Will you enforce me to a world of cares?
Well, call them again; I am not made of stone,
But penetrable to your kind entreaties,

[*Exit Catesby.*]
Albeit against my conscience and my soul.—

Re-enter Buckingham and the rest.

Cousin of Buckingham,—and sage, grave men,—
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,
To bear her burden, wher I will, or no,
I must have patience to endure the load:
But if black scandal, or foul-fac'd reproach,
Attend the sequel of your imposition,
Your mere enforcement shall acquaintance me
From all the impure blots and stains thereof;
For Heaven best knows, and you may partly see,
How far I am from the desire of this.

May. God bless your grace! we see it, and
will say it.

Glo. In saying so, you shall but say the truth.

Buck. Then I salute you with this royal title,—
Long live king Richard, England's worthy king!

All. Amen.

B. To-morrow may it please you to be crown'd?

Glo. Even when you please, since you will have
it so.

B. To-morrow then we will attend your grace;
And so, most joyfully, we take our leave.

Glo. Come, let us to our holy work again:—

[*To the Bishops.*]
Farewell, good cousin;—farewell, gentle friends.
[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE THE TOWER.

Enter, on one side, Queen Elizabeth, Duchess of York, and Marquis of Dorset; on the other, Anne, Duchess of Gloster, leading Lady Margaret Plantagenet, Clarence's young Daughter.

D. Who meets us here—my niece Plantagenet
Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster?
Now, for my life, she's wandering to the Tower,
On pure heart's love, to greet the tender prince.—
Daughter, well met.

Anne. Heaven give your graces both
A happy and a joyful time of day!

Q. Eliz. As much to you, good sister! Whither
away?

A. No further than the Tower; and, as I guess,
Upon the like devotion as yourselves,
To gratulate the gentle princes there.

Q. Eliz. Kind sister, thanks; we'll enter all
together:

Enter Brakenbury.

And, in good time, here the lieutenant comes.—
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,
How doth the prince, and my young son of York?

B. Right well, dear madam: By your patience,
I may not suffer you to visit them;
The king hath strictly charg'd the contrary.

Q. Eliz. The king! who's that?
Brak. I mean the lord protector.

Q. Eliz. Heaven protect him from that kingly title!

Hath he set bounds between their love, and me? I am their mother, who shall bar me from them?

D. I am their father's mother, I will see them.

Anne. Their aunt I am in law, in love their mother:

Then bring me to their sights; I'll bear thy blame, And take thy office from thee, on thy peril.

Brake. No, madam, no, I may not leave it so; I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.

[Exit Brakenbury.]

Enter Stanley.

S. Let me but meet you, ladies, one hour hence, And I'll salute your grace of York as mother, And reverend looker-on of two fair queens.

[To the Duchess of Gloster.] Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster,

There to be crown'd Richard's royal queen.

Q. Eliz. Ah, cut my lace asunder!

That my pent heart may have some scope to beat, Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

Anne. Despit'ful tidings! O unpleasing news!

Dors. Be of good cheer: Mother, how fares your grace?

Q. E. O Dorset, speak not to me, get thee gone, Death and destruction dog thee at the heels; Thy mother's name is ominous to children: If thou wilt outstrip death, go cross the seas, And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell. Go, hie thee, hie thee, from this slaughter-house, Lest thou increase the number of the dead; And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse, — Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

Stan. Full of wise care is this your counsel, madam:—

Take all the swift advantage of the hours; You shall have letters from me to my son In your behalf, to meet you on the way: Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay.

Duch. O ill-dispersing wind of misery!— O my accursed womb, the bed of death; A cockatrice hast thou hatch'd to the world, Whose unavoided eye is murderous!

S. Come, madam, come; I in all haste was sent.

Anne. And I with all unwillingness will go.— O, would to heaven that the inclusive verge Of golden metal, that must round my brow, Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain! Anointed let me be with deadly venom;

And die, ere men can say—God save the queen!

Q. Eliz. Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory; To feed my humour, wish thyself no harm.

A. No! why?—When he, that is my husband now, Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corse;

When scarce the blood was well wash'd from his hands, Which issu'd from my other angel husband, And that dead saint which then I weeping follow'd;

O, when, I say, I look'd on Richard's face, This was my wish,—*Be thou, quoth I, accurs'd,*

For making me so young, so old a Widow!

And, when thou wed'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed; And be thy wife (if any be so mad)

More miserably by the life of thee, Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death!

Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again, Even in so short a space, my woman's heart Grossly grew captive to his honey words, And prov'd the subject of mine own soul's curse: Which ever since hath held mine eyes from rest; For never yet one hour in his bed Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep, But with his timorous dreams was still awak'd. Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick; And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

Q. E. Poor heart, adieu; I pity thy complaining.

A. No more than with my soul I mourn for yours.

Dors. Farewell, thou woful welcomer of glory!

A. Adieu, poor soul, that tak'st thy leave of it!

Duch. [To Dorset.] Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee!—

[To Anne.] Go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee!—

[To Q. Elizabeth.] Go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee!—

I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me! Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,

And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen.¹

Q. Eliz. Stay yet: look back, with me, unto the Tower.—

Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes, Whom envy hath immur'd within your walls! Rough cradle for such little pretty ones! Rude ragged nurse! old sullen play-fellow For tender princes, use my babies well! So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A ROOM OF STATE IN THE PALACE.

Flourish of Trumpets. Richard, as King, upon his Throne; Buckingham, Catesby, a Page, and others.

K. Rich. Stand all apart.—Cousin of Buckingham. My gracious sovereign. [Ham, —]

K. Rich. Give me thy hand. Thus high, by thy advice,

And thy assistance, is king Richard seated:— But shall we wear these glories for a day? Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them?

Buck. Still live they, and for ever let them last!

K. Rich. Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the touch.²

To try if thou be current gold, indeed:— Young Edward lives;—Think now what I would speak.

Buck. Say on, my loving lord.

K. R. Why, Buckingham, I say, I would be king.

B. Why, so you are, my thrice-renowned liege.

K. R. Ha! am I king? 'Tis so: but Edward lives.

Buck. True, noble prince.

K. Rich. O bitter consequence, That Edward still should live,—true, noble prince!—

Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull: Shall I be plain? I wish the bastards dead; And I would have it suddenly perform'd.

What say'st thou now? speak suddenly, be brief.

Buck. Your grace may do your pleasure.

K. Rich. Tut, tut, thou art all ice, thy kindness freezes:

Say, have I thy consent, that they shall die?

1 Sorrow.

2 Touchstone.

B. Give me some breath, some little pause, dear
Before I positively speak in this: [lord,
I will resolve your grace immediately.

[Exit Buckingham.

Cate. [Aside.] The king is angry; see, he
gnaws his lip.

K. Rich. I will converse with iron-witted fools.

[Descends from his Throne.

And unrespective¹ boys: none are for me,
That look into me with considerate eyes;
High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect.
Boy, —

Page. My lord. [gold

K. R. Know'st thou not any, whom corrupting
Would tempt unto a close exploit² of death.

Page. I know a discontented gentleman,
Whose humble means match not his haughty
Gold were as good as twenty orators, [mind:
And will, no doubt, tempt him to any thing.

K. Rich. What is his name?

Page. His name, my lord, is—Tyrrel.

K. Rich. I partly know the man; Go, call him
hither, boy. [Exit Page.

The deep-revolving witty³ Buckingham
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels:
Hath he so long held out with me untir'd,
And stops he now for breath?—well, be it so. —

Enter Stanley.

How now, lord Stanley? what's the news?

Stan. Know, my loving lord,
The marquis Dorset, as I hear, is fled
To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

K. R. Come hither, Catesby: rumour it abroad,
That Anne, my wife, is very grievous sick;
I will take order for her keeping close.

Inquire me out some mean-born gentleman,
Whom I will marry straight to Clarence's
daughter:

The boy⁴ is foolish, and I fear not him.

Look, how thou dream'st!—I say again, give out,
That Anne my queen is sick, and like to die:
About it; for it stands me much upon,⁵

To stop all hopes, whose growth may damage
me. — [Exit Catesby.

I must be married to my brother's daughter,
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass:
Murder her brothers, and then marry her!

Uncertain way of gain! But I am in
So far in blood, that sin will pluck on sin.

Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye. —

Re-enter Page, with Tyrrel.

Is thy name Tyrrel?

Tyr. James Tyrrel, and your most obedient

K. Rich. Art thou, indeed? [subject.

Tyr. Prove me, my gracious lord.

K. Rich. Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend
of mine?

Tyr. Please you; but I had rather kill two
enemies. [enemies!

K. Rich. Why, then thou hast it; two deep
Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's disturbers,
Are they that I would have thee deal upon;
Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower.

Tyr. Let me have open means to come to them,
And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them.

K. Rich. Thou sing'st sweet music. Hark,
come hither, Tyrrel;

Go, by this token:—Rise, and lend thine ear;
[Whispers.

There is no more but so:—Say, it is done,
And I will love thee, and prefer thee for it.

Tyr. I will despatch it straight. [Exit.

Re-enter Buckingham.

Buck. My lord, I have considered in my mind
The late demand that you did sound me in.

K. Rich. Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled
to Richmond.

Buck. I hear the news, my lord.

K. Rich. Stanley, he is your wife's son:—Well,
look to it. [promise,

Buck. My lord, I claim the gift, my due by
For which your honour and your faith is pawn'd,
The earldom of Hereford, and the movables,
Which you have promised I shall possess.

K. R. Stanley, look to your wife; if she convey
Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

B. What says your highness to my just request?

K. Rich. I do remember me,—Henry the sixth
Did prophesy, that Richmond should be king,
When Richmond was a little peevish¹ boy,
A king!—perhaps—

Buck. My lord, — [that time,

K. R. How chance, the prophet could not at
Have told me, I being by, that I should kill him?

Buck. My lord, your promise for the earldom,—

K. R. Richmond!—When last I was at Exeter,
The mayor in courtesy show'd me the castle,
And call'd it—Rouge-mont: at which name, I
started:

Because a bard of Ireland told me once,
I should not live long after I saw Richmond.

Buck. My lord, —

K. Rich. Ay, what's o'clock?

Buck. I am thus bold

To put your grace in mind of what you pro-
mis'd me.

K. Rich. Well, but what is't o'clock?

Buck. Upon the stroke
Of ten.

K. Rich. Well, let it strike.

Buck. Why, let it strike?

K. Rich. Because, that like a Jack,² thou
keep'st the stroke

Betwixt thy begging and my meditation.
I am not in the giving vein to-day.

Bu. Why, then resolve me whe'r you will, or no.

K. R. Thou troublest me; I am not in the vein.

[Exeunt King Richard and Train.

Buck. And is it thus? repays he my deep service
With such contempt? made I him king for this?
O, let me think on Hastings; and be gone
To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on. [Exit.

SCENE III.—THE SAME.

Enter Tyrrel.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloody act is done;
The most arch deed of piteous massacre,
That ever yet this land was guilty of.

1 Silly. 2 An automaton, striking the quarters.

1 Inconsiderate.

2 Secret act.

3 Clever.

4 Clarence's son, the last of the
male line of the Plantagenets.

5 It is of great consequence to
my designs.

Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborn
To do this deed of ruthless butchery,
Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
Melting with tenderness and mild compassion,
Wept like two children, in their death's sad story,
O thus, quoth Dighton, lay the gentle babes,—
Thus, thus, quoth Forrest, girdling one another,
Within their alabaster innocent arms:
Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,
Which in their summer beauty kiss'd each other.
A book of prayers on their pillow lay,
Which once, quoth Forrest, almost chang'd my
mind,
But, O, the devil—there the villain stopp'd;
When Dighton thus told on—we smothered
The most replenished sweet work of nature,
That, from the prime creation, ere she fram'd.—
Hence both are gone with conscience and remorse.
They could not speak; and so I left them both,
To bear these tidings to the bloody king.

Enter King Richard.

And here he comes:—all health, my sovereign lord!

K. R. Kind Tyrrel! am I happy in thy news?

Tyr. If to have done the thing you gave in
Beget your happiness, be happy then, [charge
For it is done.

K. Rich. But didst thou see them dead?

Tyr. I did, my lord.

K. Rich. And buried, gentle Tyrrel?

T. The chaplain of the Tower hath buried them;
But where, to say the truth, I do not know.

K. R. Come to me, Tyrrel, soon, at after supper,
When thou shalt tell the process of their death,
Mean time, but think how I may do thee good,
And be inheritor of thy desire.
Farewell, till then.

Tyr. I humbly take my leave.

[*Exit.*

K. R. The son of Clarence have I penn'd up close;
His daughter meanly have I match'd in marriage;
The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,
And Annemywife hath bid the world good-night.
Now, for I know the Bretagne Richmond aims
At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,
And, by that knot, looks proudly on the crown,
To her go I, a jolly thriving wooer.

Enter Catesby.

Cate. My lord,—

K. Rich. Good news, or bad, that thou com'st
in so bluntly?

Cate. Bad news, my lord: Morton is fled to
Richmond; [men,

And Buckingham, back'd with the hardy Welsh-
Is in the field, and still his power increaseth.

K. R. Elly with Richmond troubles me more
near,

Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.
Come,—I have learn'd, that fearful comment-
Is leaden servitor to dull delay; [ing

Delay leads impotent and snail-pac'd beggary:
Then fiery expedition be my wing,

Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king!

Go, muster men: My counsel is my shield;
We must be brief, when traitors brave the
field.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—BEFORE THE PALACE.

Enter Queen Margaret.

Q. Mar. So, now prosperity begins to mellow,
And drop into the rotten mouth of death.
Here in these confines slyly have I lurk'd,
To watch the waning of mine enemies.
A dire induction am I witness to,
And will to France; hoping the consequence
Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical. [here?
Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret! who comes

Enter Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess of York.

Q. E. Ah, my poor princes! ah, my tender
babes!

My unblown flowers, new-appearing sweets!

If yet your gentle souls fly in the air,
And be not fix'd in doom perpetual,
Hover about me with your airy wings,
And hear your mother's lamentation! [right
Q. M. Hover about her; say, that right for
Hath dimm'd your infant morn to aged night.

Duch. So many miseries have craz'd my voice,
That my woe-wearied tongue is still and mute,—
Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead?

Q. Mar. Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet.
Edward for Edward pays a dying debt.

Q. Eliz. Wilt thou, O Heaven, fly from such
gentle lambs,

And throw them in the entrails of the wolf?
Why didst thou sleep, when such a deed was done?

Q. M. When holy Harry died, and my sweet son.

D. Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal-living
ghost, [usurp'd,

Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due, by life
Brief abstract and record of tedious days,

Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,
[*Sitting down.*

Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood!

Q. Eliz. Ah, that thou wouldst as soon afford a
As thou canst yield a melancholy seat; [grave,
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here!
Ah, who hath any cause to mourn, but we?

[*Sitting down by her.*

Q. Mar. If ancient sorrow be most reverent,
Give mine the benefit of senjory,¹

And let my griefs frown on the upper hand.

If sorrow can admit society,

[*Sitting down with them.*

Tell o'er your woes again by viewing mine:—

I had an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him;

I had a husband, till a Richard kill'd him:

Thou hadst an Edward, till a Richard kill'd him;

Thou hadst a Richard, till a Richard kill'd him.

D. I had a Richard too, and thou didst kill him;

I had a Rutland too, thou help'st to kill him.

Q. M. Thou hadst a Clarence too, and Richard

kill'd him.

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept

A hell-hound, that doth hunt us all to death:

That dog, that had his teeth before his eyes,

To worry lambs, and lap their gentle blood;

That excellent grand tyrant of the earth,

That reigns in galled eyes of weeping souls,

Thy womb let loose, to chase us to our graves,—

O upright, just, and true-disposing God,

How do I thank thee, that this carnal cur

Preys on the issue of his mother's body,
And makes her pew-fellow¹ with others' moan.

D. O. Harry's wife, triumph not in my woes;
Heaven witness with me, I have wept for thine.

Q. M. Bear with me, I am hungry for revenge,
And now I cloy me with beholding it.

Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Edward;
Thy other Edward dead to quit my Edward;

Young York he is but boot,² because both they
Match not the high perfection of my loss.

Thy Clarence he is dead, that stabb'd my Ed-
And the beholders of this tragick play, [ward:

The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grey,
Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.

Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer;
Only reserv'd their factor to buy souls,

And send them thither: But at hand, at hand,
Ensues his piteous and unpitied end:

Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, saints pray,
To have him suddenly convey'd from hence:—

Cancel his bond of life, great heaven, I pray,
That I may live to say, The dog is dead! [come,

Q. E. O, thou didst prophesy the time would
That I should wish for thee to help me curse

That bottl'd spider, that foul bunch-back'd toad.
Q. Mar. I call'd thee then, vain flourish of

my fortune;
I call'd thee then, poor shadow, painted queen;

The presentation of but what I was,
The flattering index of a direful pageant,

One heav'd a high, to be hurled down below:
A mother only mock'd with two fair babes;

A dream of what thou wast; a garish³ flag,
To be the aim of every dangerous shot;

A sign of dignity, a breath, a bubble;
A queen in jest, only to fill the scene. [brothers?

Where is thy husband now? where be thy
Where be thy two sons? wherein dost thou joy?

Who sues, and kneels, and says—God save the
queen?

Where be the bending peers that flatter'd thee?
Where be the thronging troops that follow'd thee?

Decline all this, and see what now thou art.
For happy wife, a most distressed widow;

For joyful mother, one that wails the name;
For one being sued to, one that humbly sues;

For queen, a very catiff crown'd with care;
For one that scorn'd at me, now scorn'd of me;

For one being fear'd of all, now fearing one;
For one commanding all, obey'd of none.

Thus hath the course of justice wheel'd about,
And left thee but a very prey to time;

Having no more but thought of what thou wert,
To torture thee the more, being what thou art.

Thou didst usurp my place; and dost thou not
Usurp the just proportion of my sorrow?

Now thy proud neck bears half my burden'd yoke;
From which even here I slip my wearied head,

And leave the burden of it all on thee.
Farewell, York's wife,—and queen of sad mis-
chance,— [France.

These English woes shall make me smile in
Q. E. O thou well skill'd in curses, stay a while,

And teach me how to curse mine enemies!
Q. Mar. Forbear to sleep the night, and fast

the day;

Compare dead happiness with living woe;
Think that thy babes were fairer than they were,
And he that slew them, fouler than he is:
Bettering thy loss makes the bad-causer worse;
Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.

Q. Eliz. My words are dull, O, quicken them
with thine!

Q. Mar. Thy woes will make them sharp, and
pierce like mine. [Exit *Q. Margaret.*

Duch. Why should calamity be full of words?
Q. Eliz. Windy attorneys to their client woes,

Airy succeders of intestate joys,
Poor breathing orators of miseries!

Let them have scope: though what they do impart
Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.

D. If so, then be not tongue-ty'd: go with me,
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother

My cruel son, that thy two sweet sons smother'd;
[Drum within.

I hear his drum,—be copious in exclaims.

Enter King Richard, and his Train, marching.
K. Rich. Who intercepts me in my expedition?

Duch. O, she, that might have intercepted thee,
By strangling thee in her unhappy womb,

From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast
done. [crown,

Q. E. Hid'st thou that forehead with a golden
Where should be branded, if that right were

right, [crown,
The slaughter of the prince that ow'd that

And the dire death of my poor sons and brothers!
Tell me, thou villain-slave, where are my chil-

dren?
Duch. Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy

brother Clarence?
And little Ned Plantagenet, his son? [Grey?

Q. E. Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan,
Duch. Where is kind Hastings? [drums!

K. Rich. A flourish, trumpets!—strike alarm,
Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women

Rail on the Lord's anointed: Strike, I say.—
[Flourish Alarums.

Either be patient, and entreat me fair,
Or with the clamorous report of war

Thus will I drown your exclamations.
Duch. Art thou my son? [yourself.

K. Rich. Ay; I thank heaven, my father, and
Duch. Then patiently hear my impatience.

K. Rich. Madam, I have a touch of your
condition,²

That cannot brook the accent of reproof.
Duch. O, let me speak.

K. Rich. Do, then; but I'll not hear.
Duch. I will be mild and gentle in my words.

K. R. And brief, good mother; for I am in haste.
Duch. Art thou so hasty? I have staid for thee,

Heaven knows, in torment and in agony.
K. Rich. And came I not at last to comfort you?

D. No, by the holy rood,³ thou know'st it well,
Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.

A grievous burden was thy birth to me;
Tetchy⁴ and wayward was thy infancy;

Thy school-days, frightful, desperate, wild, and
furious; [turous;

Thy prime of manhood, daring, bold, and ven-

¹ Companion.

³ Flaring.

¹ Owned.

³ Cross.

² Only worth being thrown into the bargain.

² Disposition.

⁴ Fretful.

Thy age confirm'd, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody,
More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in hatred:
What comfortable hour canst thou name,
That ever grac'd me in thy company?

K. Rich. Faith none, but Humphrey Hour,
that call'd your grace

To breakfast once, forth of my company.

If I be so disgracious in your sight,
Let me march on, and not offend you, madam.
Strike up the drum.

Duch. I prythee, hear me speak.

K. Rich. You speak too bitterly.

Duch. Hear me a word;

For I shall never speak to thee again.

K. Rich. So.

D. Either thou wilt die, by God's just ordinance,
Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror;
Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish,
And never look upon thy face again.

Therefore, take with thee my most heavy cure;
Which, in the day of battle, tire thee more,
Than all the complete armour that thou wear'st!
My prayers on the adverse party fight;

And there the little souls of Edward's children
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
And promise them success and victory.
Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end;
Shame serves thy life, and doth thy death
attend. [Exit.]

Q. Eliz. Though far more cause, yet much less
spirit to curse

Abides in me; I say amen to her. [Going.]

K. Rich. Stay, madam, I must speak a word
with you.

Q. E. I have no more sons of the royal blood,
For thee to murder: for my daughters, Richard,—
They shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens;
And therefore level not to hit their lives.

K. R. You have a daughter call'd—Elizabeth,
Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

Q. E. And must she die for this? O, let her live,
And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty;
Slander myself, as false to Edward's bed;
Throw over her the veil of infamy:

So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter,
I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

K. R. Wrong not her birth, she is of royal blood.

Q. Eliz. To save her life, I'll say—she is not so.

K. Rich. Her life is safest only in her birth.

Q. E. And only in that safety died her brothers.

K. Rich. Lo, at their births, good stars were
opposite. [Tray.]

Q. Eliz. No, to their lives bad friends were con-

K. Rich. All unavoided¹ is the doom of destiny.

Q. E. True, when avoided grace makes destiny:

My babes were destin'd to a fairer death,
If grace had bless'd thee with a fairer life.

K. Rich. You speak, as if that I had slain my
cousins.

Q. Eliz. Cousins, indeed; and by their uncle

Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life,
Whose hands soever lanc'd their tender hearts,
Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction: [blunt,
No doubt the murderous knife was dull and
Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.
But that still² use of grief makes wild grief tame,

My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys,
Till that my nails were anchor'd in thine eyes;
And I, in such a desperate bay of death,
Like a poor bark, of sails and tackling reft,
Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.

K. Rich. Madam, so thrive I in my enterprise,
And dangerous success of bloody wars,
As I intend more good to you and yours,
Than ever you or yours by me were harm'd!

Q. Eliz. What good is cover'd with the face of
To be discover'd, that can do me good? [heaven,

K. Rich. The advancement of your children,
gentle lady. [heads?]

Q. Eliz. Up to some scaffold, there to lose their
K. R. No, to the dignity and height of fortune,
The high imperial type of this earth's glory.

Q. Eliz. Flatter my sorrows with report of it;
Tell me, what state, what dignity, what honour,
Canst thou demise¹ to any child of mine?

K. R. Even all I have; ay, and myself and all,
Will I withal endow a child of thine;

So in the Lethe of thy angry soul [wrongs,
Thou drown the sad remembrance of those
Which thou supposist, I have done to thee.

Q. E. Be brief, lest that the process of thy kind-
Last longer telling than thy kindness date. [ness

K. Rich. Then know, that from my soul I love
thy daughter.

Q. E. My daughter's mother thinks it with her
K. Rich. What do you think? [soul.]

Q. Eliz. That thou dost love my daughter from
thy soul. [brothers,

So, from thy soul's love, didst thou love her
And, from my heart's love, I do thank thee for it.

K. R. Be not so hasty to confound my meaning:
I mean, that with my soul I love thy daughter,
And do intend to make her queen of England.

Q. Eliz. Well then, who dost thou mean shall
be her king?

K. Rich. Even he, that makes her queen: Who
else should be?

Q. Eliz. What, thou?

K. Rich. Even so: What think you
of it, madam?

Q. Eliz. How canst thou woo her?

K. Rich. That I would learn of you,
As one being best acquainted with her humour.

Q. Eliz. And wilt thou learn of me?

K. Rich. Madam, with all my heart.

Q. Eliz. Send to her, by the man that slew
her brothers,

A pair of bleeding hearts; thereon engrave,
Edward, and York; then, haply,² will she weep:
Therefore present to her,—as sometime Margaret
Did to thy father, steep'd in Rutland's blood,—
A handkerchief; which, say to her, did drain
The purple sap from her sweet brother's body,
And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.
If this inducement move her not to love,

Send her a letter of thy noble deeds;
Tell her, thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,

Her uncle Rivers; ay, and for her sake,
Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt
Anne.

K. R. You mock me, madam; this is not the
To win your daughter. [way

Q. Eliz. There is no other way;

¹ Unavoidable.

² Constant.

¹ Bequeath.

² Perhaps.

Unless thou couldst put on some other shape,
And not be Richard that hath done all this.

K. Rich. Say, that I did all this for love of her?

Q. Eliz. Nay, then indeed, she cannot choose
but have thee,

Having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

K. Rich. Look, what is done cannot be now
amended;

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,
Which after-hours give leisure to repent.
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,
To make amends, I'll give it to your daughter.
A grandam's name is little less in love,
Than is the doting title of a mother!

They are as children, but one step below,
Even of your mettle, of your very blood.
Your children were vexation to your youth,
But mine shall be a comfort to your age.

The loss you have, is but—a son being king,
And, by that loss, your daughter is made queen.
I cannot make you what amends I would,
Therefore accept such kindness as I can.

Dorset, your son, that, with a fearful soul,
Leads discontented steps in foreign soil,
This fair alliance quickly shall call home
To high promotions and great dignity: [wife,
The king, that calls your beauteous daughter—
Familiarly shall call thy Dorset—brother;
Again shall you be mother to a king,
And all the ruins of distressful times
Repair'd with double riches of content.

What! we have many goodly days to see:
The liquid drops of tears that you have shed,
Shall come again, transform'd to orient pearl;
Advantaging their loan, with interest
Of ten-times double gain of happiness.

Go then, my mother, to thy daughter go;
Make bold her bashful years with your experi-
Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale: [once:
Put in her tender heart the aspiring flame
Of golden sovereignty; acquaint the princess
That, when this arm of mine hath chastised
The petty rebel, dull-brain'd Buckingham,
Bound with triumphant garlands will I come,
And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed!
To whom I will retail my conquest won,
And she shall be sole vict'ress, Caesar's Caesar.

Q. Eliz. What were I best to say: her father's
brother

Would be her lord? Or shall I say, her uncle?
Or, he that slew her brothers and her uncles?
Under what title shall I woo for thee,
That God, the law, my honour, and her love,
Can make seem pleasing to her tender years?

K. Rich. Infer fair England's peace by this
alliance. [lasting war.

Q. Eliz. Which she shall purchase with still
K. Rich. Tell her, the king, that may com-
mand, entreats.

Q. Eliz. That at her hands, which the king's
King forbids.¹

K. R. Say, she shall be a high and mighty queen.

Q. Eliz. To wail the title, as her mother doth.

K. Rich. Say, I will love her everlastingly.

Q. Eliz. But how long shall that title, ever, last?

K. Rich. Sweetly in force unto her fair life's
end.

¹ In the Levitical law.

Q. Eliz. But how long fairly shall her sweet
life last?

K. R. As long as heaven, and nature, lengthens
it. [of it.

Q. Eliz. As long as hell, and Richard, likes

K. R. Say, I, her sovereign, am her subject low.

Q. Eliz. But she, your subject, loathes such
sovereignty.

K. Rich. Be eloquent, in my behalf, to her.

Q. Eliz. An honest tale speeds best, being
plainly told. loving tale.

K. Rich. Then, in plain terms, tell her my

Q. E. Plain, and not honest, is too harsh a style.

K. Rich. Your reasons are too shallow, and
too quick. [dead:—

Q. Eliz. O, no, my reasons are too deep and
Too deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

K. Rich. Harp not on that string, madam,
that is past.

Q. Eliz. Harp on it still shall I, till heart-
strings break.

K. Rich. Now, by my George, my garter,²
and my crown,—

Q. Eliz. Profan'd, dishonour'd, and the third
K. Rich. I swear. [usurp'd.

Q. Eliz. By nothing; for this is no oath.

Thy George profan'd, hath lost his holy honour;

Thy garter, blemish'd, pawn'd his knightly virtue;

Thy crown, usurp'd, disgrac'd his kingly glory;

If something thou wouldst swear to be believ'd,

Swear then by something that thou hast not

K. Rich. Now, by the world,— [wrong'd.

Q. Eliz. 'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

K. Rich. My father's death,—

Q. Eliz. Thy life hath that dishonour'd.

K. Rich. Then, by myself,—

Q. Eliz. Thyself is self-misus'd.

K. Rich. Why then, by God,—

Q. Eliz. God's wrong is most of all.

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,

The unity, the king thy brother made,

Had not been broken, nor my brother slain;

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him,

The imperial metal, circling now thy head,

Had grac'd the tender temples of my child;

And both the princes had been breathing here,

Which now, two tender bed-fellows for dust,

Thy broken faith hath made a prey for worms.

What canst thou swear by now?

K. Rich. By the time to come.

Q. Eliz. That thou hast wrong'd in the time
o'erpast;

For I myself have many tears to wash
Hereafter time, for time past, wrong'd by thee.

The children live, whose parents thou hast
slaughter'd,

Ungovern'd youth, to wail it in their age:
The parents live, whose children thou hast
butcher'd,

Old barren plants, to wail it in their age:
Swear not by time to come; for that thou hast
Misus'd, ere us'd, by times ill-us'd o'erpast.

K. Rich. As I intend to prosper, and repent,
So thrive I in my dangerous attempt

Of hostile arms! myself myself confound!
Heaven, and fortune, bar me happy hours!

Day, yield me not thy light; nor, night, thy rest!

² The Order of the Garter.

Be opposite all planets of good luck
To my proceeding, if, with pure heart's love,
Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts,
I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter!
In her consists my happiness, and thine;
Without her, follows to myself, and thee,
Herself, the land, and many a Christian soul,
Death, desolation, ruin, and decay:
It cannot be avoided, but by this;
It will not be avoided, but by this.
Therefore, dear mother, (I must call you so,)
Be the attorney of my love to her.
Plead what I will be, not what I have been;
Not my deserts, but what I will deserve:
Urge the necessity and state of times,
And be not peevish¹ found in great designs.

Q. Eliz. Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

K. Rich. Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do good.

Q. Eliz. Shall I forget myself to be myself?

K. Rich. Ay, if yourself's remembrance wrong yourself.

Q. Eliz. But thou didst kill my children.

Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?

K. Rich. And be a happy mother by the deed.

Q. Eliz. I go.—Write to me very shortly,

And you shall understand from me her mind.

K. Rich. Bear her my true love's kiss, and so
farewell.

[*Kissing her. Exit Q. Elizabeth.*]

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing—woman!
How now? what news?

Enter Ratcliff; Catesby following.

Rat. Most mighty sovereign, on the western
Rideth a puissant navy; to the shore [coast
Through many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,
Unarm'd, and unresolv'd to beat them back;
'Tis thought that Richmond is their admiral;
And there they hull, expecting but the aid
Of Buckingham, to welcome them ashore.

K. Rich. Some light-foot friend post to the
duke of Norfolk:—

Ratcliff, thyself,—or *Catesby*; where is he?

Cate. Here, my good lord.

K. Rich. *Catesby*, fly to the duke.

Cate. I will, my lord, with all convenient haste.

K. Rich. *Ratcliff*, come hither; Post to *Salisbury*;
[villain.]

When thou com'st hither,—Dull unmindful
[*To Catesby.*] Why stay'st thou here, and go'st
not to the duke?

Cate. First, mighty liege, tell me your high-
ness' pleasure,

What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

K. Rich. O, true, good *Catesby*;—Bid him
levy straight

The greatest strength and power he can make,
And meet me suddenly at *Salisbury*.

Cate. I go. [*Exit.*]

Rat. What, may it please you, shall I do at
Salisbury? [*I go.*]

K. R. Why, what wouldst thou do there, before

R. Your highness told me, I should post before.

Enter Stanley.

K. Rich. My mind is chang'd.—*Stanley*,
what news with you?

¹ Foolish.

Stan. None good, my liege, to please you
with the hearing;

Nor none so bad, but well may be reported.

K. R. Heyday, a riddle! neither good nor bad!

What need'st thou run so many miles about,

When thou mayst tell thy tale the nearest way?

Once more, what news?

Stan. *Richmond* is on the seas.

K. Rich. There let him sink, and be the seas
on him!

White-liver'd runagate, what doth he there?

S. I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess.

K. Rich. Well, as you guess? [*Morton.*]

Stan. Stirr'd up by *Dorset*, *Buckingham*, and

He makes for *England*, here to claim the crown.

K. Rich. Is the chair empty? is the sword
unsway'd?

Is the king dead? the empire unpossess'd?

What heir of *York* is there alive, but we?

And who is *England's* king, but great *York's* heir?

Then, tell me, what makes he upon the seas?

Stan. Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.

K. R. Unless for that he comes to be your liege,

You cannot guess wherefore the *Welshman*

Thou wilt revolt, and fly to him, I fear. [*comes.*]

S. No, mighty liege; therefore mistrust me not.

K. R. Where is thy power then, to beat him

Where be thy tenants, and thy followers? [*back.*]

Are they not now upon the western shore,

Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships?

Stan. No, my good lord, my friends are in
the north. [*north.*]

K. R. Cold friends to me: what do they in the
When they should serve their sovereign in the
west? [*king.*]

S. They have not been commanded, mighty

Pleaseth your majesty to give me leave,

I'll muster up my friends; and meet your grace,

Where, and what time, your majesty shall please.

K. R. Ay, ay, thou wouldst be one to join with

I will not trust you, sir. [*Richmond:*]

Stan. Most mighty sovereign,

You have no cause to hold my friendship doubt-

I never was, nor never will be false. [*ful;*]

K. Rich. Well, go, muster men. But, hear
you, leave behind

Your son, *George Stanley*; look your heart be
Or else his head's assurance is but frail. [*firm,*]

Stan. So deal with him, as I prove true to you.

[*Exit Stanley.*]

Enter a Messenger.

M. My gracious sovereign, now in *Devonshire*,

As I by friends am well advertised,

Sir Edward Courteney, and the haughty prelate,

Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother,

With many more confederates, are in arms.

Enter another Messenger.

2 M. In *Kent*, my liege, the *Guildfords* are in

And every hour more competitors¹ [*arms:*]

Flock to the rebels, and their power grows strong.

Enter another Messenger.

3 M. My lord, the army of great *Buckingham*—

K. Rich. Out on ye, owls! nothing but songs

of death? [*He strikes him.*]

There, take thou that, till thou bring better news,

¹ Associates.

3 *Mess.* The news I have to tell your majesty, Is,—that, by sudden floods and fall of waters, Buckingham's army is dispers'd and scatter'd; And he himself wander'd away alone, No man knows whither.

K. Rich. O, I cry you mercy: There is my purse to cure that blow of thine. Hath any well-advised friend proclaim'd Reward to him that brings the traitor in?

3 *Mess.* Such proclamation hath been made, my liege.

Enter another Messenger.

4 *Mess.* Sir Thomas Lovel, and lord marquis Dorset,

'Tis said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms. But this good comfort bring I to your highness,—The Bretagne navy is dispers'd by tempests: Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat Unto the shore, to ask those on the banks, If they were his assistants, yea, or no; Who answer'd him, they came from Buckingham Upon his party; he, mistrusting them, [t'agne. Hois'd sail, and made his course again for Bre-

K. R. March on, march on, since we are up in If not to fight with foreign enemies, [arms; Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.

Enter Catesby.

C. My liege, the duke of Buckingham is taken, That is the best news; That the earl of Richmond Is with a mighty power landed at Milford, Is colder news, but yet they must be told.

K. R. Away towards Salisbury; while we reason here,

A royal battle might be won and lost:— Some one take order, Buckingham be brought To Salisbury;—the rest march on with me.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

A ROOM IN LORD STANLEY'S HOUSE.

Enter Stanley, and Sir¹ Christopher Urswick.

Stan. Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me:—

That, in the sty of this most bloody boar, My son George Stanley is frank'd² up in hold; If I revolt, off goes young George's head; The fear of that withholds my present aid.

But, tell me, where is princely Richmond now?

C. At Pembroke, or at Ha'rford-west, in Wales.

Stan. What men of name resort to him?

Chris. Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier; Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir William Stanley; Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, Sir James Blunt, And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew; And many other of great fame and worth: And towards London do they bend their course, If by the way they be not fought withal.

Stan. Well, hie thee to thy lord; commend me to him;

Tell him the queen hath heartily consented He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter. These letters will resolve him of my mind.

Farewell. [*Gives Papers to Sir Christopher,* [*Exeunt.*]

1 The clergy had this title given them. 2 Shut up.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—SALISBURY. AN OPEN PLACE.

Enter the Sheriff, and Guard, with Buckingham, led to Execution.

B. Will not king Richard let me speak with him?

Sher. No, my good lord; therefore be patient. *Buck.* Hastings, and Edward's children, Rivers, Grey.

Holy king Henry, and thy fair son Edward, Vaughan, and all that have miscarried By underhand corrupted foul injustice; If that your moody discontented souls Do through the clouds behold this present hour Even for revenge mock my destruction!— This is All-Souls' day, fellows, is it not?

Sher. It is, my lord.

Buck. Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.

This is the day, which, in king Edward's time, I wish'd might fall on me, when I was found False to his children, or his wife's allies:

This is the day, wherein I wish'd to fall By the false faith of him whom most I trusted; This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul,

Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.¹ That high All-seer which I dallied with, Hath turned my feigned prayer on my head, And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.

Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men To turn their own points on their masters' bosoms:

Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck,— When he, quoth she, shall split thy heart with sor-

Remember Margaret was a prophetess.— [row, Come, sirs, convey me to the block of shame; Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of blame. [*Exeunt Buckingham, &c.*]

SCENE II.—PLAIN NEAR TAMWORTH.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, Richmond, Oxford, Sir James Blunt, Sir Walter Herbert, and others, with Forces, marching.

R. Fellows in arms, and my most loving friends, Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny, Thus far into the bowels of the land Have we march'd on without impediment;

And here receive we from our father Stanley Lines of fair comfort and encouragement. The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,

That spoil'd your summer fields, and fruitful vines, [trough

Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his In your embowell'd bosoms, this foul swine Lies now even in the center of this isle, Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn:

From Tamworth thither, is but one day's march. In God's name, cheerly on, courageous friends, To reap the harvest of perpetual peace By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

O, Every man's conscience is a thousand swords, To fight against that bloody homicide.

Her. I doubt not, but his friends will turn to us.

1 Wicked doings.

Blunt. He hath no friends, but who are friends for fear;
Which, in his dearest need, will fly from him.
Richm. All for our vantage. Then, in God's name, march:
True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings;
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—BOSWORTH FIELD.

Enter King Richard, and Forces; the Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Surrey, and others.

K. Rich. Here pitch our tents, even here in Bosworth field.—

My lord of Surrey, why look you so sad?

Su. My heart is ten times lighter than my looks.

K. Rich. My lord of Norfolk,——

Nor. Here, most gracious liege.

K. Rich. Norfolk, we must have knocks; Ha! must we not?

N. We must both give and take, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Up with my tent: Here will I lie to-night.

[*Soldiers begin to set up the King's tent.*]

But where, to-morrow?—Well, all's one for that.—
Who hath descried the number of the traitors?

Nor. Six or seven thousand is their utmost power.

K. Ric. Why, our battalia trebles that account:
Besides, the king's name is a tower of strength,
Which they upon the adverse faction want.

Up with the tent.—Come, noble gentlemen,
Let us survey the vantage of the ground;—

Call for some men of sound directions:—
Let's want no discipline, make no delay;

For, lords, to-morrow is a busy day. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter, on the other side of the Field, Richmond, Sir William Brandon, Oxford, and other Lords. Some of the Soldiers pitch Richmond's Tent.

Richm. The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.—
Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my stan-
Give me some ink and paper in my tent:— [dard.—
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,
Limit each leader to his several charge,
And part in just proportion our small power.
My lord of Oxford,—you, Sir William Brandon,—
And you, Sir Walter Herbert, stay with me:
The earl of Pembroke keeps his regiment:—
Good captain Blunt, bear my good night to him,
And by the second hour in the morning
Desire the earl to see me in my tent:—

Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me;
Where is lord Stanley quarter'd, do you know?

Blunt. Unless I have mista'en his colours much,
(Which, well I am assur'd, I have not done,)
His regiment lies half a mile at least
South from the mighty power of the king.

Richm. If without peril it be possible, [him,
Sweet Blunt, make some good means to speak with
And give him from me this most needful note.

Blunt. Upon my life, my lord, I'll undertake it;
And so, heaven give you quiet rest to-night!

Rich. Good night, good captain Blunt. Come, gentlemen,

Let us consult upon to-morrow's business;
In to my tent, the air is raw and cold.

[*They withdraw into the Tent.*]

Enter to his Tent, King Richard, Norfolk, Ratcliff, and Catesby.

K. Rich. What is't o'clock?

Cate. It's supper time, my lord;

It's nine o'clock.

K. Rich. I will not sup to-night.—

Give me some ink and paper.—

What, is my beaver easier than it was?—

And all my armour laid into my tent?

C. It is, my liege; and all things are in readiness.

K. Rich. Good Norfolk, bid thee to thy charge;
Use careful watch, choose trusty sentinels.

Nor. I go, my lord.

K. Rich. Stir with the lark to-morrow, gentle Norfolk.

Nor. I warrant you, my lord. [*Exit.*]

K. Rich. Ratcliff,——

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Send out a pursuivant at arms
To Stanley's regiment; bid him bring his power
Before sun-rising, lest his son George fall
Into the blind cave of eternal night.—

[*To Catesby.*] Fill me a bowl of wine.—Give me
a watch¹:—

Saddle white Surrey for the field to-morrow.—
Look that my staves² be sound, and not too

Ratcliff,—— [heavy.]

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Saw'st thou the melancholy lord
Northumberland?

Rat. Thomas the earl of Surrey, and himself,
Much about cock-shut³ time, from troop to troop
Went through the army, cheering up the soldiers.

K. Rich. I am satisfied. Give me a bowl of wine:
I have not that alacrity of spirit,
Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.—

So, set it down.—Is ink and paper ready?

Rat. It is, my lord.

K. Rich. Bid my guard watch; leave me.
About the mid of night, come to my tent,
And help to arm me.—Leave me, I say.

[*King Richard retires into his Tent. Exeunt
Ratcliff and Catesby.*]

*Richmond's Tent opens, and discovers him,
and his Officers, &c.*

Enter Stanley.

Stan. Fortune and victory sit on thy helm!
Rich. All comfort that the dark night can
Be to thy person, noble father-in-law! afford,
Tell me, how fares our loving mother?

Stan. I, by attorney, bless thee from thymother,
Who prays continually for Richmond's good:
So much for that.—The silent hours steal on,
And flaky darkness breaks within the east.

In brief, for so the season bids us be,
Prepare thy battle early in the morning;
And put thy fortune to the arbitrement
Of bloody strokes, and mortal-staring war.

I, as I may, (that which I would, I cannot,)
With best advantage will deceive the time,
And aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms:

1 A watch-light marked in sections. 3 Twilight.

2 Wood of the lances.

But on thy side, I may not be too forward,
Lest, being seen, thy brother tender George
Be executed in his father's sight.
Farewell: The leisure and the fearful time
Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love,
And ample interchange of sweet discourse,
Which so long-sunder'd friends should dwell
upon:

Heaven give us leisure for these friendly rites!
Once more, adieu:—Be valiant, and speed well.

Rich. Goodlords, conduct him to his regiment;
I'll strive, with troubled thoughts, to take a nap;
Lest leaden slumber peise! me down to-morrow,
When I should mount with wings of victory:
Once more, good night, kind lords and gentlemen.

[*Exeunt Lords, &c. with Stanley.*]

O Thou! whose captain I account myself,
Look on my forces with a gracious eye:
Put in their hands thy bruising irons of wrath,
That they may crush down with a heavy fall
The usurping helmets of our adversaries!
Make us thy ministers of chastisement,
That we may praise thee in thy victory!
To thee I do commend my watchful soul,
Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes;
Sleeping, and waking, O, defend me still! [*Sleeps.*]

The Ghost of Prince Edward, son to Henry the Sixth, rises between the two Tents.

Ghost. [To *King Richard.*] Let me sit heavy
on thy soul to-morrow!
Think, how thou stab'dst me in my prime of youth
At Tewksbury: Despair, therefore, and die!
Be cheerful, Richmond: for the wronged souls
Of butcher'd princes fight in thy behalf:
King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee.

The Ghost of King Henry the Sixth rises.

Ghost. [To *King Richard.*] When I was mortal,
my anointed boy
By thee was punched full of deadly holes:
Think on the Tower, and me; Despair, and die!
Harry the sixth bids thee despair and die.
[To *Richmond.*] Virtuous and holy, be thou
conqueror!

Harry, that prophesied thou shouldst be king,
Doth comfort thee in thy sleep; Live, and flourish!

The Ghost of Clarence rises.

Ghost. [To *King Richard.*] Let me sit heavy
on thy soul to-morrow!
I, that was wash'd to death with fulsome wine,
Poor Clarence, by thy guile betray'd to death!
To-morrow in the battle think on me,
And fall thy edgeless sword; Despair, and die!—
[To *Richmond.*] Thou offspring of the house of
Lancaster,
The wronged heirs of York do pray for thee;
Good angels guard thy battle! Live, and flourish!

The Ghosts of Rivers, Grey, and Vaughan, rise.

Riv. [To *King Richard.*] Let me sit heavy on
thy soul to-morrow.

Rivers, that died at Pomfret! Despair, and die!
Grey. [To *King Richard.*] Think upon Grey,
and let thy soul despair!

Van. [To *K. Richard.*] Think upon Vaughan;
and, with guilty fear,

1 Weigh.

Let fall thy lance! Despair, and die!—

All. [To *Richmond.*] Awake! and think, our
wrongs in Richard's bosom
Will conquer him;—Awake, and win the day!

The Ghost of Hastings rises.

Ghost. [To *King Richard.*] Bloody and guilty,
guiltily awake;

And in a bloody battle end thy days!

Think on lord Hastings; and despair, and die!—
[To *Richmond.*] Quiet untroubled soul, awake,
awake!

Arm, fight, and conquer, for fair England's sake!

The Ghosts of the two young Princes rise.

Ghosts. Dream on thy cousins smother'd in
the Tower;

Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard,
And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death!
Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair, and die.—
Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace, and wake in joy;
Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy!
Live, and beget a happy race of kings!—
Edward's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

The Ghost of Queen Anne rises.

Gh. Richard, thy wife, that wretched Anne thy
That never slept a quiet hour with thee, [wife,
Now fills thy sleep with perturbations:
To-morrow in the battle think on me,
And fall thy edgeless sword; Despair, and die!—
[To *Richmond.*] Thou, quiet soul, sleep thou a
quiet sleep;
Dream of success and happy victory;
Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee.

The Ghost of Buckingham rises.

Ghost. [To *King Richard.*] The first was I,
that help'd thee to the crown;
The last was I, that felt thy tyranny;
O, in the battle think on Buckingham,
And die in terror of thy guiltiness!
Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death;
Fainting, despair; despairing, yield thy breath!—
[To *Richmond.*] I died for hope, ere I could lend
thee aid:

But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismay'd:
God, and good angels, fight on Richmond's side;
And Richard falls in height of all his pride.

[*The Ghosts vanish. King Richard starts
out of his dream.*]

K. Rich. Give me another horse,—bind up
my wounds,—

Have mercy, Jesu!—Soft; I did but dream.—
O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me!
The lights burn blue.—It is now dead midnight.
Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh.
What do I fear? myself? there's none else by:
Richard loves Richard; that is, I am I.
Is there a murderer here? No;—Yes; I am:
Then fly,—What, from myself? Great reason:
Lest I revenge. What? Myself on myself? Why?
I love myself. Wherefore? for any good,
That I myself have done unto myself?
O, no: alas, I rather hate myself,
For hateful deeds committed by myself.
I am a villain: Yet I lie, I am not.
Fool, of thyself speak well:—Fool, do not flatter.
My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,

And every tongue brings in a several tale,
And every tale condemns me for a villain.
Perjury, perjury, in the high'st degree,
Murder, stern murder, in the dir'st degree;
All several sins, all us'd in each degree,
Throng to the bar, crying all,—Guilty! guilty!
I shall despair.—There is no creature loves me;
And, if I die, no soul will pity me:—
Nay, wherefore should they? since that I myself
Find in myself no pity to myself.
Methought, the souls of all that I had murder'd
Came to my tent: and every one did threat
To-morrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

Enter Ratcliff.

Rat. My lord,—

K. Rich. Who's there? [cock

Rat. Ratcliff, my lord; 'tis I. The early village
Hath twice done salutation to the morn;

Your friends are up, and buckle on their armour.

K. Rich. O, Ratcliff, I have dream'd a fearful
dream!

What think'st thou? will our friends prove all
Rat. No doubt, my lord.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, I fear, I fear,—

R. Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows.

K. Rich. By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard,
Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers,
Arm'd in proof, and led by shallow Richmond.
It is not yet near day. Come, go with me;
Under our tents I'll play the eaves-dropper,
To hear, if any mean to shrink from me.

[*Exeunt King Richard and Ratcliff.*]

Richmond wakes. Enter Oxford and others.

Lords. Good morrow, Richmond.

R. 'Crymercy, lords, and watchful gentlemen,
That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.

Lords. How have you slept, my lord?

Richm. The sweetest sleep, and fairest-boding
That ever enter'd in a drowsy head, [dreams
Have I since your departure had, my lords.
Methought, their souls, whose bodies Richard
murder'd,

Came to my tent, and cried—On! victory!
I promise you, my heart is very jocund
In the remembrance of so fair a dream.

How far into the morning is it, lords?

Lords. Upon the stroke of four.

R. Why, then 'tis time to arm, and give direc-
tion,— [He advances to the Troops.

More than I have said, loving countrymen,
The leisure and enforcement of the time
Forbids to dwell on: Yet remember this,—
God, and our good cause, fight upon our side;
The prayers of holy saints, and wronged souls,
Like high-rear'd bulwarks, stand before our
faces;

Richard except, those, whom we fight against,
Had rather have us win, than him they follow.
For what is he they follow? truly, gentlemen,
A bloody tyrant, and a homicide;
One rais'd in blood, and one in blood establish'd;
One that made means to come by what he hath,
And slaughter'd those that were the means to
help him;

A base foul stone, made precious by the foil

Of England's chair, where he is falsely set;
One that hath ever been God's enemy:
Then, if you fight against God's enemy,
God will vouchsafe to ward¹ you as his soldiers;
If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain;
If you do fight against your country's foes,
Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire;
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors;
If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children quit² it in your age.
Then, in the name of God, and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing
swords:

For me, the ransom³ of my bold attempt
Shall be this cold corpse on the earth's cold face;
But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
The least of you shall share his part thereof.
Sound, drums and trumpets, boldly and cheer-
fully;

God, and saint George! Richmond, and victory!
[*Exeunt.*]

*Re-enter King Richard, Ratcliff, Attendants,
and Forces.*

K. Rich. What said Northumberland, as
touching Richmond?

Rat. That he was never trained up in arms.

K. Rich. He said the truth: And what said
Surrey, then? [purpose.

Rat. He smil'd and said, the better for our

K. Rich. He was i' the right; and so, indeed,
it is. [Clock strikes.

Tell the clock there.—Give me a calendar.—
Who saw the sun to-day?

Rat. Not I, my lord.

K. Rich. Then he disdains to shine; for, by
the book,

He should have brav'd the east an hour ago:
A black day will it be to somebody.—

Ratcliff.—

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. The sun will not be seen to-day;
The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.
I would, these dewy tears were from the ground.
Not shine to-day! Why, what is that to me,
More than to Richmond? for the self-same
heaven,

That frowns on me, looks sadly upon him.

Enter Norfolk.

Nor. Arm, arm, my lord; the foe vaunts in
the field. [horse;

K. Rich. Come, bustle, bustle;—Caparison my
Call up lord Stanley, bid him bring his power;—
I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,
And thus my battle shall be order'd.

My forehead shall be drawn out all in length,
Consisting equally of horse and foot;
Our archers shall be placed in the midst;
John duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey,
Shall have the leading of this foot and horse.
They thus directed, we ourself will follow
In the main battle; whosepuissance on either side
Shall be well winged; with our chiefest horse,
This, and saint George to boot!—What think'st
thou, Norfolk?

1 Guard. 2 Requite. 3 Atonement.

Nor. A good direction, warlike sovereign.—
This found I on my tent this morning.

[*Giving a Scroll.*]

K. R. [*Reads.*] *Jocky of Norfolk be not too bold,
For Dickon¹ thy master is bought and sold.*

A thing devised by the enemy.—

Go, gentlemen, every man unto his charge:
Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls:
Conscience is but a word that cowards use,
Devils'd at first to keep the strong in awe;
Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our
law.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell;
What shall I say more than I have infer'd?
Remember whom you are to cope withal;
A sort² of vagabonds, rascals, and run-aways,
A scum of Breagnes, and base lackey peasants,
Whom their o'er-cloyed country vomits forth
To desperate ventures and assur'd destruction.
You sleeping safe, they bring you to unrest;
You having lands, and bless'd with beauteous
wives,

They would restrain the one, disdain the other.
And who doth lead them, but a paltry fellow,
Long kept in Bretagne at our mother's cost?
A milk-sop, one that never in his life
Felt so much cold as over shoes in snow?
Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again;
Lash hence these over-weening rags of France,
These famish'd beggars, weary of their lives;
Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,
For want of means, poor rats, had hang'd them-
selves:

If we be conquer'd, let men conquer us,
And not these bastard Breagnes; whom our
fathers [thump'd,
Have in their own land beaten, bobb'd, and
And, on record, left them the heirs of shame.
Shall these enjoy our lands? lie with our wives?
Ravish our daughters?—Hark, I hear their
drum. [*Drum afar off.*]

Fight, gentlemen of England! fight, bold yeomen!
Draw, archers, draw your arrows to the head!
Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood;
Amaze the welkin with your broken staves!

Enter a Messenger.

Whatsays lord Stanley? will he bring his power?

Mess. My lord, he doth deny to come.

K. R. Off instantly with his son George's head.

Nor. My lord, the enemy is pass'd the marsh;
After the battle let George Stanley die.

K. Rich. A thousand hearts are great within
my bosom:

Advance our standards, set upon our foes;
Our ancient word of courage, fair saint George,
Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons!
Upon them! Victory sits on our helms. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

*Alarum: Excursions. Enter Norfolk, and
Forces; to him Catesby.*

Cate. Rescue, my lord of Norfolk, rescue,
rescue!

The king enacts more wonders than a man,

1 Richard.

2 Company.

Daring an opposite to every danger;
His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death:
Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost!

Alarum. Enter King Richard.

K. Rich. A horse! a horse! my kingdom for
a horse!

C. Withdraw, my lord, I'll help you to a horse.

K. Rich. Slave, I have set my life upon a cast,
And I will stand the hazard of the die:

I think there be six Richmonds in the field;

Five have I slain to-day, instead of him:—

A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!

[*Exeunt.*]

*Alarums. Enter King Richard and Richmond;
and exeunt fighting. Retreat, and Flourish.
Then enter Richmond, Stanley bearing the
Crown, with divers other Lords, and Forces.
Richm.* God, and your arms, be prais'd, vic-
torious friends;

The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.

Stan. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou
acquit thee!

Lo, here, this long-usurp'd royalty,
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal;
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

R. Great God of heaven, say, amen, to all:—
But, tell me first, is young George Stanley living?

Stan. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester
town. [*us.*]

Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw
Richm. What men of name are slain on either
side? [*Ferrers.*]

Stan. John duke of Norfolk, Walter lord
Sir Robert Brackenbury, and Sir William
Brandon. [*births.*]

Richm. Inter their bodies as becomes their
Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled,
That in submission will return to us;

And, then, as we have ta'en the sacrament,
We will unite the white rose with the red:—

Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity!—

What traitor hears me, and says not—Amen?
England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself;

The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,

The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire;
All this divided York and Lancaster,

Divided, in their dire division.—
O, now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,

The true successors of each royal house,
By heaven's fair ordinance conjoin together!

And let their heirs, (God, if thy will be so),
Enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd peace,

With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days!
Abate the edge of traitors, gracious lord,

That would reduce these bloody days again,
And make poor England weep in streams of blood!

Let them not live to taste this land's increase,
That would with treason wound this fair land's

peace!

Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again;
That she may long live here, God say—Amen.

[*Exeunt.*]

King Henry VIII.

Persons Represented.

KING HENRY THE EIGHTH.
CARDINAL WOLSEY.
CARDINAL CAMPEIUS.
CAPUCIUS, *Ambassador from the Emperor*
Charles V.
CRANMER, *Archbishop of Canterbury*.
DUKE OF NORFOLK.
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.
DUKE OF SUFFOLK.
EARL OF SURREY.
Lord Chamberlain.
Lord Chancellor.
GARDINER, *Bishop of Winchester*.
BISHOP OF LINCOLN.
LORD ABERGAVENNY.
LORD SANDS.
SIR HENRY GUILDFORD.
SIR THOMAS LOVELL.
SIR ANTHONY DENNY.
SIR NICHOLAS VAUX.
Secretaries to Wolsey.
CROMWELL, *Servant to Wolsey.*

GRIFFITH, *Gentleman-usher to Queen*
Katharine.
Three other Gentlemen.
DOCTOR BUTTS, *Physician to the King*.
Garter King at Arms.
Surveyor to the Duke of Buckingham.
BRANDON, *and a Sergeant at Arms.*
Door-keeper of the Council-chamber.
Porter and his Man.
Page to Gardiner.
A Crier.

QUEEN KATHARINE, *Wife to King Henry,*
afterwards divorced.
ANNE BULLEN, *her Maid of Honour; after-*
wards Queen.
An old Lady, Friend to Anne Bullen.
PATIENCE, *Woman to Queen Katharine.*
Several Lords and Ladies in the dumb shows;
Women attending upon the Queen; Spirits,
which appear to her; Scribes, Officers,
Guards, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Chiefly in London and Westminster; once at Kimbolton.*

PROLOGUE.

I come no more to make you laugh; things now,
That bear a weighty and a serious brow,
Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,
Such noble scenes as draw the eye to flow,
We now present. Those that can pity, here
May, if they think it well, let fall a tear;
The subject will deserve it. Such as give
Their money out of hope they may believe,
May here find truth too. Those, that come to see
Only a show or two, and so agree,
The play may pass; if they be still and willing,
I'll undertake, may see away their shilling
Richly in two short hours. Only they,
That come to hear a merry, wanton play,
A noise of targets; or to see a fellow
In a long motley coat, guarded¹ with yellow,
Will be deceiv'd; for, gentle hearers, know,
To ranken our chosen truth with such a show
As fool and fight is, beside forfeiting
Our own brains, and the opinion that we bring,
(To make that only true we now intend,²)
Will leave us never an understanding friend.
Therefore, for goodness' sake, and as you are
known,
The first and happiest hearers of the town,
Be sad, as we would make ye: Think, ye see
The very persons of our noble story,
As they were living; think you see them great,
And follow'd with the general throng, and sweat,
Of thousand friends: then, in a moment, see

¹ Laced.

² Pretend.

How soon this mightiness meets misery!
And, if you can be merry then, I'll say,
A man may weep upon his wedding day.

Act First.

SCENE I.

LONDON. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE PALACE.

Enter the Duke of Norfolk, at one Door; at the other the Duke of Buckingham, and the Lord Abergavenny.

B. Goodmorrow, and well met. How have you
Since last we saw in France? [done,

Nor. *Not much the worse.* I thank your grace:
Healthful; and ever since a fresh admirer
Of what I saw there.

Buck. *Not much the worse.* An untimely ague
Stay'd me a prisoner in my chamber, when
Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,¹
Met in the vale of Arde.

Nor. *Not much the worse.* Twixt Guynes and Arde:
I was then present, saw them salute on horseback;
Beheld them, when they lighted, how they clung
In their embracement, as they grew together;
Which had they, what four thron'd ones could
have weigh'd

Such a compounded one?

Buck. *Not much the worse.* All the whole time
I was my chamber's prisoner.

¹ Henry VIII. and Francis I.

Nor. Then you lost
The view of earthly glory: Men might say,
Till this time, pomp wassingle; but now married
To one above itself. Each following day
Became the next day's master, till the last
Made former wonders it's: To-day, the French,
All clinkant,¹ all in gold, like heathen gods,
Shone down the English: and, to-morrow, they
Made Britain, India: every man that stood,
Show'd like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were
As cherubin, all gilt: the madams too,
Not us'd to toil, did almost sweat to bear
The pride upon them, that their very labour
Was to them as a painting: now this mask
Was cry'd incomparable; and the ensuing night
Made it a fool, and beggar. The two kings
Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,
As presence did present them; him in eye,
Still him in praise: and, being present both,
'Twas said, they saw but one; and no discernor
Durst wag his tongue in censure.² When these

suns [leng'd
(For so they phrase them,) by their heralds chal-
The noble spirits to arms, they did perform
Beyond thought's compass; that former fabu-
lous story,

Being now seen possible enough, got credit,
That Bevis³ was believed.

Buck. O, you go far.
Nor. As I belong to worship, and affect
In honour honesty, the tract of every thing
Would by a good discourser lose some life,
Which action's self was tongue to. All was royal;
To the disposing of it nought rebell'd,
Order gave each thing view; the office did
Distinctly his full function.

Buck. Who did guide,
I mean, who set the body and the limbs
Of this great sport together, as you guess?

Nor. One, certes⁴ that promises no element⁵
In such a business.

Buck. I pray you, who, my lord?
Nor. All this was order'd by the good discretion
Of the right reverend cardinal of York.

Buck. No man's pie is free'd
From his ambitious finger. What had he
To do in these fierce vanities? I wonder,
That such a keech⁶ can with his very bulk
Take up the rays of the beneficial sun,
And keep it from the earth.

Nor. Surely, sir,
There's in him stuff that puts him to these ends:
For, being not propp'd by ancestry, (whose grace
Chalks successors their way,) nor call'd upon
For high feats done to the crown; neither allied
To eminent assistants, but, spider-like,
Out of his self-drawing web, he gives us note,
The force of his own merit makes his way;
A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys
A place next to the king.

Aber. I cannot tell
What heaven hath given him, let some graver eye
Pierce into that; but I can see his pride
Peep through each part of him: Whence has he
If not from hell, the devil is a niggard; [that?

Or has given all before, and he begins
A new hell in himself.

Buck. Why,
Upon this French going-out, took he upon him,
Without the privy o' the king, to appoint
Who should attend on him? He makes up the file
Of all the gentry; for the most part such
Too, whom as great a charge as little honour
He meant to lay upon: and his own letter,¹
The honourable board of council out,²
Must fetch him in the papers.³

Aber. I do know
Kinsmen of mine, three at the least, that have
By this so sicken'd their estates, that never
They shall abound as formerly.

Buck. O, many
Have broke their backs with laying manors on
them

For this great journey. What did this vanity,
But minister communication of
A most poor issue?

Nor. Grievingly I think
The peace between the French and us not values
The cost that did conclude it.

Buck. Every man,
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was
A thing inspir'd: and, not consulting, broke
Into a general prophecy,—That this tempest,
Dashing the garment of this peace, aboded
The sudden breach on't.

Nor. Which is budded out;
For France hath flaw'd the league, and hath
Our merchants' goods at Bordeaux. [attach'd

Aber. Is it therefore
The ambassador is silenced?

Nor. Marry, is't.
Aber. A proper title of a peace; and purchas'd
At a superfluous rate!

Buck. Why, all this business
Our reverend cardinal carried.⁴

Nor. 'Like it, your grace,
The state takes notice of the private difference
Betwixt you and the cardinal. I advise you,
(And take it from a heart that wishes towards you
Honour and plenteous safety,) that you read
The cardinal's malice and his potency
Together: to consider further, that
What his high hatred would effect, wants not
A minister in his power: You know his nature,
That he's revengeful; and I know, his sword
Hath a sharp edge: it's long, and, it may be said,
It reaches far; and where 'twill not extend,
Thither he darts it. Bosom up my counsel,
You'll find it wholesome. Lo, where comes that
That I advise your shunning. [rock,

*Enter Cardinal Wolsey, (the Purse borne before
him,) certain of the Guard, and two Secretaries
with Papers. The Cardinal in his passage
fixeth his eye on Buckingham, and Bucking-
ham on him, both full of disdain.*

Wol. The duke of Buckingham's surveyor? ha!
Where's his examination?

1 Secr. Here, so please you.

Wol. Is he in person ready?

1 Secr. Ay, please your grace.

1 Orders. *3* (Note him down for duty.)

2 (The council unconsulted.) *4* Conducted.

¹ Glittering.

² Criticism.

³ An old romance.

⁴ Certainly.

⁵ Practice.

⁶ Lump of fat.

Wol. Well, we shall then know more ; and
Shall lessen this big look. [*Buckingham*
[*Exeunt Wolsey, and Train.*

B. This butcher's cur! is venom-mouth'd, and I
Have not the power to muzzle him; therefore best
Not wake him in his slumber. A beggar's book
Out-worths a noble's blood.

Nor. What, are you chaf'd?
Ask heaven for temperance ; that's the appliance
Which your disease requires. [*only:*

Buck. I read in his looks
Matter against me ; and his eye revild
Me, as his abject object; at this instant
He bores² me with some trick: He's gone to the
I'll follow, and out-stare him. [*king:*

Nor. Stay, my lord,
And let your reason with your choler question
What 'tis you go about : To climb steep hills
Requires slow pace at first: Anger is like
A full-hot horse ; who being allow'd his way,
Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England
Can advise me like you ; be to yourself
As you would to your friend.

Buck. I'll to the king,
And from a mouth of honour quite cry down
This Ipswich fellow's insolence ; or proclaim,
There's difference in no persons.

Nor. Be advis'd:
Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot
That it do singe yourself : We may out-run,
By violent swiftness, that which we run at,
And lose by over-running. Know you not,
The fire, that mounts the liquor till it run o'er,
In seeming to augment it, wastes it? Be advis'd:
I say again, there is no English soul
More stronger to direct you than yourself ;
If with the sap of reason you would quench,
Or but allay, the fire of passion.

Buck. Sir,
I am thankful to you : and I'll go along
By your prescription:—but this top-proud fellow,
(Whom from the flow of gall I name not, but
From sincere motions,) by intelligence,
And proofs as clear as founts in July, when
We see each grain of gravel, I do know
To be corrupt and treasonous.

Nor. Say not, treasonous.
Buck. To the king I'll say't ; and make my
vouch as strong

As shore of rock. Attend. This holy fox,
Or wolf, or both, (for he is equal ravenous,
As he is subtle ; and as prone to mischief,
As able to perform it: his mind and place
Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally,
Only to show his pomp as well in France
As here at home, suggests³ the king our master
To this last costly treaty, the interview,
That swallow'd so much treasure, and like a glass
Did break i' the rinsing.

Nor. Faith, and so it did.
Buck. Pray, give me favour, sir. This cunning
cardinal

The articles o' the combination drew,
As himself pleas'd ; and they were ratified,
As he cried, Thus let be : to as much end,
As give a crutch to the dead : But our count-
cardinal

Has done this, and 'tis well; for worthy Wolsey,
Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows,
(Which, as I take it, is a kind of puppy
To the old dam, treason,)—Charles the emperor,
Under pretence to see the queen his aunt,
(For 'twas, indeed, his colour ; but he came
To whisper Wolsey,) here makes visitation:
His fears were, that the interview, betwixt
England and France, might, through their amity,
Breed him some prejudice ; for from this league
Peep'd arms that menac'd him : He privily
Deals with our cardinal ; and, as I trow,—
Which I do well ; for, I am sure, the emperor
Paid ere he promised ; whereby his suit was
granted,

Ere it was ask'd;—but when the way was made,
And pay'd with gold, the emperor thus desir'd;—
That he would please to alter the king's course,
And break the aforesaid peace. Let the king know,
(As soon he shall by me,) that thus the cardinal
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,
And for his own advantage.

Nor. I am sorry
To hear this of him ; and could wish he were
Something mistaken in't.

Buck. No, not a syllable;
I do pronounce him in that very shape,
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter Brandon; a Sergeant at Arms before him,
and two or three of the Guard.*

Bran. Your office, sergeant ; execute it.
Serg. Sir,
My lord the duke of Buckingham, and earl
Of Hereford, Stafford, and Northampton, I
Arrest thee of high treason, in the name
Of our most sovereign king.

Buck. Lo you, my lord,
The net has fall'n upon me ; I shall perish
Under device and practice.¹

Bran. I am sorry
To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on
The business present: 'Tis his highness' pleasure
You shall to the Tower.

Buck. It will help me nothing,
To plead mine innocence; for that dye is on me,
Which makes my whitest part black. The will
of heaven

Be done in this and all things !—I obey.—
O my lord Abergavenny, fare you well.

Bran. Nay, he must bear you company:—The
king [*To Abergavenny.*
Is pleas'd, you shall to the Tower, till you know
How he determines further.

Aber. As the duke said,
The will of heaven be done, and the king's
By me obey'd. [*pleasure*

Bran. Here is a warrant from
The king, to attach lord Montacute ; and the
Of the duke's confessor, John de la Court, [bodies
One Gilbert Peck, his chancellor,—

Buck. So, so ;
These are the limbs of the plot: no more, I hope.
Bran. A monk o' the Chartreux.

Buck. O, Nicholas Hopkins?
Bran. He.
Bu. My surveyor is false; the o'er-great cardinal

1 He was the son of a butcher. 2 Stabs. 3 Incites.

1 Unfair stratagem.

Hath show'd him gold: my life is spann'd already;
I am the shadow of poor Buckingham;
Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on,
By dark'ning my clear sun. — My lord, farewell.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE COUNCIL-CHAMBER.

Cornets. Enter King Henry, Cardinal Wolsey, the Lords of the Council, Sir Thomas Lovell, Officers, and Attendants. The King enters, leaning on the Cardinal's shoulder.

K. Hen. My life itself and the best part of it,
Thanks you for this great care: I stood i' the level
Of a full-charg'd confederacy, and give thanks
To you that chok'd it.—Let be call'd before us
That gentleman of Buckingham's: in person
I'll hear him his confessions justify;
And point by point the treasons of his master
He shall again relate.

The King takes his State.¹ The Lords of the Council take their several places. The Cardinal places himself under the King's feet, on his right side.

A Noise within, crying, Room for the Queen. Enter the Queen, ushered by the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk; she kneels. The King riseth from his State, takes her up, kisses, and placeth her by him.

Q. K. Nay, we must longer kneel: I am a suitor.

K. Hen. Arise, and take place by us:—Half
your suit

Never name to us ; you have half our power :
The other moiety, ere you ask, is given ;
Repeat your will, and take it.

Q. Kath. *Ans.* Thank your majesty.
That you would love yourself ; and in that love,
Not unconsider'd leave your honour, nor
The dignity of your office, is the point
Of my petition.

K. Hen. Lady mine, proceed.

Q. Kath. I am solicited, not by a few,
And those of true condition, that your subjects
Are in great grievance: there hath been com-
missions ~~of blood~~ [heart
Sent down among them, which hath flaw'd the
Of all their loyalties:—wherein, although,
My good lord cardinal, they vent reproaches
Most bitterly on you, as putter-on
Of these exactions, yet the king our master,
(Whose honour heaven shield from soil!) even
he escapes not

Language unmannerly, yea, such which breaks
The sides of loyalty, and almost appears
In loud rebellion.

Nor. Not almost appears,
 It doth appear: for, upon these taxations,
 The clothiers all, not able to maintain
 The many to them 'longing, have put off
 The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who,
 Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger
 And lack of other means, in desperate manner
 Daring the event to the teeth, are all in uproar,
 And danger serves among them.

K. Hen. Taxation!
Wherein? and what taxation?—My lord Cardinal,

1 Chair of state, throne.

You that are blam'd for it alike with us,
Know you of this taxation?

Vol. Please you, sir,
I know but of a single part, in aught
Pertains to the state: and front but in that file
Where others tell steps with me.¹

Q. Kath. No, my lord,
You know no more than others; but you frame
Things, that are known alike; which are not
wholesome [must
To those which would not know them, and yet
Performe be their acquaintance. These exactions,
Whereof my sovereign would have note, they are
Most pestilent to the hearing; and to bear them,
The back is sacrifice to the load. They say,
They are devis'd by you; or else you suffer
Too hard an exclamation.

K. Hen. Still exaction!
The nature of it? In what kind, let's know,
Is this exaction?

Q. Kath. I am much too venturous
In tempting of your patience; but am bolden'd
Under your promis'd pardon. The subject's grief
Comes through commissions, which compel from
The sixth part of his substance, to be levied [each
Without delay; and the pretence for this
Is nam'd, your wars in France: This makes bold
months:

Tongues spit their duties out, and cold hearts
 Allegiance in them; their curses now [freeze
 Live where their prayers did: and it's come to
 That tractable obedience is a slave [pass,
 To each incensed will. I would, your highness
 Would give it quick consideration, for
 There is no primer² business.

K. Hen. By my life,
This is against our pleasure.

Wol. And for me,
 I have no further gone in this, than by
 A single voice; and that not pass'd me, but
 By learned approbation of the judges.
 If I am traduc'd by tongues, which neither know
 My faculties, nor person, yet will be
 The chronicles of my doing,—let me say,
 'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake.
 That virtue must go through. We must not stint
 Our necessary actions, in the fear
 To cope⁴ malicious censurers; which ever,
 As ravenous fishes, do a vessel follow
 That is new trimm'd; but benefit no further
 Than vainly longing. What we oft do best,
 By sick interpreters, once⁵ weak ones, is
 Not ours, or not allow'd;⁶ what worst, as oft,
 Hitting a grosser quality, is cried up
 For our best act. If we shall stand still,
 In fear our motion will be mock'd or carp'd at,
 We should take root here where we sit, or sit
 State statutes only.

K. Hen. Things done well,
And with a care, exempt themselves from fear;
Things done without example, in their issue
Are to be fear'd. Have you a precedent
Of this commission? I believe, not any.
We must not rend our subjects from our laws.

1 I am only president among the
other counsellors.

2 More important.

3 Thicket.

4 Encounter.

5 At one time.

6 Approved.

And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each? A trembling contribution! Why, we take, From every tree, lop, bark, and part o' the timber; And though we leave it with a root, thus hack'd, The air will drink the sap. To every county, Where this is question'd, send our letters, with Free pardon to each man that has denied The force of this commission; Pray, look to't; I put it to your care.

Wol. [To the Secretary.] A word with you. Let there be letters writ to every shire, Of the king's grace and pardon. The griev'd command hardly conceive of me; let it be nois'd, [mons That through our intercession, this revokement And pardon comes: I shall anon advise you Further in the proceeding. [Exit Secretary. Enter Surveyor.]

Q. K. I am sorry that the duke of Buckingham Is run in your displeasure.

K. Hen. It grieves many: The gentleman is learn'd, and a most rare speaker, To nature none more bound; his training such, That he may furnish and instruct great teachers, And never seek for aid out of himself.

Yet see
When these so noble benefits shall prove Not well dispos'd, the mind growing once corrupt, They turn to vicious forms, ten times more ugly Than ever they were fair. This man so complete, Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when we, Almost with ravish'd listening, could not find His hour of speech a minute; he, my lady, Hath into monstrous habits put the graces That once were his, and is become as black As if besmear'd in hell. Sit by us: you shall hear (This was his gentleman in trust,) of him Things to strike honour sad.—Bid him recount The fore-recited practices; whereof We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

W. Stand forth; and with bold spirit relate what Most like a careful subject, have collected [you, Out of the duke of Buckingham.

K. Hen. Speak freely.
Surv. First, it was usual with him, every day It would infect his speech, That if the king Should without issue die, he'd carry it so To make the sceptre his: These very words I have heard him utter to his son-in-law, Lord Abergany; to whom by oath he menac'd Revenge upon the cardinal.

Wol. Please, your highness, note This dangerous conception in this point. Not friended by his wish, to your high person His will is most malignant; and it stretches Beyond you, to your friends.

Q. Kath. My learn'd lord cardinal, Deliver all with charity.

K. Hen. Speak on:
How grounded he his title to the crown, Upon our fail? to this point hast thou heard him At any time speak aught?

Surv. He was brought to this By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.

K. Hen. What was that Hopkins?

Surv. Sir, a Chartreux friar, His confessor, who fed him every minute With words of sovereignty.

K. Hen. How know'st thou this?

S. Not long before your highness sped to France, The duke being at the Rose, within the parish Saint Lawrence Poultney, did of me demand What was the speech amongst the Londoners Concerning the French journey: I replied, Men fear'd, the French would prove perfidious, To the king's danger. Presently the duke Said, 'Twas the fear, indeed; and that he doubted, 'Twould prove the verity of certain words Spoke by a holy monk; That oft, says he, Hath sent to me, wishing me to permit John de la Court, my chaplain, a choice hour To hear from him a matter of some moment: Whom after under the confession's seal He solemnly had sworn, that what he spoke, My chaplain to no creature living, but To me, should utter, with demure confidence This pausingly ensu'd,—Neither the king nor his heirs,

(Tell you the duke) shall prosper: bid him strive To gain the love of the commonalty; the duke Shall govern England.

Q. Kath. If I know you well, You were the duke's surveyor, and lost your office On the complaint o' the tenants: Take good heed, You charge not in your spleen a noble person, And spoil your nobler soul! I say, take heed; Yes, heartily beseech you.

K. Hen. Let him on:—
Go forward.

Surv. On my soul, I'll speak but truth. I told my lord the duke, by the devil's illusions The monk might be deceiv'd; and that 'twas dangerous for him, To ruminate on this so far, until It forg'd him some design, which, being believ'd, It was much like to do: He answer'd, *Tush! It can do me no damage:* adding further, That, had the king in his last sickness fail'd, The cardinal's and Sir Thomas Lovell's heads Should have gone off.

K. Hen. Ha! what, so rank? Ah, ha! There's mischief in this man:—Canst thou say
Surv. I can, my liege. [further?

K. Hen. Proceed.
Surv. Being at Greenwich, After your highness had reprov'd the duke About Sir William Blomer,—

K. Hen. I remember, Of such a time:—Being my servant sworn, The duke retain'd him his.—But on; Whence?

Surv. If, quoth he, I for this had been committed, As to the Tower, I thought,—I would have play'd The part my father meant to act upon The usurper Richard: who, being at Salisbury, Made suit to come in his presence; which, if granted,

As he made semblance of his duty, would Have put his knife in to him.

K. Hen. A giant traitor!
Wol. Now, madam, may his highness live in And this man out of prison? [freedom,

Q. Kath. Heaven mend all!

K. Hen. There's something more would out of thee; What say'st?

Surv. After the duke his father,—with the knife,— He stretch'd him, and, with one hand on his dagger,

Another spread on his breast, mounting his eyes,
He did discharge a horrible oath; whose tenour
Was,—Were he evil us'd, he would out-go
His father, by as much as a performance
Does an irresolute purpose.

K. Hen. There's his period,
To sheath his knife in us. He is attach'd;
Call him to present trial: if he may
Find mercy in the law, 'tis his; if none,
Let him not seek't of us: By day and night,
He's traitor to the height. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Sands.

Cham. Is it possible, the spells of Frances should
Men into such strange mysteries? [*juggle*]

Sands. New customs,
Though they be never so ridiculous,
Nay, let them be unmanly, yet are follow'd.

Cham. As far as I see, all the good our English
Have got by the late voyage, if but merely
A fit¹ or two o' the face; but they are shrewd ones;
For when they hold them, you would swear di-
Their very noses had been counsellors [rectly,
To Pepin, or Clotharius, they keep state so.

Sands. They have all new legs, and lame ones;
one would take it,
That never saw them pace before, the spavin,
A springhalt² reign'd among them.

Cham. Death! my lord,
Their clothes are after such a pagan cut too,
That, sure, they have worn out Christendom.
What news, Sir Thomas Lovell? [*How now?*]

Enter Sir Thomas Lovell.

Lov. 'Faith, my lord,
I hear of none but the new proclamation
That's clapp'd upon the court-gate.

Cham. What is't for?

Lov. The reformation of our travell'd gallants,
That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and tailors.

Cham. I am glad, 'tis there; now I would pray
our monsieurs

To think an English courtier may be wise,
And never see the Louvre.

Lov. They must either
(For so run the conditions,) leave these remnants
Of fool, and feather, that they got in France,
With all their honourable points of ignorance,
Pertaining thereunto, (as fights, and fireworks;
Abusing better men than they can be,
Out of a foreign wisdom,) renouncing clean
The faith they have in tennis, and tall stockings,
Short blister'd³ breeches, and those types of
And understand again like honest men; [travel,
Or pack to their old playfellows: there, I take it,
They may, *cum privilegio*, wear away
The lag end of their wildness, and be laugh'd at.

Sa. 'Tis time to give them physick, their dis-
Are grown so catching. [*eases*]

Cham. What a loss our ladies
Will have of these trim vanities!

Lov. Ay, marry,
There will be woe indeed, lords.

Sands. I am glad they're going;

¹ Grinnace.

³ Swelled out.

² A disease incident to horses.

(For, sure, there's no converting of them;) now
An honest country lord, as I am, beaten
A long time out of play, may bring his plain-song,
And have an hour of hearing; and, by'r lady,
Held current musick too.

Cham. Well said, lord Sands;
Your colt's tooth is not cast yet.

Sands. No, my lord;
Nor shall not, while I have a stump.

Cham. Sir Thomas,
Whither were you a going?

Lov. To the cardinal's;
Your lordship is a guest too.

Cham. O, 'tis true:
This night he makes a supper, and a great one,
To many lords and ladies; there will be
The beauty of this kingdom, I'll assure you.

Lov. That churchman bears a bounteous mind
indeed,

A hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us;
His dews fall every where.

Cham. No doubt, he's noble;
He had a black mouth, that said other of him.

S. He may, my lord, he has wherewithal; in him,
Sparing would show a worse sin than ill doctrine:
Men of his way should be most liberal,
They are set here for examples.

Cham. True, they are so:
But few now give so great ones. My barge stays;
Your lordship shall along:—Come, good Sir
Thomas,

We shall be late else: which I would not be,
For I was spoke to, with Sir Henry Guildford,
This night to be comptrollers.

Sands. I am your lordship's.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

THE PRESENCE CHAMBER IN YORK PLACE.

Hautboys. A small Table under a State for the
Cardinal, a longer Table for the Guests. *Enter*
at one door Anne Bullen, and divers Lords,
Ladies, and Gentlewomen, as Guests; at an-
other door, *enter* Sir Henry Guildford.

Guild. Ladies, a general welcome from his grace
Salutes you all: This night he dedicates
To fair content, and you: none here, he hopes,
In all this noble bevy, has brought with her
One care abroad; he would have all as merry
As first-good company, good wine, good welcome
Can make good people.—O, my lord, you are
tardy;

*Enter Lord Chamberlain, Lord Sands, and
Sir Thomas Lovell.*

The very thought of this fair company
Clapp'd wings to me.

Cham. You are young, Sir Harry Guildford.
Sands. By my life,

They are a sweet society of fair ones. [*Harry,*
Cham. Sweet ladies, will it please you sit? Sir

Place you that side, I'll take the charge of this:
His grace is ent'ring.—Nay, you must not freeze;
Two women plac'd together makes cold weather:—
My lord Sands, you are one will keep them
Pray, sit between these ladies. [*waking;*]

Sands. By my faith,
And thank your lordship.—By your leave,
sweet ladies;

[*Sits himself between Anne Bullen and another Lady.*]

If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me;
I had it from my father.

Anne. Was he mad, sir?

Sand. O, very mad, exceeding mad, in love too:
But he would bite none; just as I do now,
He would kiss you twenty with a breath.

[*Kisses her.*]

Cham. Well said, my lord.—
So, now you are fairly seated:—Gentlemen,
The penance lies on you, if these fair ladies
Pass away frowning.

Sands. For my little cure,
Let me alone.

Hautboys. Enter Cardinal Wolsey, attended;
and takes his State.

W. You are welcome, my fair guests; that noble
Or gentleman, that is not freely merry, [lady,
Is not my friend: This, to confirm my welcome;
And to you all good health. [*Drinks.*]

Sands. Your grace is noble;
Let me have such a bowl may hold my thanks,
And save me so much talking.

Wol. My lord Sands,
I am beholden to you: cheeryour neighbours.—
Ladies, you are not merry;—Gentlemen,
Whose fault is this?

Sands. The red wine first must rise
In their fair cheeks, my lord; then we shall have
Talk us to silence. [*them*]

Anne. You are a merry gamester,
My lord Sands.

Sands. Yes, if I make my play.¹
Here's to your ladyship; and pledge it, madam.
I told your grace they would talk anon.

[*Drum and Trumpets within: Chambers²*
discharged.]

Wol. What's that?

Cham. Look out there, some of you.

[*Exit a Servant.*]

Wol. What warlike voice?
And to what end is this?—Nay, ladies, fear not;
By all the laws of war you are privileg'd.

Re-enter Servant.

Cham. How now? what is't?

Serv. A noble troop of strangers;
For so they seem: they have left their barge,
and landed;

And hither make, as great ambassadors
From foreign princes.

Wol. Good lord Chamberlain,
Go, give them welcome, you can speak the
French tongue;

And, pray, receive them nobly, and conduct them
Into our presence, where this heaven of beauty
Shall shine at full upon them:—Some attend him.—

[*Exit Chamberlain, attended. All arise,*
and Tables removed.]

You have now a broken banquet: but we'll mend
A good digestion to you all: and, once more, [it.
I shower a welcome on you;—Welcome all.

¹ Choose my game.

² Small cannon.

Hautboys. Enter the King, and Twelve others,
as Maskers, habited like Shepherds, with six-
teen Torch-bearers; ushered by the Lord
Chamberlain. They pass directly before the
Cardinal, and gracefully salute him.

A noble company! what are their pleasures?

Cham. Because they speak no English, thus
they pray'd

To tell your grace:—That, having heard by fame
Of this so noble and so fair assembly
This night to meet here, they could do no less,
Out of the great respect they bear to beauty,
But leave their flocks; and, under your fair con-
Crave leave to view these ladies, and entreat [duct
An hour of revels with them.

Wol. Say, lord chamberlain,
They have done my poor house grace; for which
I pay them [pleasures.

A thousand thanks, and pray them take their
[Ladies chosen for the Dance. The King
chooses Anne Bullen.

K. Hen. The fairest hand I ever touched!
O, beauty,

Till now I never knew thee. [*Music. Dance.*]

Wol. My lord,—

Cham. Your grace?

Wol. Pray tell them thus much from me:
There should be one amongst them, by his person,
More worthy this place than myself; to whom,
If I but knew him, with my love and duty
I would surrender it.

Cham. I will, my lord.

[*Cham. goes to the Company, and returns.*]

Wol. What say they?

Cham. Such a one, they all confess,
There is, indeed; which they would have your
Find out, and he will take it. [*grace*]

Wol. Let me see, then.—[*Comes from his State.*
By all your good leaves, gentlemen;—Here I'll
My royal choice. [*make*]

K. Hen. You have found him, cardinal:

[*Unmasking.*]

You hold a fair assembly; you do well, lord:
You are a churchman, or, I'll tell you, cardinal,
I should judge now unhappily.¹

Wol. I am glad,
Your grace is grown so pleasant.

K. Hen. My lord chamberlain,
Pr'ythee, come hither: What fair lady's that?

Cham. An't please your grace, Sir Thomas
Bullen's daughter, [*women.*]

The viscount Rochford, one of her highness'

K. H. By heaven, she is a dainty one.—Sweet-
I were unmannerly to take you out, [*heart,*

And not to kiss you.—A health, gentlemen,
Let it go round.

Wol. Sir Thomas Lovell, is the banquet ready
I' the privy chamber?

Lov. Yes, my lord.

Wol. Your grace,

I fear with dancing is a little heated.

K. Hen. I fear too much.

Wol. There's fresher air, my lord,

In the next chamber. [*partner,*

K. H. Lead in your ladies, every one.—Sweet
I must not yet forsake you: Let's be merry:—

Good my lord cardinal, I have half a dozen healths

¹ Mischievously.

To drink to these fair ladies, and a measure¹
To lead them once again; and then let's dream
Who's best in favour.—Let the musick knock it.
[*Exeunt, with Trumpets.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A STREET.

Enter Two Gentlemen, meeting.

1 *Gent.* Whither away so fast?
2 *Gent.* O,—save you, sir,
Even to the hall, to hear what shall become
Of the great duke of Buckingham.

1 *Gent.* I'll save you
That labour, sir. All's now done, but the cere-
Of bringing back the prisoner. [mony]

2 *Gent.* Were you there?

1 *Gent.* Yes, indeed, was I.

2 *Gent.* Pray speak, what has happen'd?

1 *Gent.* You may guess quickly what.

2 *Gent.* Is he found guilty?

1 *Gent.* Yes, truly is he, and condemn'd upon

2 *Gent.* I am sorry for't. [it.]

1 *Gent.* So are a number more.

2 *Gent.* But, pray, how pass'd it?

1 *Gent.* I'll tell you in a little. The great duke
Came to the bar; where, to his accusations,
He pleaded still not guilty, and alleg'd
Many sharp reasons to defeat the law.
The king's attorney, on the contrary,
Urg'd on the examinations, proofs, confessions
Of divers witnesses; which the duke desir'd
To him brought, *vivâ voce*, to his face:
At which appear'd against him, his surveyor;
Sir Gilbert Peck, his chancellor; and John Court,
Confessor to him; with that devil monk,
Hopkins, that made this mischief.

2 *Gent.* That was he
That fed him with his prophecies?

1 *Gent.* The same.
All these accus'd him strongly; which he fain
Would have flung from him, but, indeed, he could
And so his peers, upon this evidence [not:
Have found him guilty of high treason. Much
He spoke, and learnedly, for life: but all
Was either pitied in him, or forgotten.

2 *Gent.* After all this, how did he bear himself?

1 *Gent.* When he was brought again to the bar,
—to hear

Hisknell rung out, his judgment,—he was stirr'd
With such an agony, he sweat extremely,
And something spoke in choler, ill and hasty:
But he fell to himself again, and sweetly,
In all the rest show'd a most noble patience.

2 *Gent.* I do not think he fears death.

1 *Gent.* Sure, he does not,
He never was so womanish; the cause
He may a little grieve at.

2 *Gent.* Certainly,
The cardinal is the end of this.

1 *Gent.* 'Tis likely,
By all conjectures: First, Kildare's attainer,
Then deputy of Ireland; who remov'd,
Earl Surrey was sent thither, and in haste too,
Lest he should help his father.

1 *Dance.*

2 *Gent.* That trick of state
Was a deep envious one.

1 *Gent.* At his return,
No doubt, he will requite it. This is noted,
And generally; whoever the king favours,
The cardinal instantly will find employment,
And far enough from court too.

2 *Gent.* All the commons
Hate him perniciously, and, o' my conscience,
Wish him ten fathom deep: this duke as much
They love, and dote on; call him, bounteous
The mirror of all courtesy;— [Buckingham,

1 *Gent.* Stay there, sir,
And see the noble ruin'd man you speak of.

*Enter Buckingham from his Arraignment; Tip-
staves before him, the Axe with the edge to-
wards him; Halberds on each side; with him
Sir Thomas Lovell, Sir Nicholas Vaux, Sir
William Sands, and common People.*

2 *Gent.* Let's stand close, and behold him.
Buck. All good people,

You that thus far have come to pity me,
Hear what I say, and then go home and lose me,
I have this day receiv'd a traitor's judgment,
And by that name must die; yet, heaven bear wit-
And, if I have a conscience, let it sink me, [ness,
Even as the axe falls, if I be not faithful!

The law I bear no malice for my death,
It has done, upon the premises, but justice:
But those that sought it, I could wish more Chris-
Be what they will, I heartily forgive them: [tians:
Yet let them look they glory not in mischief,
Nor build their evils on the graves of great men;
For then my guiltless blood must cry against
For further life in this world I ne'er hope, [them.
Nor will I sue, although the king have mercies
More than I dare make faults. You few that lov'd
And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham, [me,
His noble friends, and fellows, whom to leave
Is only bitter to him, only dying,

Go, with me, like good angels, to my end;
And, as the long divorce of steel falls on me,
Make of your prayers one sweet sacrifice, [name,
And lift my soul to heaven.—Lead on, o' God's

Lov. I do beseech your grace, for charity,
If ever any malice in your heart
Were hid against me, now to forgive me frankly.

Buck. Sir Thomas Lovell, I as free forgive you,
As I would be forgiven: I forgive all;
There cannot be those numberless offences

'Gainst me, I can't take peace with; no black envy
Shall make my grave.—Commend me to his grace:
And, if he speak of Buckingham, pray, tell him,
You met him half in heaven: my vows and prayers
Yet are the king's; and, till my soul forsake me,
Shall cry for blessings on him: May he live
Longer than I have time to tell his years!
Ever below'd, and loving, may his rule be!
And, when old time shall lead him to his end,
Goodness and he fill up one monument!

L. To the water side I must conduct your grace;
Then give my charge up to Sir Nicholas Vaux,
Who undertakes you to your end.

Vaux. Prepare there,
The duke is coming: see, the barge be ready;
And fit it with such furniture, as suits
The greatness of his person.

Buck. Nay, Sir Nicholas, let it alone; my state now will but mock me. When I came hither, I was lord high constable, And duke of Buckingham; now, poor Edward Bohun:

Yet I am richer than my base accusers, That never knew what truth meant: I now seal it; And with that blood will make them one day groan for't.

My noble father, Henry of Buckingham, Who first rais'd head against usurping Richard, Flying for succour to his servant Banister, Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd, And without trial fell; God's peace be with him! Henry the seventh succeeding, truly pitying My father's loss, like a most royal prince, Restor'd me to my honours, and, out of ruins, Made my name once more noble. Now his son, Henry the eighth, life, honour, name, and all That made me happy, at one stroke has taken For ever from the world. I had my trial, And, must needs say, a noble one; which makes A little happier than my wretched father: [*Enter* Yet thus far we are one in fortunes:—Both Fell by our servants, by those men we lov'd most; A most unnatural and faithless service! Heaven has an end in all: Yet, you that hear me, This from a dying man receive as certain: Where you are liberal of your loves, and counsels, Be sure, you be not loose; for those you make friends.

And give your hearts to, when they once perceive The least rub in your fortunes, fall away Like water from ye, never found again But where they mean to sink ye. All good people, Pray for me! I must now forsake ye; the last hour Of my long weary life is come upon me. Farewell:

And when you would say something that is sad, Speak how I fell.—I have done; and God forgive me! [*Exeunt Buckingham and Train.*]

1 Gent. O, this is full of pity!—Sir, it calls, I fear, too many curses on their heads, That were the authors.

2 Gent. If the duke be guiltless, 'Tis full of woe: yet I can give you inkling Of an ensuing evil, if it fall, Greater than this.

1 Gent. Good angels keep it from us! Where may it be? you do not doubt my faith, sir?

2 Gent. This secret is so weighty, 'twill require A strong faith to conceal it.

1 Gent. Let me have it; I do not talk much.

2 Gent. I am confident; You shall, sir: Did you not of late days hear A buzzing, of a separation Between the king and Katharine?

1 Gent. Yes, but it held not; For when the king once heard it, out of anger He sent command to the lord mayor straight To stop the rumour, and allay those tongues That durst disperse it.

2 Gent. But that slander, sir, Is found a truth now: for it grows again Fresher than e'er it was; and held for certain The king will venture at it. Either the cardinal, Or some about him near, have, out of malice

To the good queen, possessed him with a scruple That will undo her: To confirm this too, Cardinal Campeius is arriv'd, and lately; As all think, for this business.

1 Gent. 'Tis the cardinal; And merely to revenge him on the emperor, For not bestowing on him, at his asking, The archbishoprick of Toledo, this is purpos'd.

2 Gent. I think, you have hit the mark: but is't not cruel,

That she should feel the smart of this! The Will have his will, and she must fall. [*Cardinal*

1 Gent. 'Tis woful.

We are too open here to argue this;

Let's think in private more. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE PALACE

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, reading a Letter.

Cham. My lord,—The horses your lordship sent for, with all the care I had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnished. They were young, and handsome; and of the best breed in the north. When they were ready to set out for London, a man of my lord cardinal's, by commission, and main power, took 'em from me; with this reason,—His master would be served before a subject, if not before the king; which stopped our mouths, sir.

I fear, he will, indeed; Well, let him have them: He will have all, I think.

Enter the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Nor. Well met, my good Lord chamberlain.

Cham. Good day to both your graces.

Suf. How is the king employ'd?

Cham. I left him private, Full of sad thoughts and troubles.

Nor. What's the cause?

C. It seems, the marriage with his brother's Has crept too near his conscience. [*Enter* *Suf.* No, his conscience Has crept too near another lady.

Nor. 'Tis so;

This is the cardinal's doing; the king-cardinal: That blind priest, like the eldest son of fortune, Turns what he lists. The king will know him one day.

Suf. Pray heaven, he do! he'll never know himself else.

Nor. How holily he works in all his business! And with what zeal? For now he has crack'd the league [*Enter* *Suf.* nephew.

Between us and the emperor, the queen's great He dives into the king's soul; and there scatters Dangers, doubts, wringing of the conscience, Fears, and despairs, and all these for his mar- And, out of all these to restore the king, [*riage*]: He counsels a divorce: a loss of her, That, like a jewel, has hung twenty years About his neck, yet never lost her lustre; Of her, that loves him with that excellence That angels love good men with; even of her That, when the greatest stroke of fortune falls, Will bless the king: And is not this course pious?

Cham. Heaven keep me from such counsel!

'Tis most true,

These news are everywhere; every tongue speaks them,
And every true heart weeps for't: All, that dare
Look into these affairs, see this main end,—
The French king's sister. Heaven will one day
open

The king's eyes, that so long have slept upon
This bold bad man.

Suf. And free us from his slavery.

Nor. We had need pray,
And heartily, for our deliverance;
Or this imperious man will work us all
From princes into pages: all men's honours
Lie in one lump before him, to be fashion'd
Into what pitch he please.

Suf. For me, my lords,
I love him not, nor fear him; there's my creed:
As I am made without him, so I'll stand,
If the king please; his curses and his blessings
Touch me alike, they are breath I not believe in.
I knew him, and I know him; so I leave him
To him, that made him proud, the pope.

Nor. Let's in:
And, with some other business, put the king
From these sad thoughts, that work too much
My lord, you'll bear us company? [upon him:
Cham. Excuse me;

The king hath sent me other-where: besides,
You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him:
Health to your lordships.

Nor. Thanks, my good lord chamberlain.

[*Exit Lord Chamberlain.*]

*Norfolk opens a Folding-door. The King is
discovered sitting and reading pensively.*

Suf. How sad he looks! sure, he is much

K. Hen. Who is there? ha? [afflicted.

Nor. 'Pray heaven he be not angry.

K. H. Who's there, I say? How dare you thrust
Into my private meditations? [yourselves
Who am I? ha?

Nor. A gracious king, that pardons all offences
Malice ne'er meant: our breach of duty, this way,
Is business of estate; in which, we come
To know your royal pleasure.

K. Hen. You are too bold;
Go to; I'll make ye know your times of business:
Is this an hour for temporal affairs? ha?

Enter Wolsey and Campeius.

Who's there? my good lord cardinal? O my
Wolsey,

The quiet of my wounded conscience,
Thou art a cure fit for a king.—[*To Campeius.*]

You're welcome,

Most learned reverend sir, into our kingdom;
Use us, and it:—[*To W.*] My good lord, have
I be not found a talker. [great care

Wol. Sir, you cannot.

I would your grace would give us but an hour
Of private conference.

K. Hen. [To *Nor.* and *Suf.*] We are busy; go.

Nor. This priest has no pride in him?

Suf. Not to speak of;

I would not be so sick though, for his
But this cannot continue. [place:

Nor. If it do,

I'll venture one heave at him.

Suf.

I another.)

[*Exeunt Norfolk and Suffolk.*]

W. Your grace has given a precedent of wisdom
Above all princes, in committing freely
Your scruple to the voice of Christendom:
Who can be angry now? what envy reach you?
The Spaniard, tied by blood and favour to her,
Must now confess, if they have any goodness,
The trial just and noble. All the clerks,
I mean, the learned ones, in Christian kingdoms,
Have their free voices; Rome, the nurse of judg-
Invited by your noble self, hath sent [ment,
One general tongue unto us, this good man,
This just and learned priest, cardinal Campeius;
Whom, once more, I present unto your highness.

K. Hen. And, once more, in mine arms, I
bid him welcome,

And thank the holy conclave for their loves; [for.
They have sent me such a man I would have wish'd

C. Your grace must needs deserve all strangers'
You are so noble: To your highness' hand [loves.
I tender my commission; by whose virtue,
(The court of Rome commanding),—you, my lord
Cardinal of York, are join'd with me their ser-
In the impartial judging of this business. [vant,

K. Hen. Two equal men. The queen shall
be acquainted [dinner?

Forthwith, for what you come:—Where's Gar-

W. I know your majesty has always lov'd her
So dear in heart not to deny her that

A woman of less place might ask by law,
Scholars, allow'd freely to argue for her. [favour

*K. H. Ay, and the best she shall have; and my
To him that does best; God forbid else. Cardinal,*

*Pr'ythee, call Gardiner to me, my new secretary;
I find him a fit fellow.* [*Exit Wolsey.*

Re-enter Wolsey, with Gardiner.

W. Give me your hand: much joy and favour
You are the king's now. [to you;

Gard. [*Aside.*] But to be commanded

For ever by your grace, whose hand has rais'd

K. Hen. Come hither, Gardiner. [me.

[*They converse apart.*]

Cam. My lord of York, was not one doctor Pace
In this man's place before him?

Wol. Yes, he was.

Cam. Was he not held a learned man?

Wol. Yes, surely.

Cam. Believe me, there's an ill opinion spread
Even of yourself, lord cardinal. [then

Wol. How! of me!

Cam. They will not stick to say you envied him;
And, fearing he would rise, he was so virtuous,

Kept him a foreign man¹ still; which so griev'd
That he ran mad, and died. [him,

Wol. Heaven's peace be with him!

That's Christian care enough: for living mur-
murers,

There's places of rebuke. He was a fool:
For he would needs be virtuous: That good fellow,

If I command him, follows my appointment;
I will have none so near else. Learn this, brother,

We live not to be grip'd by meaner persons.

K. Hen. Deliver this with modesty to the queen.
[*Exit Gardiner.*

The most convenient place that I can think of,
For such receipt of learning, is Black-Friars;

There ye shall meet about this weighty business:—
1 A stranger to the king.

My Wolsey, see it furnish'd.—O my lord,
Would it not grieve an able man, to leave
So sweet a bedfellow? But, conscience, con-
science.—

O, 'tis a tender place, and I must leave her.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE
QUEEN'S APARTMENTS.

Enter Anne Bullen, and an old Lady.

Anne. Not for that neither;—Here's the pang
that pinches:

His highness having liv'd so long with her: and
So good a lady, that no tongue could ever [she
Pronounce dishonour of her,—by my life,
She never knew harm-doing;—O now, after
So many courses of the sun enthron'd,
Still growing in a majesty and pomp,—the which
To leave is a thousand-fold more bitter, than
'Tis sweet at first to acquire,—after this process,
To give her the avault! it is a pity
Would move a monster.

Old L. Hearts of most hard temper
Melt and lament for her.

Anne. O! much better,
She ne'er had known pomp: though it be tem-
Yet, if that quarrel,² fortune, do divorce [pore],
From the bearer, 'tis a sufferance, panging
As soul and body severing.

Old L. Alas, poor lady!
She's a stranger now again.

Anne. So much the more
Must pity drop upon her. Verily,
I swear, 'tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glistering grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.

Old L. Our content
Is our best having.³

Anne. By my troth, I vow
I would not be a queen.

Old L. Beshrew me, but I would,
And so would you,
For all this spice of your hypocrisy:
You, that have so fair parts of woman on you,
Have too a woman's heart; which ever yet
Affected eminence, wealth, sovereignty;
Which, to say sooth,⁴ are blessings: and which
(Saving your mincing) the capacity [gift,
Of your soft cheveril⁵ conscience would receive,
If you might please to stretch it.

Anne. Nay, good troth,—
Old L. Yes, troth, and troth,—You would
not be a queen?

Anne. No, not for all the riches under heaven.

Old L. 'Tis strange, a three-pence bow'd⁶
would hire me,

Old as I am, to queen it: But, I pray you,
What think you of a duchess? have you limbs
To bear that load of title?

Anne. No, in truth.

Old L. Then you are weakly made: Pluck
off a little;

I would not be a young count in your way
For more than blushing comes to.

1 Send her away.

2 Arrow.

3 Possession.

4 Truth.

5 Kid-skin.

6 Crooked.

Anne. How you do talk!

I swear again, I would not be a queen
For all the world.

Old L. In faith, for little England
You'd venture an emballing¹: I myself
Would for Carnarvonshire, although there
'long'd [here?
No more to the crown but that. Lo, who comes

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Good morrow, ladies. What were't
worth to know

The secret of your conference?

Anne. My good lord,
Not your demand; it values not your asking:
Our mistresses' sorrows we were pitying.

Cham. It was a gentle business, and becoming
The action of good women: there is hope
All will be well.

Anne. Now I pray heaven, amen!

Cham. You bear a gentle mind, and heavenly
blessings

Follow such creatures. That you may, fair lady,
Perceive I speak sincerely, and high note's
Ta'en of your many virtues, the king's majesty
Commends his good opinion to you, and
Does purpose honour to you no less flowing
Than marchioness of Pembroke; to which title
A thousand pound a year, annual support
Out of his grace he adds.

Anne. I do not know,
What kind of my obedience I should tender;
More than my all is nothing: nor my prayers
Are not words duly hallow'd, nor my wishes
More worth than empty vanities; yet prayers,
and wishes,

Are all I can return. 'Beseech your lordship,
Vouchsafe to speak my thanks, and my obedience,
As from a blushing handmaid, to his highness;
Whose health, and royalty, I pray for.

Cham. Lady,
I shall not fail to approve the fair conceit
The king hath of you.—[*Aside.*] I have perus'd
her well;

Beauty and honour in her are so mingled,
That they have caught the king: and who knows
But from this lady may proceed a gem, [yet,
To lighten all this isle?—I'll to the king,
And say, I spoke with you.

Anne. My honour'd lord.—[*Exit Lord Cham.*]

Old L. Why, this it is; see, see!
I have been begging sixteen years in court,
(Am yet a courtier beggarly,) nor could
Come pat betwix too early and too late,
For any suit of pounds: and you, (O fate!)
A very fresh-fish here, (fie, fie upon
This compell'd fortune!) have your mouth fill'd
Before you open it. [up,

Anne. This is strange to me.

Old L. How tastes it? is it bitter? forty pence,
There was a lady once, ('tis an old story,) [no.
That would not be a queen, that would she not,
For all the mud in Egypt:—Have you heard it?

Anne. Come, you are pleasant.

Old L. With your theme, I could
O'er mount the lark. The marchioness of Pem-
broke!

1 The sign of royalty.

A thousand pounds a year! for pure respect;
No other obligation: By my life,
That promises more thousands: Honour's train
Is longer than his foreskirt. By this time,
I know, your back will bear a duchess;—Say,
Are you not stronger than you were?

Anne. Good lady,
Make yourself mirth with your particular fancy,
And leave me out on't. 'Would I had no being,
If this salute my blood a jot; it faints me,
To think what follows.
The queen is comfortless, and we forgetful
In our long absence: Pray, do not deliver
What here you have heard, to her.

Old L. What do you think me?

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A HALL IN BLACKFRIARS.

Trumpets, Sennets, and Cornets. Enter two Vergers, with short silver Wands; next them, two Scribes in the habits of Doctors; after them, the Archbishop of Canterbury, alone; after him, the Bishops of Lincoln, Ely, Rochester, and Saint Asaph; next them, with some small distance, follows a Gentleman bearing the Purse, with the Great Seal, and a Cardinal's Hat; then two Priests, bearing each a silver Cross; then a Gentleman-Usher bare-headed, accompanied with a Sergeant at Arms bearing a silver Mace; then two Gentlemen, bearing two great silver Pillars; after them, side by side, the two Cardinals, Wolsey and Campeius; two Noblemen with the Sword and Mace. Then enter the King and Queen, and their Trains. The King takes place under the Cloth of State; the two Cardinals sit under him as Judges. The Queen takes place at some distance from the King. The Bishops place themselves on each side the Court, in manner of a Consistory; between them, the Scribes. The Lords sit next the Bishops. The Crier and the rest of the Attendants stand in convenient order about the Stage.

Wol. Whilst our commission from Rome is read
Let silence be commanded.

K. Hen. What's the need?
It hath already publicly been read,
And on all sides the authority allow'd;
You may then spare that time.

Wol. Be't so:—Proceed.

Ser. Say, Henry king of England, come into the
Crier. Henry king of England, &c. [court.

K. Hen. Here.

Scribe. Say, Katharine queen of England,
come into court.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, &c.

[*The Queen makes no answer, rises out of her Chair, goes about the Court, comes to the King, and kneels at his feet; then speaks.*

Q. K. Sir, I desire you do me right and justice;
And to bestow your pity on me; for
I am a most poor woman, and a stranger,
Born out of your dominions; having here
No judge indifferent, nor no more assurance
Of equal friendship and proceeding. Alas, sir,

1 Ensigns of dignity carried before cardinals.

In what have I offended you? what cause
Hath my behaviour given to your displeasure,
That thus you should proceed to put me off,
And take your good grace from me? Heaven wit-
I have been to you a true and humble wife, [ness,
At all times to your will conformable:
Ever in fear to kindle your dislike,
Yea, subject to your countenance; glad or sorry,
As I saw it inclin'd. When was the hour,
I ever contradicted your desire,
Or made it not mine too? Or which of your friends
Have I not strove to love, although I knew
He were mine enemy? what friend of mine
That had to him deriv'd your anger, did I
Continue in my liking? nay, gave notice
He was from thence discharged? Sir, call to mind
That I have been your wife, in this obedience,
Upward of twenty years, and have been blest
With many children by you: If, in the course
And process of this time, you can report,
And prove it too, against mine honour aught,
My bond to wedlock, or my love and duty,
Against your sacred person, in God's name,
Turn me away; and let the foul'st contempt
Shut door upon me, and so give me up
To the sharpest kind of justice. Please you, sir,
The king, your father, was reputed for
A prince most prudent, of an excellent
And unmatch'd wit and judgment: Ferdinand,
My father, king of Spain, was reckon'd one
The wisest prince, that there had reign'd by many
A year before: It is not to be question'd
That they had gather'd a wise council to them
Of every realm, that did debate this business,
Who deem'd our marriage lawful: Wherefore I
Beseech you, sir, to spare me, till I may [humbly
Be by my friends in Spain advis'd; whose counsel
I will implore: If not, i' the name of Heaven
Your pleasure be fulfill'd!

Wol. You have here, lady,
(And of your choice,) these reverend fathers; men
Of singular integrity and learning,
Yea, the elect of the land, who are assembled
To plead your cause: It shall be therefore boot-
That longer you desire the court; as well [less
For your own quiet, as to rectify
What is unsettled in the king.

Cam. His grace
Hath spoken well and justly: Therefore, madam,
It's fit this royal session do proceed;
And that, without delay, their arguments
Be now produc'd and heard.

Q. Kath. Lord cardinal,—
To you I speak.

Wol. Your pleasure, madam!

Q. Kath. Sir,
I am about to weep; but, thinking that
We are a queen, (or long have dream'd so,) certain
The daughter of a king, my drops of tears
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

Wol. Be patient yet.

Q. K. I will, when you are humble; nay, before,
Or God will punish me. I do believe,
Induc'd by potent circumstances, that
You are mine enemy; and make my challenge,
You shall not be my judge: for it is you
Have blown this coa betwixt my lord and me,—

1 Useless.

Which heaven's dew quench!—Therefore, I say I utterly abhor, yea, from my soul, [again, Refuse you for my judge; whom, yet once more, I hold my most malicious foe, and think not At all a friend to truth.

Vol. I do profess
You speak not like yourself; who ever yet
Have stood to charity, and display'd the effects
Of disposition gentle, and of wisdom [wrong:
O'ertopping woman's power. Madam, you do me
I have no spleen against you; nor injustice
For you or any: How far I have proceeded,
Or how far further shall, is warranted
By a commission from the consistory, [me,
Yea, the whole consistory of Rome. You charge
That I have blown this coal: I do deny it:
The king is present: if it be known to him,
That I gainsay my deed, how may he wound,
And worthily, my falsehood? yea, as much
As you have done my truth. But if he know
That I am free of your report, he knows,
I am not of your wrong. Therefore in him
It lies, to cure me; and the cure is, to [before
Remove these thoughts from you: The which
His highness shall speak in, I do beseech
You, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking,
And to say so no more.

Q. Kath. My lord, my lord,
I am a simple woman, much too weak
To oppose your cunning. You are meek, and
humble mouth'd;

You sign your place and calling, in full seeming,
With meekness and humility: but your heart
Is cramm'd with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.
You have by fortune, and his highness' favours,
Gone slightly o'er low steps; and now are
mounted [words,

Where powers are your retainers: and your
Domesticks to you, serve your will, as't please
Yourself pronounce their office. I must tell you,
You tender more your person's honour, than
Your high profession spiritual: That again
I do refuse you for my judge; and here,
Before you all, appeal unto the pope,
To bring my whole cause 'fore his holiness,
And to be judg'd by him.

[*She curt'sies to the King, and offers to depart.*

Cam. The queen is obstinate,
Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and
Disdainful to be try'd by it; 'tis not well,
She's going away.

K. Hen. Call her again.

Crier. Katharine, queen of England, come into
Grif. Madam, you are call'd back. [the court.

Q. Kath. What need you note it? pray you,
keep your way.

When you are call'd, return.—Now the Lord help,
They vex me past my patience!—Pray you, pass
I will not tarry: no, nor ever more, [on:
Upon this business, my appearance make
In any of their courts.

[*Exeunt Queen, Griffith, and her other
Attendants.*

K. Hen. Go thy ways, Kate:
That man i' the world who shall report he has
A better wife, let him not be trusted,
For speaking false in that: Thou art, alone,
(If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,

Thy meekness saint-like, wife-like government,—
Obeying in commanding,—and thy parts
Sovereign and pious else, could speak thee out,)
The queen of earthly queens:—She is noble born:
And, like her true nobility, she has
Carried herself toward me.

Vol. Most gracious sir,
In humblest manner I require your highness,
That it shall please you to declare in hearing
Of all these ears, (forwhere I'm robb'd and bound,
There must I be unloos'd; although not there
At once and fully satisfied,) whether ever I
Did broach this business to your highness; or
Laid any scruple in your way, which might
Induce you to the question on't! or ever
Have to you,—but with thanks to Heaven for such
A royal lady,—spake one the least word, might
Be to the prejudice of her present state,
Or touch of her good person?

K. Hen. My lord cardinal,
I do excuse you, yea, upon mine honour,
I free you from't. You are not to be taught
That you have many enemies, that know not
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,
Bark when their fellows do: by some of these
The queen is put in anger. You are excus'd:
But will you be more justified? you ever
Have wish'd the sleeping of this business; never
Desir'd it to bestirr'd; but oft have hinder'd; oft
The passages made toward it:—on my honour,
I speak my good lord cardinal to this point,
And thus far clear him. Now, what mov'd me
to't,—

I will be bold with time and your attention:—
Then mark the inducement. Thus it came;—
give heed to't.

My conscience first receiv'd a tenderness,
Scruple, and pain, on certain speeches utter'd
By the bishop of Bayonne, then French ambas-
sador;

Who had been hither sent on the debating
A marriage, 'twixt the duke of Orleans and
Our daughter Mary: I the progress of this busi-
Ere a determinate resolution, he [ness,
(I mean the bishop) did require a respite;
Wherein he might the king his lord advèrtise
Whether our daughter were legitimate,
Respecting this our marriage with the dowager,
Sometime our brother's wife. This respite shook
The bosom of my conscience, enter'd me,
Yea, with a splitting power, and made to tremble
The region of my breast; which forced such way,
That many maz'd considerings did throng,
And press'd in with this caution. First, me-
thought,

I stood not in the smile of heaven; who had
Commanded nature, that my lady's womb,
If it conceiv'd a male child by me, should
Do no more offices of life to't than
The grave does to the dead: for her male issue
Or died where they were made, or shortly after
This world had air'd them; Hence I took a
thought

This was a judgment on me; that my kingdom,
Well worthy the best heir o' the world, should not
Be gladdened in't by me: Then follows, that
I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in

By this my issue's fail: and that gave to me.
Many a groaning throe. Thus hulling¹ in
The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer
Toward this remedy, whereupon we are
Now present here together; that's to say,
I meant to rectify my conscience,—which
I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,—
By all the reverend fathers of the land,
And doctors learn'd.—First, I began in private
With you, my lord of Lincoln; you remember
How under my oppression I did reek,²
When I first mov'd you.

Lin. Very well, my liege.

K. H. I have spoke long; be pleas'd yourself
How far you satisfied me. [to say]

Lin. So please your highness,
The question did at first so stagger me,—
Bearing a state of mighty moment in't,
And consequence of dread,—that I committed
The daring'st counsel which I had, to doubt;
And did entreat your highness to this course,
Which you are running here.

K. Hen. I then mov'd you,
My lord of Canterbury; and got your leave
To make this present summons:—Unsolicited
I left no reverend person in this court;
But by particular consent proceeded,
Under your hands and seals. Therefore, go on:
For no dislike i' the world against the person
Of the good queen, but the sharp thorny points
Of my alleged reasons, drive this forward:
Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life
And kingly dignity, we are contented
To wear our mortal state to come, with her,
Katharine our queen, before the primest crea-
That's paragon'd o' the world. [ture]

Cam. So please your highness,
The queen being absent, 'tis a needful fitness
That we adjourn this court till further day:
Mean while must be an earnest motion
Made to the queen, to call back her appeal
She intends unto his holiness.

[*They rise to depart.*]

K. Hen. [*Aside.*] I may perceive,
These cardinals trifle with me: I abhor
This dilatory sloth, and tricks of Rome.
My learn'd and well-beloved servant, Cranmer,
Prythee, return; with thy approach, I know,
My comfort comes along. Break up the court:
I say, set on. [*Exeunt, in manner as they entered.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—PALACE AT BRIDEWELL. A ROOM
IN THE QUEEN'S APARTMENT.

The Queen, and some of her Women at Work.

Q. Kath. Take thy lute, wench; my soul
grows sad with troubles;
Sing, and disperse them, if thou canst: leave
[working.]

SONG.

*Orpheus with his lute made trees,
And the mountain-tops, that freeze,
Bow themselves, when he did sing:*

1 Tossing without guidance.

2 Sweet.

*To his musick, plants, and flowers,
Ever sprung; as sun, and showers,
There had been a lasting spring.
Every thing that heard him play,
Even the billows of the sea,
Hung their heads, and then lay by.
In sweet musick is such art;
Killing care, and grief of heart,
Fall asleep, or, hearing, die.*

Enter a Gentleman.

Q. Kath. How now?

Gent. An't please your grace, the two great
Wait in the presence.¹ [cardinals]

Q. Kath. Would they speak with me?

Gent. They will'd me say so, madam.

Q. Kath. Pray their graces
To come near. [*Exit Gent.*] What can be their
business [favour?]

With me, a poor weak woman, fall'n from
I do not like their coming, now I think on't.
They should be good men; their affairs as
But all hoods make not monks. [righteous:]

Enter Wolsey and Campeius.

Wol. Peace to your highness!

Q. Kath. Your graces find me here part of a
housewife;

I would be all, against the worst may happen.
What are your pleasures with me, reverend lords?

Wol. May it please you, noble madam, to
withdraw

Into your private chamber, we shall give you
The full cause of our coming.

Q. Kath. Speak it here;
There's nothing I have done yet, o' my conscience,
Deserves a corner: 'Would, all other women
Could speak this with as free a soul as I do!
My lords, I care not, (so much I am happy
Above a number,) if my actions
Were tried by every tongue, every eye saw them,
Envy and base opinion set against them,
I know my life so even: If your business
Seek me out, and that way I am wife in,
Out with it boldly; Truth loves open dealing.

Wol. *Tanta est erga te mentis integritas,
regina serenissima,—*

Q. Kath. O, good my lord, no Latin;
I am not such a truant since my coming,
As not to know the language I have liv'd in:
A strange tongue makes my cause more strange,
suspicious;

Pray, speak in English: here are some will
thank you,

If you speak truth, for their poor mistress' sake;
Believe me, she has had much wrong: Lord car-
The willing'st sin I ever yet committed, [dinal,
May be absolv'd in English.

Wol. Noble lady,

I am sorry, my integrity should breed,
(And service to his majesty and you,)
So deep suspicion, where all faith was meant.
We come not by the way of accusation,
To taint that honour every good tongue blesses;
Nor to betray you any way to sorrow;
You have too much, good lady: but to know
How you stand minded in the weighty difference.

1 Presence chamber.

Between the king and you; and to deliver,
Like free and honest men, our just opinions,
And comforts to your cause.

Cam. Most honour'd madam,
My lord of York,—out of his noble nature,
Zeal and obedience he still bore your grace;
Forgetting, like a good man, your late censure
Both of his truth and him, (which was too far,)—
Offers, as I do, in a sign of peace,
His service and his counsel.

Q. Kath. To betray me. [*Aside.*
My lords, I thank you both for your good wills,
Ye speak like honest men, (pray heaven ye prove
But how to make you suddenly an answer, [so!]
In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,
(More near my life, I fear,) with my weak wit,
And to such men of gravity and learning,
In truth, I know not. I was set at work
Among my maids; full little Heaven knows, look-
Either for such men, or such business. [ing
For her sake that I have been, (for I feel
The last fit of my greatness,) good your graces,
Let me have time, and counsel, for my cause;
Alas! I am a woman, friendless, hopeless.

W. Madam, you wrong the king's love with these
Your hopes and friends are infinite. [fears;

Q. Kath. In England,
But little for my profit: Can you think, lords,
That any Englishman dare give me counsel? [sure,
Or be a known friend, 'gainst his highness' plea-
(Though he be grown so desperate to be honest,)
And live a subject? Nay, forsooth, my friends,
They that must weigh out my afflictions,
They that my trust must grow to, live not here;
They are, as all my other comforts, far hence,
In mine own country, lords.

Cam. I would, your grace
Would leave your griefs, and take my counsel.

Q. Kath. How, sir?

Cam. Put your main cause into the king's pro-
tection;

He's loving, and most gracious; 'twill be much
Both for your honour better, and your cause;
For, if the trial of the law o'ertake you,
You'll part away disgrac'd.

Wol. He tells you rightly.

Q. K. Ye tell me what ye wish for both, my ruin:
Is this your Christian counsel? out upon ye!
Heaven is above all yet; there sits a judge,
That no king can corrupt.

Cam. Your rage mistakes us.

Q. Kath. The more shame for ye; holy men I
thought ye,

Upon my soul, two reverend cardinal virtues:
But cardinal sins, and hollow hearts, I fear ye:
Mend them for shame, my lords. Is this your
comfort?

The cordial that ye bring a wretched lady?
A woman lost among ye, laugh'd at, scorn'd?
I will not wish ye half my miseries,
I have more charity: But say, I warn'd ye;

Take heed, for heaven's sake, take heed, lest at
The burden of my sorrows fall upon ye. [once

Wol. Madam, this is a mere distraction;

You turn the good we offer into envy.

Q. K. Ye turn me into nothing: Wee upon ye,
And all such false professors! Would ye have me

1 Outweigh.

(If you have any justice, any pity;
If ye be any thing but churchmen's habits,)
Put my sick cause into his hands that hates me?
Alas! he has banish'd me his bed already;
His love, too, long ago; I am old, my lords,
And all the fellowship I hold now with him
Is only my obedience. What can happen
To me, above this wretchedness? all your studies
Make me a curse like this.

Cam. Your fears are worse.
Q. Kath. Have I liv'd thus long—(let me speak
myself, [one?

Since virtue finds no friends,)—a wife, a true
A woman (I dare say, without vain-glory,)
Never yet branded with suspicion?
Have I with all my full affections [him?
Still met the king? lov'd him next heaven? obey'd
Been, out of fondness, superstitious to him?
Almost forgot my prayers to content him?
And am I thus rewarded? 'tis not well, lords.
Bring me a constant woman to her husband,
One that ne'er dream'd a joy beyond his pleasure;
And to that woman, when she has done most,
Yet will I add an honour,—a great patience.

Wol. Madam, you wander from the good we
aim at.

Q. Kath. My lord, I dare not make myself so
To give up willingly that noble title [guilty,
Your master wed me to; nothing but death
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.

Wol. 'Pray, hear me.

Q. K. 'Would I had never trod this English
Or felt the flatteries that grow upon it! [earth,
Ye have angels' faces, but Heaven knows your
hearts.

What will become of me now, wretched lady?

I am the most unhappy woman living.—

Alas! poor wenches, where are now your fortunes?

[*To her Women.*

Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom, where no pity,
No friends, no hope; no kindred weep for me,
Almost no grave allow'd me:—Like the lily,
That once was mistress of the field, and flourish'd,
I'll hang my head and perish.

Wol. If your grace
Could but be brought to know, our ends are
honest. [lady,

You'd feel more comfort: why should we, good
Upon what cause, wrong you! alas! our places,
The way of our profession is against it;

We are to cure such sorrows, not to sow them.
For goodness' sake, consider what you do;

How you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly
Grow from the king's acquaintance, by this car-
The hearts of princes kiss obedience, [riage,
So much they love it; but, to stubborn spirits,
They swell, and grow as terrible as storms.
I know, you have a gentle, noble temper,
A soul as even as a calm: Pray, think us
Those we profess, peace-makers, friends, and
servants. [virtues

Cam. Madam, you'll find it so. You wrong your
With these weak women's fears. A noble spirit,
As yours was put into you, ever casts [you;
Such doubts, as false coin, from it. The king loves
Beware you lose it not: For us, if you please
To trust us in your business, we are ready
To use our utmost studies in your service.

Q. Kath. Do what ye will, my lords: And, pray, forgive me,
If I have us'd¹ myself unmannerly;
You know, I am a woman, lacking wit
To make a seemly answer to such persons.
Pray, do my service to his majesty:
He has my heart yet; and shall have my prayers,
While I shall have my life. Come, reverend fa-
Bestow your counsels on me: she now begs, [thers,
That little thought, when she set footing here,
She should have bought her dignities so dear.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

ANTE-CHAMBER TO THE KING'S APARTMENT.

Enter the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Suffolk, the Earl of Surrey, and the Lord Chamberlain.

Nor. If you will now unite in your complaints,
And force them with a constancy, the cardinal
Cannot stand under them: If you omit
The offer of this time, I cannot promise,
But that you shall sustain more new disgraces,
With these you bear already.

Sur. I am joyful
To meet the least occasion, that may give me
Remembrance of my father-in-law, the duke,
To be reveng'd on him.

Suf. Which of the peers
Have uncontain'd gone by him, or at least
Strangely neglected! when did he regard
The stamp of nobleness in any person,
Out of himself?

Cham. My lords, you speak your pleasures:
What he deserves of you and me, I know:
What we can do to him, (though now the time
Gives way to us,) I much fear. If you cannot
Bar his access to the king, never attempt
Any thing on him; for he hath a witchcraft
Over the king in his tongue.

Nor. O, fear him not;
His spell in that is out: the king hath found
Matter against him, that for ever mars
The honey of his language. No, he's settled,
Not to come off, in his displeasure.

Sur. Sir,
I should be glad to hear such news as this
Once every hour.

Nor. Believe it, this is true.
In the divorce, his contrary proceedings
Are all unfolded; wherein he appears,
As I could wish mine enemy.

Sur. How came
His practices to light?

Suf. Most strangely.
Sur. O, how, how?
Suf. The cardinal's letter to the pope miscarried,
And came to the eye o' the king; wherein was read,
How that the cardinal did entreat his holiness
To stay the judgment o' the divorce: For if
It did take place, I do, quoth he, perceive
My king is tangled in affection to
A creature of the queen's, lady Anne Bullen.

Sur. Has the king this?

Suf. Believe it.

Sur. Will this work?

Cham. The king in this perceives him how he
coasts,

1 Behaved.

And hedges, his own way. But in this point
All his tricks founder, and he brings his physick
After his patient's death: the king already
Hath married the fair lady.

Sur. 'Would he had!

Suf. May you be happy in your wish, my lord!
For, I profess, you have it.

Sur. Now all my joy

Trace¹ the conjunction!

Suf. My amen to't!

Nor. All men's.

Suf. There's order given for her coronation:
Marry, this is yet but young, and may be left
To some ears unrecounted.—But, my lords,
She is a gallant creature, and complete
In mind and feature: I persuade me, from her
Will fall some blessing to this land, which shall
In it be memoriz'd.²

Sur. But, will the king
Digest this letter of the cardinal's?
The Lord forbid!

Nor. Marry, amen!

Suf. No, no;
There be more wasps that buz about his nose,
Will make this sting the sooner. Cardinal Cam-
peius

Is stolen away to Rome; hath ta'en no leave;
Has left the cause o' the king unhandled; and
Is posted, as the agent of our cardinal,
To second all his plot. I do assure you,
The king cry'd ha! at this.

Cham. Now, heaven incense him,
And let him cry, ha, louder!

Nor. But, my lord,
When returns Cranmer?

Suf. He is return'd, in his opinions; which
Have satisfied the king for his divorce,
Together with all famous colleges
Almost in Christendom: shortly, I believe,
His second marriage shall be publish'd, and
Her coronation. Katharine no more
Shall be call'd queen; but princess-dowager,
And widow to prince Arthur.

Nor. This same Cranmer's
A worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain
In the king's business.

Suf. He has; and we shall see him
For it, an archbishop.

Nor. So I hear.

Suf. 'Tis so.
The cardinal—

Enter Wolsey and Cromwell.

Nor. Observe, observe, he's moody.

W. The packet, Cromwell, gave it you the king?

Crom. To his own hand, in his bed-chamber.

Wol. Look'd he o' the inside of the paper?

Crom. Presently
He did unseal them: and the first he view'd,
He did it with a serious mind; a heed
Was in his countenance: You, he bade
Attend him here this morning.

Wol. Is he ready
To come abroad?

Crom. I think, by this he is.

Wol. Leave me a while.— [*Exit Cromwell.*]
It shall be to the duchess of Alençon,

1 Follow.

2 Made memorable.

The French king's sister: he shall marry her.—
Anne Bullen! No; I'll no Anne Bullens for him:
There is more in it than fair visage.—Bullen!
No, we'll no Bullens.—Speedily I wish

To hear from Rome.—The marchioness of Pem-
Nor. He's discontented. [broke!

Suf. May be, he hears the king
Does whet his anger to him.

Sur. Sharp enough,
Lord, for thy justice! [daughter,

Wol. The late queen's gentlewoman; a knight's
To be her mistress' mistress! the queen's queen!—
This candle burns not clear: 'tis I must snuff it;
Then, out it goes.—What though I know her virtue
And well deserving? yet I know her for [ous,
A spleeny Lutheran; and not wholesome to
Our cause, that she should lie i' the bosom of
Our hard-rul'd king. Again, there is sprung up
An heretick, an arch one, Cranmer; one
Hath crawl'd into the favour of the king,
And is his oracle.

Nor. He is vex'd at something.

Suf. I would, 'twere something that would
fret the string,
The master-cord of his heart!

Enter the King, reading a Schedule; and Lovell.

Suf. The king, the king.
K. H. What piles of wealth hath he accumulated
To his own portion! and what expence by the hour
Seemst to flow from him! How, i' the name of thrift,
Does he rake this together?—Now, my lords;
Saw you the cardinal?

Nor. My lord, we have [motion
Stood here observing him: some strange com-
Is in his brain: he bites his lip, and starts;
Stops on a sudden, looks upon the ground,
Then, lays his finger on his temple; straight,
Springs out into fast gait!; then, stops again,
Strikes his breast hard; and anon, he casts
His eye against the moon; in most strange pos-
We have seen him set himself. [tures

K. Hen. It may well be;
There is a mutiny in his mind. This morning
Papers of state he sent me to peruse,
As I requir'd; and wot² you, what I found
There; on my conscience, put unwittingly?
Forsooth, an inventory, thus importing,—
The several parcels of his plate, his treasure,
Rich stuffs and ornaments of household; which
I find at such proud rate, that it outspeaks
Possession of a subject.

Nor. It's heaven's will;
Some spirit put this paper in the packet,
To bless your eye withal.

K. Hen. If we did think
His contemplation were above the earth,
And fix'd on spiritual object, he should still
Dwell in his musings: but, I am afraid,
His thinkings are below the moon, not worth
His serious considering.

[He takes his Seat, and whispers Lovell,
who goes to Wolsey.

Wol. Heaven forgive me!
Ever God bless your highness!

K. Hen. Good, my lord, [ventory
You are full of heavenly stuff, and bear the in-
1 Steps. 2 Know.

Of your best graces in your mind; the which
You were now running o'er; you have scarce time
To steal from spiritual leisure a brief span;
To keep your earthly audit: Sure, in that
I deem you an ill husband; and am glad
To have you therein my companion.

Wol. Sir,
For holy offices I have a time; a time
To think upon the part of business, which
I bear i' the state; and nature does require
Her times of preservation, which, perforce,
I, her frail son, amongst my brethren mortal,
Must give my tendance to.

K. Hen. You have said well.

Wol. And ever may your highness yoke together
As I will lend you cause, my doing well
With my well saying!

K. Hen. 'Tis well said again:
And 'tis a kind of good deed, to say well:
And yet words are no deeds. My father lov'd you:
He said, he did; and with his deed did crown
His word upon you. Since I had my office,
I have kept you next my heart; have not alone
Employ'd you where high profits might come
But par'd my present havings, to bestow [home,
My bounties upon you.

Wol. What should this mean?

Sur. [Aside.] Good heaven increase this busi-

K. Hen. Have I not made you [ness
The prime man of the state? I pray you, tell me,
If what I now pronounce, you have found true:
And, if you may confess it, say withal,
If you are bound to us, or no. What say you?

Wol. My sovereign, I confess, your royal graces,
Shower'd on me daily, have been more, than could
My studied purposes requite; which went
Beyond all man's endeavours:—my endeavours
Have ever come too short of my desires,
Yet, fill'd with my abilities: Mine own ends
Have been mine so, that evermore they pointed
To the good of your most sacred person, and
The profit of the state. For your great graces
Heap'd upon me, poor undeserver, I
Can nothing render but allegiant thanks;
My prayers to heaven for you; my loyalty,
Which ever has, and ever shall be growing,
Till death, that winter, kill it.

K. Hen. Fairly answer'd;
A loyal and obedient subject is
Therein illustrated: The honour of it
Does pay the act of it; as, i' the contrary,
The foulness is the punishment. I presume,
That, as my hand has open'd bounty to you,
My heart dropp'd love, my power rain'd honour,
more

On you, than any; so your hand, and heart,
Your brain, and every function of your power,
Should, notwithstanding that your bond of duty,
As 'twere in love's particular, be more
To me your friend, than any.

Wol. I do profess,
That for your highness' good I ever labour'd
More than mine own; that am, have, and will be,
Though all the world should crack their duty
to you,

And throw it from their soul: though perils did
Abound, as thick as thought could make them, and
Appear in forms more horrid; yet my duty,

As doth a rock against the chiding flood,
Should the approach of this wild river break,
And stand unshaken yours.

K. Hen. 'Tis nobly spoken:
Take notice, lords, he has a loyal breast,
For you have seen him open't.—Read o'er this;

[Giving him Papers.]

And, after, this: and then to breakfast, with
What appetite you have.

*[Exit King, frowning upon Cardinal
Wolsey: the Nobles throng after him,
smiling, and whispering.]*

Wol. What should this mean?
What sudden anger's this? how have I reap'd it?
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin
Leap'd from his eyes: So looks the chafed lion
Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him;
Then makes him nothing. I must read this paper;
I fear, the story of his anger.—'Tis so;
This paper has undone me:—'Tis the account
Of all that world of wealth I have drawn together
For mine own ends; indeed, to gain the popedom,
And fee my friends in Rome. O negligence,
Fit for a fool to fall by! What cross devil
Made me put this main secret in the packet
I sent the king? Is there no way to cure this?
No new device to beat this from his brains?
I know, 'twill stir him strongly; yet I know
A way, if it take right, in spite of fortune
Will bring me off again. What's this—*To the*
The letter, as I live, with all the business [Pope?]
I writ to his holiness. Nay then, farewell!
I have touch'd the highest point of all my great-
And, from that full meridian of my glory, [ness;
I haste now to my setting: I shall fall
Like a bright exhalation in the evening,
And no man see me more.

*Re-enter the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk, the
Earl of Surrey, and the Lord Chamberlain.*

Nor. Hear the king's pleasure, cardinal; who
commands you

To render up the great seal presently
Into our hands; and to confine yourself
To Asher-House, my lord of Winchester's,
Till you hear further from his highness.

Wol. Stay,
Where's your commission, lords? words cannot
Authority so weighty. *[carry*

Suf. Who dare cross them?
Bearing the king's will from his mouth expressly?

W. Till I find more than will, or words, to do it.
(I mean your malice,) know, officious lords,
I dare, and must deny it. Now I feel
Of what coarse metal ye are moulded—envy.
How eagerly ye follow my disgraces,
As if it fed ye! and how sleek and wanton
Ye appear in every thing may bring my ruin!
Follow your envious courses, men of malice;
You have Christian warrant for them, and, no
doubt,

In time will find their fit rewards. That seal,
You ask with such a violence, the king, [me:
(Mine and your master,) with his own hand gave
Made me enjoy it, with the place and honours,
During my life; and, to confirm his goodness,
Tied it by letters patents: Now, who'll take it?

Sur. The king, that gave it.

Wol. It must be himself then.

Sur. Thou art a proud traitor, priest.

Wol. Proud lord, thou liest;

Within these forty hours, Surrey durst better
Have burn'd that tongue, than said so.

Sur. Thy ambition,
Thou scarlet sin, robb'd this bewailing land
Of noble Buckingham, my father-in-law:
The heads of all thy brother cardinals,
(With thee, and all thy best parts bound together,)
Weigh'd not a hair of his. Plague of your policy!
You sent me deputy for Ireland;
Far from his succour, from the king, from all
That might have mercy on the fault thou gav'st
him;

Whilst your great goodness, out of holy pity,
Absolv'd him with an axe.

Wol. This, and all else
This talking lord can lay upon my credit,
I answer, is most false. The duke by law
Found his deserts: how innocent I was
From any private malice in his end,
His noble jury and foul cause can witness.
If I lov'd many words, lord, I should tell you,
You have as little honesty as honour;
That I, in the way of loyalty and truth
Toward the king, my ever royal master,
Dare mate a sounder man than Surrey can be,
And all that love his follies.

Sur. By my soul,
Your long coat, priest, protects you; thou
shouldst feel

My sword i' the life-blood of thee else.—My lords,
Can ye endure to hear this arrogance?
And from this fellow? If we live thus tamely,
To be thus jaded² by a piece of scarlet,
Farewell nobility; let his grace go forward,
And dare³ us with his cap, like larks.⁴

Wol. All goodness

Is poison to thy stomach.

Sur. Yes, that goodness
Of gleaming all the land's wealth into one,
Into your own hands, cardinal, by extortion;
The goodness of your intercepted packets,
You writ to the pope, against the king; your
goodness,

Since you provoke me, shall be most notorious.—
My lord of Norfolk, as you are truly noble,
As you respect the common good, the state
Of our despis'd nobility, our issues,
Who, if he live, will scarce be gentlemen,—
Produce the grand sum of his sins, the articles
Collected from his life:—I'll startle you
Worse than the sacring⁵ bell, lord cardinal.

Wol. How much, methinks, I could despise
this man,

But that I am bound in charity against it!

Nor. Those articles, my lord, are in the king's
But, thus much, they are foul ones. *[hand:]*

Wol. So much fairer,
And spotless, shall mine innocence arise,
When the king knows my truth.

Sur. This cannot save you:
I thank my memory, I yet remember
Some of these articles; and out they shall.

¹ Equal.

² Overridden.

³ Lure.

⁴ Luring larks by a red cap.

⁵ The bell warning of the procession
of the host.

Now, if you can blush, and cry guilty, cardinal,
You'll show a little honesty.

Vol. Speak, on sir :
I dare your worst objections : If I blush,
It is, to see a nobleman want manners.

Sur. I'd rather want those, than my head.
Have at you. [ledge,

First, that, without the king's assent, or know-
You wrought to be a legate ; by which power
You maim'd the jurisdiction of all bishops.

Nor. Then, that, in all you writ to Rome, or else
To foreign princes, *Ego et Rex meus*
Was still inscrib'd ; in which you brought the
To be your servant. [king

Suf. Then, that without the knowledge
Either of king or council, when you went
Ambassador to the emperor, you made bold
To carry into Flanders the great seal.

Sur. Item, you sent a large commission
To Gregory de Cassalis, to conclude,
Without the king's will, or the state's allowance,
A league between his highness and Ferrara.

S. That, out of mere ambition, you have caus'd
Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the king's coin.

Sur. Then, that you have sent innumerable
substance, [science,)

(By what means got, I leave to your own con-
To furnish Rome, and to prepare the ways
You have for dignities ; to the mere undoing
Of all the kingdom. Many more there are ;
Which, since they are of you, and odious,
I will not taint my mouth with.

Cham. O my lord,
Press not a falling man too far ; 'tis virtue :
His faults lie open to the laws ; let them,
Not you, correct him. My heart weeps to see him
So little of his great self.

Sur. I forgive him. [is,—
Suf. Lord cardinal, the king's further pleasure
Because all those things, you have done of late
By your power legatine² within this kingdom,
Fall into the compass of a *præmunire*,³—
That therefore such a writ be sued against you ;
To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,
Chattels, and whatsoever, and to be
Out of the king's protection :—This is my charge.

N. And so we'll leave you to your meditations
How to live better. For your stubborn answer,
About the giving back the great seal to us, [you.
The king shall know it, and no doubt, shall thank
So fare you well, my little good lord, cardinal.

[*Exeunt all but Wolsey.*

Vol. So farewell to the little good you bear me.
Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness !
This is the state of man ; to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him :
The third day, comes a frost, a killing frost ;
And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening,—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory ;
But far beyond my depth : my high-blown pride
At length broke under me ; and now has left me,
Weary, and old with service, to the mercy

Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.
Vain pomp, and glory of this world, I hate ye ;
I feel my heart new open'd : O, how wretched
Is that poor man, that hangs on princes' favours !
There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
That sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin,
More pangs and fears than wars or women have ;
And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
Never to hope again.—

Enter Cromwell, amazedly.

Why, how now, Cromwell ?
Crom. I have no power to speak, sir.

Vol. What, amazed
At my misfortunes ? can thy spirit wonder,
A great man should decline ? Nay, an you weep,
I am fallen indeed.

Crom. How does your grace !
Vol. Why, well ;

Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell.
I know myself now ; and I feel within me
A peace above all earthly dignities, [me.
A still and quiet conscience. The king has cur'd
I humbly thank his grace ; and from these shoul-
These ruin'd pillars, out of pity, taken [ders,
A load would sink a navy, too much honour ;
O, 'tis a burden, Cromwell, 'tis a burden,
Too heavy for a man that hopes for heaven. [of it.

C. I am glad, your grace has made that right use

Vol. I hope, I have ; I am able now, methinks,
(Out of a fortitude of soul I feel.)

To endure more miseries, and greater far,
Than my weak-hearted enemies dare offer.
What news abroad ?

Crom. The heaviest and the worst,
Is your displeasure with the king.

Vol. God bless him !

C. The next is, that Sir Thomas More is chosen
Lord chancellor of your place.

Vol. That's somewhat sudden :
But he's a learned man. May he continue
Long in his highness' favour, and do justice
For truth's sake, and his conscience ; that his
bones, [ings,

When he has run his course, and sleeps in bless-
May have a tomb of orphan's tears¹ wept on 'em !
What more ?

Crom. That Cranmer is return'd with welcome,
Install'd lord archbishop of Canterbury.

Vol. That's news indeed.

Crom. Last, that the lady Anne,
Whom the king hath in secrecy long married,
This day was view'd in open, as his queen,
Going to chapel ; and the voice is now
Only about her coronation.

Vol. There was the weight that pull'd me
down. O Cromwell,

The king has gone beyond me, all my glories
In that one woman I have lost for ever :
No sun shall ever usher forth mine honours,
Or gild again the noble troops that waited
Upon my smiles. Go, get thee from me, Crom-
I am a poor fallen man, unworthy now [well,
To be thy lord and master : Seek the king ;
Thatsun, I pray, may never set ! I have told him
What, and how true thou art : he will advance
Some little memory of me will stir him [thee ;
(I know his noble nature,) not to let

1 The chancellor is the guardian of orphans.

1 Absolute.

2 (As papal legate.)

3 Involving a penalty of for-
feit of his estate.

Thy hopeful service perish too: Good Cromwell,
Neglect him not; make use¹ now, and provide
For thine own future safety.

Crom. O, my lord,
Must I then leave you? Must I needs forego
So good, so noble, and so true a master?
Bear witness, all, that have not hearts of iron,
With what a sorrow Cromwell leaves his lord,—
The king shall have my service; but my prayers
For ever, and for ever, shall be yours.

Wol. Cromwell, I did not think to shed a tear
In all my miseries; but thou has forc'd me
Out of thy honest truth to play the woman.
Let's dry our eyes: and thus far hear me, Crom-
And,—when I am forgotten, as I shall be; [well;
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no mention
Of me more must be heard of,—say, I taught thee,
Say, Wolsey, that once trod the ways of glory,
And sounded all the depths and shoals of honour,—
Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in;
A sure and safe one, though thy master miss'd it.
Mark but my fall, and that that ruin'd me.
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;
By that sin fell the angels; how can man then,
The image of his Maker, hope to win by't?
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate
Corruption wins not more than honesty. [thee;
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To silence envious tongues. Be just, and fear not;
Let all the ends thou aim'st at, be thy country's,
Thy God's, and truth's; then if thou fall'st, O

Cromwell,
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr. Serve the king,
And,—Pr'ythee lead me in:
There take an inventory of all I have,
To the last penny: 'tis the king's: my robe,
And my integrity to heaven, is all
I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell, Cromwell,
Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies.

Crom. Good sir, have patience.
Wol. So I have. Farewell,
The hopes of court! my hopes in heaven do dwell. [Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A STREET IN WESTMINSTER.

Enter two Gentlemen, meeting.

1 Gent. You are well met once again.
2 Gent. And so are you.
1 G. You come to take your stand here, and be-
The lady Anne pass from her coronation? [hold
2 G. 'Tis all my business. At our last encounter,
The duke of Buckingham came from his trial.
1 G. 'Tis very true: but that time offer'd sorrow;
This general joy.

2 Gent. 'Tis well: the citizens,
I am sure, have shown at full their royal minds:
As, let them have their rights, they are ever for-
In celebration of this day with shows, [ward
Pageants, and sights of honour.

1 Gent. Never greater,
Nor, I'll assure you, better taken, sir.

¹ Interest.

2 Gent. May I be bold to ask what that contains,
That paper in your hand?

1 Gent. Yes; 'tis the list
Of those that claim their offices this day,
By custom of the coronation.

The duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims
To be high-steward; next, the duke of Norfolk,
He to be earl marshal; you may read the rest.

2 Gent. I thank you, sir; had I not known
those customs,

I should have been beholden to your paper.
But, I beseech you, what becomes of Katharine,
The princess-dowager? how goes her business?

1 G. That I can tell you too. The archbishop
Of Canterbury, accompanied with other
Learned and reverend fathers of his order,
Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles off
From Amptill, where the princess lay; to which
She oft was cited by them, but appear'd not:
And, to be short, for not appearance, and
The king's late scruple, by the main assent
Of all these learned men she was divorc'd,
And the late marriage made of none effect:
Since which, she was removed to Kimbolton,
Where she remains now, sick.

2 Gent. Alas, good lady!— [Trumpets.
The trumpets sound: stand close, the queen
is coming.

THE ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.

- A lively flourish of Trumpets; then enter,*
1. Two Judges.
2. Lord Chancellor, with the purse and mace
before him.
3. Choristers singing. [Musick.
4. Mayor of London, bearing the mace. Then
Garter, in his coat of arms, and, on his
head, a gilt copper crown.
5. Marquis Dorset, bearing a scepter of gold, on
his head, a demi-coronal of gold. With
him, the Earl of Surrey, bearing the rod
of silver, with the dove, crowned with an
earl's coronet. Collars of SS.
6. Duke of Suffolk, in his robe of estate, his co-
ronet on his head, bearing a long white
wand, as high-steward. With him the
Duke of Norfolk, with the rod of marshal-
ship, a coronet on his head. Collars of SS.
7. A canopy borne by four of the Cinque-ports;
under it, the Queen in her robe; in her
hair, richly adorned with pearl, crowned.
On each side of her, the Bishops of Lon-
don and Winchester.
8. The old Duchess of Norfolk, in a coronal of
gold, wrought with flowers, bearing the
Queen's train.
9. Certain Ladies or Countesses, with plain
circles of gold without flowers.
2 Gent. A royal train, believe me,—These I
Who's that, that bears the scepter? [know;—
1 Gent. Marquis Dorset:
And that the earl of Surrey, with the rod.
2 G. A bold brave gentleman: And that should
The duke of Suffolk. [be
1 Gent. 'Tis the same; high-steward.
2 Gent. And that my lord of Norfolk?
1 Gent. Yes.

2 G. [*Looking on the Queen.*] Heaven bless thee!
Thou hast the sweetest face I ever look'd on.—
Sir, as I have a soul, she is an angel;
Our king has all the Indies in his arms,
And more, and richer, when he has that lady.
I cannot blame his conscience.

1 Gent. They, that bear
The cloth of honour over her, are four barons
Of the Cinque-pours.

2 Gent. Those men are happy; and so are all,
are near her.

I take it, she that carries up the train,
Is that old noble lady, duchess of Norfolk.

1 Gent. It is; and all the rest are countesses.

2 Gent. Their coronets say so. These are
stars indeed,
And sometimes falling ones.

[*Exit Procession, with a great flourish of
Trumpets.*]

Enter a third Gentleman.

Heaven save you, sir! where have you been
broiling? [a finger]

3 Gent. Among the crowd i' the abbey; where
Could not be wedg'd in more; and I am stifled
With the mere rankness of their joy.

2 Gent. You saw
The ceremony?

3 Gent. That I did.

1 Gent. How was it?

3 Gent. Well worth the seeing.

2 Gent. Good sir, speak it to us.

3 Gent. As well as I am able. The rich stream
Of lords, and ladies, having brought the queen
To a prepar'd place in the choir, fell off
A distance from her; while her grace sat down
To rest a while, some half an hour, or so,
In a rich chair of state, opposing freely
The beauty of her person to the people.
Believe me, sir, she is the goodliest woman
That ever sat by man: which when the people
Had the full view of, such a noise arose
As the shrouds make at sea in a stiff tempest,
As loud, and to as many tunes: hats, cloaks,
(Doublets, I think,) flew up; and had their faces
Been loose, this day they had been lost. Such
I never saw before. No man living [joy]
Could say, *This is my wife*, there; all were
So strangely in one piece.

2 Gent. But, 'pray, what follow'd?

3 Gent. At length her grace rose, and with
modest paces [like,
Came to the altar; where she kneel'd, and, saint-
Cast her fair eyes to heaven, and pray'd devoutly.
Then rose again, and bow'd her to the people:
When by the archbishop of Canterbury
She had all the royal makings of a queen;
As holy oil, Edward Confessor's crown,
The rod, and bird of peace, and all such emblems
Laid nobly on her: which perform'd, the choir,
With all the choicest musick of the kingdom,
Together sung *Te Deum*. So she parted,
And with the same full state pac'd back again
To York-place, where the feast is held.

1 Gent. Sir, you
Must no more call it York-place, that is past:
For, since the cardinal fell, that title's lost;
'Tis now the king's, and call'd—Whitehall.

3 Gent. I know it;
But 'tis so lately alter'd, that the old name
Is fresh about me.

2 Gent. What two reverend bishops
Were those that went on each side of the queen?

3 Gent. Stokesly and Gardiner; the one, of
Winchester,

(Newly preferr'd from the king's secretary,)
The other, London.

2 Gent. He of Winchester
Is held no great good lover of the archbishop's,
The virtuous Cranmer.

3 Gent. All the land knows that:
However, yet there's no great breach; when it
comes, [him]

Cranmer will find a friend will not shrink from
2 Gent. Who may that be, I pray you?

3 Gent. Thomas Cromwell;
A man in much esteem with the king, and truly
A worthy friend.—The king
Has made him master o' the jewel-house,
And one, already, of the privy council.

2 Gent. He will deserve more.

3 Gent. Yes, without all doubt.
Come, gentlemen, ye shall go my way, which
Is to the court, and there ye shall be my guests:
Something I can command. As I walk thither,
I'll tell ye more.

Both. You may command us, sir. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—KIMBOLTON.

*Enter Katharine, Dowager, sick; led between
Griffith and Patience.*

Grif. How does your grace?

Kath. O, Griffith, sick to death:
My legs, like loaden branches, bow to the earth,
Willing to leave their burden: Reach a chair;—
So,—now methinks, I feel a little ease.
Didst thou not tell me, Griffith, as thou led'st me,
That the great child of honour, cardinal Wolsey,
Was dead?

Grif. Yes, madam; but, I think, your grace,
Out of the pain you suffer'd, gave no ear to't.

K. Pr'ythee, good Griffith, tell me how he died:
If well, he stepp'd before me, happily,¹
For my example.

Grif. Well, the voice goes, madam:
For after the stout earl Northumberland
Arrested him at York, and brought him forward
(As a man sorely tainted,) to his answer,
He fell sick suddenly, and grew so ill
He could not sit his mule.

Kath. Alas! poor man!

G. At last, with easy roads, he came to Leicester,
Lodg'd in the abbey; where the reverend abbot,
With all his convent, honourably receiv'd him;
To whom he gave these words,—O, father abbot,
*An old man, broken with the storms of state,
Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;
Give him a little earth for charity!*

So went to bed: where eagerly his sickness
Pursu'd him still; and three nights after this,
About the hour of eight, (which he himself
Foretold should be his last,) full of repentance,
Continual meditations, tears, and sorrows,
He gave his honours to the world again,

¹ Haply

His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

K. So may he rest; his faults lie gently on him! Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak him, And yet with charity,—He was a man Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking Himself with princes; one that by suggestion Ty'd¹ all the kingdom: simony was fair play; His own opinion was his law; I' the presence² He would say untruths; and be ever double Both in his words and meaning: He was never, But where he meant to ruin, pitiful: His promises were, as he then was, mighty; But his performance, as he is now, nothing.

Grif. Noble madam, Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues We write in water. May it please your highness To hear me speak his good now?

Kath. Yes, good Griffith; I were malicious else.

Grif. This cardinal, Though from an humble stock, undoubtedly Was fashion'd to much honour. From his cradle, He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one; Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading: Lofty, and sour, to them that lov'd him not; But, to those men that sought him, sweet as sum- And though he were unsatisfied in getting, [mer. (Which was a sin,) yet in bestowing, madam, He was most princely: Ever witness for him Those twins of learning, that he raised in you, Ipswich, and Oxford! one³ of which fell with him, Unwilling to outlive the good that did it; The other, though unfinished, yet so famous, So excellent in art, and still so rising, That Christendom shall ever speak his virtue. His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him; For then, and not till then, he felt himself, And found the blessedness of being little: And, to add greater honours to his age Than man could give him, he died, fearing God.

Kath. After my death I wish no other herald, No other speaker of my living actions, To keep mine honour from corruption, But such an honest chronicler as Griffith. Whom I most hated living, thou hast made me, With thy religious truth, and modesty, Now in his ashes honour: Peace be with him!—Patience, be near me still; and set me lower:—I have not long to trouble thee.—Good Griffith, Cause the musicians play me that sad note I nam'd my knell, whilst I sit meditating On that celestial harmony I go to.

Sad and solemn Musick.

Grif. She is asleep: Good wench, let's sit down quiet, For fear we wake her;—Softly, gentle Patience.

The Vision. Enter, solemnly tripping one after another, six Personages, clad in white robes, wearing on their heads garlands of bays and golden vizards on their faces: branches of bays or palm in their hands. They first congee unto her, then dance; and, at certain changes, the first two hold a spare garland over her head; at which, the other four make reverend court'sies; then the two that held the garland, deliver the same to the other next

1 Enthralled. 2 (Of the king.) 3 (Ipswich.)

two, who observe the same order in their changes, and holding the garland over her head: which done, they deliver the same garland to the last two, who likewise observe the same order: at which, (as it were by inspiration,) she makes in her sleep signs of rejoicing, and holdeth up her hands to heaven: and so in their dancing they vanish, carrying the garland with them. The musick continues.

Kath. Spirits of peace, where are ye? Are ye all gone?

And leave me here in wretchedness behind ye?

Grif. Madam, we are here.

Kath. It is not you I call for: Saw ye none enter, since I slept?

Grif. None, madam.

K. No? Saw you not, even now, a blessed troop Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces Cast thousand beams upon me, like the sun? They promis'd me eternal happiness; And brought me garlands, Griffith, which I feel I am not worthy yet to wear: I shall, Assuredly.

G. I am most joyful, madam, such good dreams Possess your fancy.

Kath. Bid the musick leave, They are harsh and heavy to me. [*Musick ceases.*

Pat. Do you note, How much her grace is alter'd on the sudden? How longer her face is drawn? How pales she looks, And of an earthly cold? Mark you her eyes?

Grif. She is going, wench; pray, pray.

Pat. Heaven comfort her!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. An't like your grace,—

Kath. You are a saucy fellow: Deserve we no more reverence?

Grif. You are to blame, Knowing, she will not lose her wonted greatness, To use so rude behaviour; go to, kneel.

M. I humbly do entreat your highness' pardon: My haste made me unmannerly: There is staying A gentleman, sent from the king, to see you.

Kath. Admit him entrance, Griffith: But this Let me ne'er see again. [*Follow*

[*Exeunt Griffith and Messenger.*

Re-enter Griffith, with Capucius.

If my sight fail not, You should be lord ambassador from the emperor, My royal nephew, and your name Capucius.

Cap. Madam, the same, your servant.

Kath. O, my lord, The times, and titles, now are alter'd strangely With me, since first you knew me. But, I pray What is your pleasure with me? [*You,*

Cap. Noble lady, First, mine own service to your grace; the next, The king's request that I would visit you; Who grieves much for your weakness, and by me Sends you his princely commendations, And heartily entreats you take good comfort.

K. O my good lord, that comfort comes too 'Tis like a pardon after execution: late; That gentle physick, given in time, had cur'd me; But now I am past all comforts here, but prayers. How does Lis highness?

Cap. Madam, in good health.
Kath. So may he ever do! and ever flourish,
 When I shall dwell with worms, and my poor name
 Banish'd the kingdom!—Patience, is that letter,
 I caus'd you write, yet sent away?

Pat. No, madam. [*Giving it to Katharine.*]

Kath. Sir, I most humbly pray you to deliver
 This to my lord the king.

Cap. Most willing, madam.

K. In which I have commended to his good-
 ness [ter²:—

The modell of our chaste loves, his young daugh-
 The dews of heaven fall thick in blessings on her!—
 Beseeching him, to give her virtuous breeding;
 (She is young, and of a noble modest nature;
 I hope, she will deserve well;) and a little
 To love her for her mother's sake, that lov'd him,
 Heaven knows how dearly. My next poor petition
 Is, that his noble grace would have some pity
 Upon my wretched women, that so long
 Have follow'd both my fortunes faithfully:
 Of which there is not one, I dare avow,
 (And now I should not lie,) but will deserve
 For virtue, and true beauty of the soul,
 For honesty, and decent carriage,
 A right good husband, let him be a noble;
 And, sure, those men are happy that shall
 have them.

The last is, for my men:—they are the poorest,
 But poverty could never draw them from me;—
 That they may have their wages duly paid them,
 And something over to remember me by;
 If heaven had pleas'd to have given me longer
 And able means, we had not parted thus. [life,
 These are the whole contents:—And, good my
 By that you love the dearest in this world, [lord,
 As you wish Christian peace to souls departed,
 Stand these poor people's friend, and urge the
 To do me this last right. [king

Cap. By heaven, I will;
 Or let me lose the fashion of a man!

K. I thank you, honest lord. Remember me
 In all humility unto his highness:
 Say, his long trouble now is passing [him,
 Out of this world: tell him, in death I bless'd
 For so I will.—Mine eyes grow dim.—Farewell,
 My lord.—Griffith, farewell.—Nay, Patience,
 You must not leave me yet. I must to bed;
 Call in more women.—When I am dead, good
 wench,

Let me be us'd with honour; strew me over
 With maiden flowers, that all the world may know
 I was a chaste wife to my grave: embalm me,
 Then lay me forth: although unqueen'd, yet like
 A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me.
 I can no more.—[*Exeunt, leading Katharine.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A GALLERY IN THE PALACE.

*Enter Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, a Page
 with a Torch before him, met by Sir Thomas
 Lovell.*

Gar. It's one o'clock, boy, is 't not?

Boy. It hath struck.

1 Representative. 2 Afterwards Queen Mary.

Gar. These should be hours for necessities,
 Not for delights; times to repair our nature
 With comforting repose, and not for us
 To waste these times.—Good hour of night, Sir
 Thomas!

Whither so late?

Lov. Came you from the king, my lord?
G. I did, Sir Thomas; and left him at primero¹
 With the duke of Suffolk.

Lov. I must to him too,

Before he go to bed. I'll take my leave.

Gar. Not yet, Sir Thomas Lovell. What's
 the matter?

It seems, you are in haste: an if there be
 No great offence belongs to't, give your friend
 Some touch of your late business: Affairs, that
 walk

(As, they say, spirits do,) at midnight, have
 In them a wilder nature, than the business
 That seeks despatch by day.

Lov. My lord, I love you;
 And durst commend a secret to your ear
 Much weightier than this work. The queen's
 in labour,

They say, in great extremity; and fear'd,
 She'll with the labour end.

Gar. The fruit, she goes with,
 I pray for heartily; that it may find
 Good time, and live: but for the stock, Sir
 I wish it grubb'd up now. [Thomas,

Lov. Methinks, I could
 Cry the amen; and yet my conscience says
 She's a good creature, and, sweet lady, does
 Deserve our better wishes.

Gar. But, sir, sir,—
 Hear me, Sir Thomas: you are a gentleman
 Of mine own way; I know you wise, religious;
 And, let me tell you, it will ne'er be well,—
 'Twill not, Sir Thomas Lovell, take't of me,
 Till Cranmer, Cromwell, her two hands, and
 Sleep in their graves. [she,

Lov. Now, sir, you speak of two
 The most remark'd i' the kingdom. As for
 Cromwell,—

Beside that of the jewel-house, he's made master
 O'the rolls, and the king's secretary: further, sir,
 Stands in the gap and trade of more preferences,
 With which the time will load him: The archbishop
 Is the king's hand, and tongue; And who dare
 One syllable against him? [speak

Gar. Yes, yes, Sir Thomas,
 There are that dare; and I myself have ventur'd
 To speak my mind of him: and, indeed, this day,
 Sir, (I may tell it you,) I think, I have
 Incens'd² the lords o' the council, that he is
 (For so I know he is, they know he is,)
 A most arch heretick, a pestilence [moved,

That does infect the land: with which, they
 Have broken with³ the king; who hath so far
 Given ear to our complaint, (of his great grace
 And princely care; foreseeing those fell mischiefs,
 Our reasons laid before him,) he hath command-
 To-morrow morning to the council-board [ed,
 He beconvicted.⁴ He's a rank weed, Sir Thomas,
 And we must root him out. From your affairs
 I hinder you too long: good night, Sir Thomas.

1 A game at cards.

2 Incited.

3 Told their minds to.

4 Summoned.

Lov. Many good nights, my lord; I rest your servant. [*Exeunt Gardiner and Page.*]

As Lovell is going out, enter the King and the Duke of Suffolk.

K. Hen. Charles, I will play no more to-night; My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me.

Suf. I did never win of you before.

K. Hen. But little, Charles; Nor shall not, when my fancy's on my play.—Now, Lovell, from the queen what is the news?

Lov. I could not personally deliver to her What you commanded me, but by her woman I sent your message; who return'd her thanks In the greatest humbleness, and desir'd your Most heartily to pray for her. [*highness*]

K. Hen. What say'st thou! ha! To pray for her? what, is she crying out?

L. So said her woman; and that her sufferance Almost each pang a death. [*made*]

K. Hen. Alas, good lady!

Suf. God safely quit her of her burden, and With gentle travail, to the gladding of Your highness with an heir!

K. Hen. 'Tis midnight, Charles, Pr'ythee, to bed; and in thy prayers remember The estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone; For I must think of that, which company Will not be friendly to.

Suf. I wish your highness A quiet night, and my good mistress will Remember in my prayers.

K. Hen. Charles, good night. [*Exit Suffolk.*]

Enter Sir Anthony Denny.

Well, sir, what follows?

Den. Sir, I have brought my lord the arch- As you commanded me. [*bishop,*]

K. Hen. Ha! Canterbury?

Den. Ay, my good lord.

K. Hen. 'Tis true: Where is he, Denny?

Den. He attends your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen. Bring him to us. [*Exit Denny.*]

Lov. This is about that which the bishop spake; I am happily come hither. [*Aside.*]

Re-enter Denny, with Cranmer.

K. Hen. Avoid the gallery. [*Lovell seems to Ha!—I have said.—Be gone.* [*stay.*]

What— [*Exeunt Lovell and Denny.*]

Cr. I am fearful:—Wherefore frowns he thus? 'Tis his aspect of terror. All's not well.

K. Hen. How now, my lord? You do desire Wherefore I sent for you. [*to know*]

Cran. It is my duty, To attend your highness' pleasure.

K. Hen. Pray you, arise, My good and gracious lord of Canterbury. Come, you and I must walk a turn together; I have news to tell you: Come, come, give me your hand.

Ah, my good lord, I grieve at what I speak, And am right sorry to repeat what follows: I have, and most unwillingly, of late Heard many grievous, I do say, my lord, Grievous complaints of you; which being consider'd,

Have mov'd us and our council, that you shall This morning come before us; where, I know,

You cannot with such freedom purge yourself, But that, till further trial, in those charges Which will require your answer, you must take Your patience to you, and be well contented To make your house our Tower: You a brother of It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness [us,¹ Would come against you.

Cran. I humbly thank your highness: And am right glad to catch this good occasion Most thoroughly to be winnow'd, where my chaff And corn shall fly asunder: for, I know, There's none stands under more calumnious Than I myself, poor man. [*tongues,*]

K. Hen. Stand up, good Canterbury; Thy truth, and thy integrity, is rooted In us, thy friend: Give me thy hand, stand up: Pr'ythee, let's walk. Now, by my holy-dame, What manner of man are you? My lord, I look'd You would have given me your petition, that I should have ta'en some pains to bring together Yourself and your accusers; and to have heard Without indurance,² further. [*you*]

Cran. Most dread liege, The good I stand on is my truth, and honesty; If they shall fail, I with mine enemies, Will triumph o'er my person; which I weigh not, Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing What can be said against me.

K. Hen. Know you not how Your state stands i' the world, with the whole Your enemies [*world?* Are many, and not small; their practices Must bear the same proportion: and not ever The justice and the truth o' the question carries The due o' the verdict with it: At what ease Might corrupt minds procure knaves as corrupt To swear against you? such things have been done. You are potentially oppos'd; and with a malice Of as great size. Ween³ you of better treatment, I mean in perjur'd witness, than your Master, Whose minister you are, whiles here he liv'd Upon this naughty earth? Go to, go to; You take a precipice for no leap of danger, And woo your own destruction.

Cran. God, and your majesty, Protect mine innocence, or I fall into The trap is laid for me!

K. Hen. Be of good cheer; They shall no more prevail, than we give way to. Keep comfort to you; and this morning see You do appear before them: if they shall chance, In charging you with matters, to commit you, The best persuasions to the contrary Fail not to use, and with what vehemency The occasion shall instruct you: if entreaties Will render you no remedy, this ring Deliver them, and your appeal to us There make before them.—Look, the good man He's honest, on mine honour. [*weeps!* I swear, he is true-hearted; and a soul None better in my kingdom.—Get you gone, And do as I have bid you.—*[Exit Cranmer.]*

He has strangled His language in his tears.

Enter an old Lady.

Gent. [*Within.*] Come back; What mean you?

1 One of the council. 2 Hardness of heart. 3 Think.

Lady. I'll not come back: the tidings that I bring
Will make my boldness manners.—Now good angels

Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person
Under their blessed wings!

K. Hen. Now, by thy looks
I guess thy message. Is the queen deliver'd?
Say, ay; and of a boy.

Lady. Ay, ay, my liege;
And of a lovely boy: The God of heaven
Both now and ever bless her!—'tis a girl,
Promises boys hereafter. Sir, your queen
Desires your visitation, and to be
Acquainted with this stranger; 'tis as like you
As cherry is to cherry.

K. Hen. Lovell,—

Enter Lovell.

Lov. Sir,

K. Hen. Give her an hundred marks. I'll
to the queen. [*Exit King.*]

Lady. An hundred marks! by this light, I'll
have more.

An ordinary groom is for such payment.
I will have more, or scold it out of him.
Said I for this, the girl is like to him?
I will have more, or else unsay't; and now
While it is hot, I'll put it to the issue. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

LOBBY BEFORE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

*Enter Cranmer; Servants, Door-Keeper, &c.,
attending.*

Cran. I hope, I am not too late; and yet the
gentleman, [me
That was sent to me from the council, pray'd
To make great haste. All fast? what means
this?—Ho!

Who wait's there?—Sure you know me?

D. Keep. Yes, my lord;
But yet I cannot help you.

Cran. Why?

D. K. Your grace must wait till you be call'd for.

Enter Doctor Butts.

Cran. So.

Butts. This is a piece of malice, I am glad
I came this way so happily: The king
Shall understand it presently. [*Exit Butts.*]

Cran. [*Aside.*] 'Tis Butts,
The king's physician: As he past along,
How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me!
Pray heaven, he sound not my disgrace! For
certain,

This is of purpose lay'd, by some that hate me,
(God turn their hearts! I never sought their
malice,)

To quench mine honour: they would shame to
make me

Wait else at door; a fellow-counsellor,
Among boys, grooms, and lackeys. But their
pleasures

Must be fulfill'd, and I attend with patience.

Enter, at a Window above, the King and Butts.

Butts. I'll show your grace the strangest sight,—

K. Hen. What's that, Butts?

B. I think your highness saw this many a day.

K. Hen. Body o' me, where is it?

Butts. There, my lord;

The high promotion of his grace of Canterbury:
Who holds his state at door, amongst pursuivants,
Pages, and foot-boys.

K. Hen. Ha! 'tis he, indeed:
Is this the honour they do one another?

'Tis well, there's one above them yet. I had
thought,

They had parted so much honesty amongst them,
(At least, good manners,) as not thus to suffer
A man of his place, and so near our favour,
To dance attendance on their lordships' pleasures,
And at the door too, like a post with packets.
By holy Mary, Butts, there's knavery:
Let them alone, and draw the curtain close;
We shall hear more anon.— [*Exeunt.*]

The Council-Chamber.

*Enter the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Suffolk,
Earl of Surrey, Lord Chamberlain, Gardiner,
and Cromwell.* The Chancellor places himself
at the upper end of the table, on the left hand;
a seat being left void above him, as for the
Archbishop of Canterbury. The rest seat
themselves in order on each side. Cromwell
at the lower end, as Secretary.

Chan. Speak to the business, master secretary:
Why are we met in council?

Crom. Please your honours,
The chief cause concerns his grace of Canter-
Gar. Has he had knowledge of it? [*bury.*]

Crom. Yes.

Nor. Who waits there?

D. Keep. Without, my noble lords?

Gar. Yes.

D. Keep. My lord archbishop;

And has done half an hour, to know your plea-
Chan. Let him come in. [*sures.*]

D. Keep. Your grace may enter now.

[*Cranmer approaches the Council-table.*]

Chan. My good lord archbishop, I am very sorry
To sit here at this present, and behold

That chair stand empty: But we all are men,
In our own natures frail; out of which frailty
And want of wisdom, you, that best should
teach us,

Have misdeemean'd yourself, and not a little,
Toward the king first, then his laws in filling
The whole realm, by your teaching, and your
chaplains,

(For so we are inform'd,) with new opinions,
Divers and dangerous, which are heresies,
And, not reform'd, may prove pernicious.

Gar. Which reformation must be sudden too,
My noble lords: for those that tame wild horses,
Pacethem not in their hands to make them gentle;
But stop their mouths with stubborn bits, and
spur them,

Till they obey the manage. If we suffer
(Out of our easiness and childish pity
To one man's honour) this contagious sickness,
Farewell, all physick: And what follows then?
Commotions, uproars, with a general taint
Of the whole state: as, of late days, our neigh-
bours,

The upper Germany, can dearly witness,
Yet freshly pitied in our memories.

Cran. My good lords, hitherto, in all the progress Both of my life and office, I have labour'd, And with no little study, that my teaching, And the strong course of my authority, Might go one way, and safely; and the end Was ever, to do well: nor is their living (I speak it with a single heart, my lords,) A man, that more detests, more stirs against, Both in his private conscience, and his place, Defacers of a public peace, than I do. 'Pray heaven, the king may never find a heart With less allegiance in it! Men, that make Envy, and crooked malice, nourishment, Dare bite the best. I do beseech your lordships, That in this case of justice, my accusers, Be what they will, may stand forth face to face, And freely urge against me.

Suf. Nay, my lord, That cannot be; you are a counsellor, And, by that virtue, no man dare accuse you.

Gar. My lord, because we have business of more moment, [pleasure, We will be short with you. 'Tis his highness' And our consent, for better trial of you, From hence you be committed to the Tower; Where, being but a private man again, You shall know many dare accuse you boldly, More than, I fear, you are provided for. [you,

Cran. Ah, my good lord of Winchester, I thank You are always my good friend; if your will pass, I shall both find your lordship judge and juror, You are so merciful: I see your end, 'Tis my undoing; Love, and meekness, lord, Become a churchman better than ambition; Win straying souls with modesty again, Cast none away. That I shall clear myself, Lay all the weight ye can upon my patience, I make as little doubt, as you do conscience, In doing daily wrongs. I could say more, But reverence to your calling makes me modest.

Gar. My lord, my lord, you are a sectary, That's the plain truth; your painted gloss discovers [ness.

To men that understand you, words and weak-
Crom. My lord of Winchester, you are a little, By your good favour, too sharp; men so noble, However faulty, yet should find respect For what they have been: 'tis a cruelty, To load a falling man.

Gar. Good master secretary, I cry your honour mercy; you may, worst Of all this table, say so.

Crom. Why, my lord? *Gar.* Do not I know you for a favourer Of this new sect? ye are not sound.

Crom. Not sound? *Gar.* Not sound, I say.

Crom. 'Would you were half so honest! [fears. Men's prayers then would seek you, not their

Gar. I shall remember this bold language.
Crom. Do.

Remember your bold life too.

Chan. This is too much; Forbear, for shame, my lords.

Gar. I have done.

Crom. And I.
Chan. Then thus for you my lord,—It stands I take it, by all voices, that forthwith [agreed,

You be convey'd to the Tower a prisoner; There to remain, till the king's further pleasure Be known unto us: Are you all agreed, lords?

All. We are.

Cran. Is there no other way of mercy, But I must needs to the Tower, my lords?

Gar. What other Would you expect? You are strangely trouble- Let some o' the guard be ready there. [some!]

Enter Guard.

Cran. For me? Must I go like a traitor thither?

Gar. Receive him, And see him safe i' the Tower.

Cran. Stay, good my lords, I have a little yet to say. Look there, my lords: By virtue of that ring, I take my cause Out of the gripes of cruel men, and give it To a most noble judge, the king my master.

Cham. This is the king's ring.

Suf. 'Tis no counterfeit.

Suf. 'Tis the right ring, by heaven: I told ye all, When we first put this dangerous stone a rolling, 'Twould fall upon ourselves.

Nor. Do you think, my lords, The king will suffer but the little finger Of this man to be vex'd?

Cham. 'Tis now too certain: How much more is his life in value with him? Would I were fairly out on't.

Crom. My mind gave me, In seeking tales, and informations, Against this man, (whose honesty the devil And his disciples only envy at,) Ye blew the fire that burns ye: Now have at ye.

Enter King, frowning on them; takes his Seat.

Gar. Dread sovereign, how much are we bound to heaven

In daily thanks, that gave us such a prince; Not only good and wise, but most religious: One that, in all obedience, makes the church The chief aim of his honour; and, to strengthen That holy duty, out of dear respect, His royal self in judgment comes to hear The cause betwixt her and this great offender.

K. Hen. You were ever good at sudden commendations,

Bishop of Winchester. But know, I come not To hear such flattery now, and in my presence; They are too thin and base to hide offences.

To me you cannot reach, you play the spaniel, And think with wagging of your tongue to win me; But, whatsoe'er thou tak'st me for, I am sure, Thou hast a cruel nature, and a bloody.—

[To *Cranmer*.] Good man, sit down. Now let me see the proudest

He, that dares most, but wag his finger at thee: By all that's holy, he had better starve, Than but once think this place becomes thee not.

Suf. May it please your grace,—

K. Hen. No, sir, it does not please me. I had thought, I had had men of some understand- And wisdom, of my council; but I find none. [ing Was it discretion, lords, to let this man, This good man, (few of you deserve that title,) This honest man, wait like a lousy footboy At chamber door? and one as great as you are?

Why, what a shame was this? Did my commission

Bid ye so far forget yourselves? I gave ye Power as he was a counsellor to try him, Not as a groom: There's some of ye, I see, More out of malice than integrity, Would try him to the utmost, had ye mean; Which ye shall never have, while I live.

Chan. Thus far, My most dread sovereign, may it like your grace To let my tongue excuse all. What was purpos'd Concerning his imprisonment, was rather (If there be faith in men) meant for his trial, And fair purgation to the world, than malice; I am sure, in me.

K. Hen. Well, well, my lords, respect him; Take him, and use him well, he's worthy of it. I will say thus much for him, If a prince May be beholden to a subject, I Am, for his love and service, so to him. Make me no more ado, but all embrace him; Be friends, for shame, my lords.—My lord of Canterbury,

I have a suit which you must not deny me; That is, a fair young maid that yet wants baptism. You must be godfather, and answer for her.

Cra. The greatest monarch now alive may glory In such an honour: How may I deserve it, That am a poor and humble subject to you?

K. Hen. Come, come, my lord, you'd spare your spoons¹; you shall have Two noble partners with you; the old duchess of Norfolk,

And lady marquis Dorset; Will these please you? Once more, my lord of Winchester, I charge you, Embrace, and love this man.

Gar. With a true heart, And brother-love, I do it.

Cran. And let heaven Witness, how dear I hold this confirmation.

K. Hen. Good man, those joyful tears show thy true heart.

The common voice, I see, is verifed [*bury* Of thee, which says thus, *Do my lord of Canterbury a shrewd turn, and he is your friend for ever.*—Come, lords, we trifle time away; I long To have this young one made a Christian, As I have made ye one, lords, one remain; So I grow stronger, you more honour gain.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE PALACE YARD.

Noise and tumult within. Enter Porter and his Man.

Port. You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals: Do you take the court for Paris-garden²? ye rude slaves, leave your gaping.³

[*Within.*] Good master porter, I belong to the larder.

Port. Belong to the gallows, and be hanged, you rogue: Is this the place to roar in?—Fetch me a dozen crab-tree staves, and strong ones; these are but switches to them.—I'll scratch your heads: You must be seeing christenings? Do you look for ale and cake here, you rude rascals?

M. Pray, sir, be patient; 'tis as much impossible (Unless we sweep them from the door with can-

non,) as to scatter them, as 'tis to make them sleep On May-day morning; which will never be: We may as well push against Paul's, as stir them.

Port. How got they in, and be hang'd?

Man. Alas, I know not; How gets the tide in? As much as one sound cudgel of four foot (You see the poor remainder) could distribute, I made no spare, sir.

Port. You did nothing, sir.

Man. I am not Samson, nor Sir Guy,¹ nor Colbrand,² to mow them down before me: but, if I spared any, that had a head to hit, either young or old, he or she, let me never hope to see a chine again.

[*Within.*] Do you hear, master porter?

Port. I shall be with you presently, good master puppy.—Keep the door close, sirrah.

Man. What would you have me do?

Port. What should you do, but knock them down by the dozens? Is this Moorfields to muster in? Bless me, what a fry is at door! on my Christian conscience, here will be father, godfather, and all together.

Man. The spoons will be the bigger, sir. There is a fellow somewhat near the door, he should be a brazier³ by his face, for, o' my conscience, twenty of the dog-days now reign in 's nose; all that stand about him are under the line, they need no other penance: That fire-drake did I hit three times on the head, and three times was his nose discharged against me; he stands there, like a mortar-piece, to blow us. There was a haberdasher's wife of small wit near him, that railed upon me till her pink porringer⁴ fell off her head, for kindling such a combustion in the state. I miss'd the meteor⁵ once, and hit that woman, who cried out *clubs*⁶! when I might see from far some forty thrushcooneers draw to her succour, which were the hope of the Strand, where she was quartered. They fell on; I made good my place; at length they came to the broomstaff with me, I defied them still; when suddenly a file of boys behind them, loose shot, delivered such a shower of pebbles, that I was fain to draw mine honour in, and let them win the work: The devil was amongst them, I think, surely.

Port. These are the youths that thunder at a play-house, and fight for bitten apples; that no audience, but the Tribulation of Tower-hill, or the limbs of Limehouse, their dear brothers, are able to endure. I have some of them in *Limbo Patrum*,⁷ and there they are like to dance these three days: besides the running banquet of two beadles,⁸ that is to come.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Mercy o' me, what a multitude are here! They grow still too, from all parts they are coming, [ters, As if we kept a fair here! Where are these port- These lazy knaves?—Ye have made a fine hand, fellows.

There's a trim rabble let in: Are all these

1 Of Warwick.

2 The Danish giant.

3 Playing on the word meaning brassfounder and a pan

of heated charcoal.

4 Cap.

5 The brazier.

6 An outcry for help.

7 In confinement.

8 A whipping.

1 As a present to god-children.

3 Bawling.

2 A bear-garden.

Your faithful friends o' the suburbs? We shall have

Great store of room, no doubt, left for the ladies, When they pass back from the christening.

Port. An't please your honour, We are but men; and what so many may do, Not being torn a pieces, we have done: An army cannot rule them.

Cham. As I live, If the king blame me for't, I'll lay ye all By the heels, and suddenly; and on your heads Clap roundfines, for neglect: You are lazy knaves; And here ye lie baiting of bumbards,¹ when Ye should do service. Hark, the trumpet sound; They are come already from the christening: Go, break among the press, and find a way out To let the troop pass fairly; or I'll find A Marshalsea, shall hold you play these two months.

Port. Make way there for the princess.

Man. You great fellow, stand close up, or I'll make your head ache.

Port. You i' the camblet, get up o' the rail; I'll pick² you o'er the pales else. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—THE PALACE.³

Enter Trumpets, sounding; then two Aldermen, Lord Mayor, Garter, Cranmer, Duke of Norfolk, with his Marshal's Staff, Duke of Suffolk, two Noblemen bearing great standing Bowls for the Christening Gifts; then four Noblemen, bearing a Canopy, under which the Duchess of Norfolk, Godmother, bearing the Child richly habited in a Manile, &c. Train borne by a Lady; then follows the Marchioness of Dorset, the other Godmother, and Ladies. The troop pass once about the Stage, and Garter speaks.

Gart. Heaven, from thy endless goodness, send prosperous life, long, and ever happy, to the high and mighty princess of England, Elizabeth.

Flourish. Enter King and Train.

Cran. [*Kneeling.*] And to your royal grace, and the good queen,

My noble partners, and myself, thus pray:—All comfort, joy, in this most gracious lady, Heaven ever laid up to make parents happy, May hourly fall upon ye!

K. Hen. Thank you, good lord archbishop; What is her name?

Cran. Elizabeth.

K. Hen. Stand up, lord.—
[*The King kisses the Child.*]

With this kiss take my blessing: God protect thee! Into whose hands I give thy life.

Cran. Amen.

K. Hen. My noble gossips, ye have been too prodigal:

I thank ye heartily; so shall this lady, When she has so much English.

Cran. Let me speak, sir, For heaven now bids me; and the words I utter Let none think flattery, for they'll find them truth. This royal infant, (Heaven still move about her!)

Though in her cradle, yet now promises Upon this land a thousand thousand blessings, Which time shall bring to ripeness: She shall be (But few now living can behold that goodness,) A pattern to all princes living with her, And all that shall succeed: Sheba was never More covetous of wisdom, and fair virtue, Than this pure soul shall be: all princely graces, That mould up such a mighty piece as this is, With all the virtues that attend the good, Shall still be doubled on her; truth shall nurse her, Holy and heavenly thoughts still counsel her: She shall be lov'd, and fear'd: Her own shall bless her:

Her foes shake like a field of beaten corn, And hang their heads with sorrow: Good grows with her:

In her days, every man shall eat in safety Under his own vine, what he plants; and sing The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours. God shall be truly known; and those about her From her shall read the perfect ways of honour, And by those claim their greatness, not by blood. [Nor¹ shall this peace sleep with her: But as when The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix, Her ashes new create another heir, As great in admiration as herself; So shall she leave her blessedness to one, (When heaven shall call her from this cloud of darkness,)]

Who, from the sacred ashes of her honour, Shall star-like rise, as great in fame as she was, And so stand fix'd: Peace, plenty, love, truth, terror,

That were the servants to this chosen infant, Shall then be his, and like a vine grow to him; Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine, His honour and the greatness of his name Shall be, and make new nations: He shall flourish, And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches To all the plains about him:—Our children's Shall see this, and bless heaven. [*children*

K. Hen. Thou speakest wonders.]
Cran. She shall be, to the happiness of England, An aged princess; many days shall see her, And yet no day without a deed to crown it.

'Would I had known no more! but she must die, She must, the saints must have her; yet a virgin, A most unspotted lily shall she pass To the ground, and all the world shall mourn her.

K. Hen. O lord archbishop, Thou hast made me now a man; never, before This happy child, did I get anything: This oracle of comfort has so pleas'd me, That, when I am in heaven, I shall desire To see what this child does, and praise my Maker.—I thank ye all:—To you, my good lord mayor, And your good brethren, I am much beholden; I have received much honour by your presence, And ye shall find me thankful. Lead the way, lords;

Ye must all see the queen, and she must thank ye, She will be sick else. This day, no man think He has business at his house; for all shall stay: This little one shall make it holiday. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ This and the following 17 lines are supposed to have been written by Ben Jonson, after the accession of King James.

¹ Beer vessels.

² At Greenwich.

³ Pitch.

EPILOGUE.

'Tis ten to one, this play can never please
 All that are here: Some come to take their ease,
 And sleep an act or two; but those we fear,
 We have frighted with our trumpets; so, 'tis clear,
 They'll say, 'tis naught; others, to hear the city
 Abus'd extremely, and to cry,—*that's witty!*

Which we have not done neither: that, I fear,
 All the expected good we are like to hear
 For this play at this time, is only in
 The merciful construction of good women;
 For such a one we show'd them; If they smile,
 And say, 'twill do, I know, within a while
 All the best men are ours; for, 'tis ill hap,
 If they hold, when their ladies bid them clap.

†.

Troilus and Cressida.

Persons Represented.

PRIAM, *King of Troy.*

HECTOR,

TROILUS,

PARIS,

DEIPHOBUS,

HELENUS,

ÆNEAS,

ANTONOR,

CALCHAS, *a Trojan Priest, taking part with the Greeks.*PANDARUS, *Uncle to Cressida.*AGAMEMNON, *the Grecian General.*MENE LAUS, *his Brother.*

ACHILLES,

AJAX,

ULYSSES,

NESTOR,

DIOMEDES,

PATROCLUS,

THERSITES, *a deformed and scurrilous Grecian.*ALEXANDER, *Servant to Cressida.*

Servant to Troilus; Servant to Paris; Servant to Diomedes.

HELEN, *Wife to Menelaus.*ANDROMACHE, *Wife to Hector.*CASSANDRA, *Daughter to Priam, a Prophetess.*CRESSIDA, *Daughter to Calchas.*

Trojan and Greek Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE.—Troy, and the Grecian Camp before it.

PROLOGUE.

In Troy there lies the scene. From isles of Greece

The princes orgulous,¹ their high blood chaf'd,
 Have to the port of Athens sent their ships,
 Fraught with the ministers and instruments
 Of cruel war: Sixty, and nine, that wore
 Their crownets regal, from the Athenian bay
 Put forth toward Phrygia: and their vow is made,
 To ransack Troy; within whose strong immures
 The ravish'd Helen, Menelaus' queen,
 With wanton Paris sleeps; and that's the quarrel.
 To Tenedos they come;
 And the deep-drawing barks do there disgorge
 Their warlike fraughtage²: Now on Dardan plains

The fresh and yet unbruised Greeks do pitch
 Their brave pavilions: Priam's six-gated city,
 Dardan, and Tymbria, Ilias, Chetas, Trojan,
 Antenorides, with massy staples,
 And corresponsive and fulfilling bolts,
 Sperr³ up the sons of Troy.
 Now, expectation, tickling skittish spirits,
 On one and other side, Trojan and Greek
 Sets all on hazard:—And hither am I come
 A prologue arm'd,—but not in confidence
 Of author's pen, or actor's voice; but suited
 In like conditions as our argument,—
 To tell you, fair beholders, that our play [broils,
 Leaps o'er the vaunt⁴ and firstlings⁵ of those

'Ginning in the middle; starting thence away
 To what may be digested in a play.

Like, or find fault; do as your pleasures are;
 Now good, or bad, 'tis but the chance of war.

Act First.

SCENE I.—TROY. BEFORE PRIAM'S PALACE.

Enter Troilus armed, and Pandarus.

Tro. Call here my varlet,¹ I'll unarm again:
 Why should I war without the walls of Troy,
 That find such cruel battle here within?

Each Trojan, that is master of his heart,
 Let him to field; Troilus, alas! hath none.

Pan. Will this geer² ne'er be mended?

Tro. The Greeks are strong, and skilful to their strength,

Fierce to their skill, and to their fierceness valiant;

But I am weaker than a woman's tear,
 Tamer than sleep, fonder³ than ignorance;
 And skill-less as unpractis'd infancy.

Pan. Well, I have told you enough of this:
 for my part, I'll not meddle nor make no further. He, that will have a cake out of the wheat, must tarry the grinding.

Tro. Have I not tarried?

1 Servant.

2 Matter.

3 More foolish.

1 Proud.

2 Freight.

3 Shut.

4 What preceded.

5 The beginnings.

Pan. Ay, the grinding; but you must tarry the bolting.¹

Tro. Have I not tarried?

Pan. Ay, the bolting; but you must tarry the leavening.

Tro. Still have I tarried.

Pan. Ay, to the leavening: but here's yet in the word—hereafter, the kneading, the making of the cake, the heating of the oven, and the baking; nay, you must stay the cooling too, or you may chance to burn your lips.

Tro. Patience herself, what goddesse'er she be, Dost lesser blench² at sufferance than I do. At Priam's royal table do I sit; And when fair Cressid comes into my thoughts,—So, traitor!—when she comes!—When is she thence?

Pan. Well, she look'd yesternight fairer than I saw her look, or any woman else. [ever]

Tro. I was about to tell thee,—When my heart, As wedged with a sigh, would rive³ in twain; Lest Hector or my father should perceive me, I have (as when the sun doth light a storm,) Bury'd this sigh in wrinkle of a smile:

But sorrow, that is couch'd in seeming gladness, Is like that mirth fate turns to sudden sadness.

Pan. An her hair were not somewhat darker than Helen's, (well, go to,) there were no more comparison between the women,—But, for my part, she is my kinswoman; I would not, as they term it, praise her,—But I would somebody had heard her talk yesterday, as I did. I will not dispraise your sister Cassandra's wit; but—

Tro. O Pandarus! I tell thee, Pandarus,—When I do tell thee, there my hopes lie drown'd, Reply not in how many fathoms deep They lie indrench'd. I tell thee, I am mad In Cressid's love: Thou answer'st, She is fair; Pour'st in the open ulcer of my heart Her eyes, her hair, her cheek, her gait, her voice; Handiest in thy discourse, O, that her hand, In whose comparison all whites are ink, Writing their own reproach; to whose soft seizure The cygnet's down is harsh, and spirit of sense Hard as the palm of ploughman! This thou tell'st me,

As true thou tell'st me, when I say,—I love her; But, saying this, instead of oil and balm, Thou lay'st in every gash that love hath given The knife that made it. [me]

Pan. I speak no more than truth.

Tro. Thou dost not speak so much.

Pan. Faith, I'll not meddle in't. Let her be as she is: if she be fair, 'tis the better for her; an she be not, she has the mends in her own hands.

Tro. Good Pandarus! how now, Pandarus?

Pan. I have had my labour for my travail; ill-thought on of her, and ill-thought on of you: gone between and between, but small thanks for my labour.

Tro. What, art thou angry, Pandarus? what, with me?

Pan. Because she is kin to me, therefore, she's not so fair as Helen: an she were not kin to me, she would be as fair on Friday, as Helen is on Sunday. But what care I? I care not, an she were a black-a-moor; 'tis all one to me.

Tro. Say I, she is not fair?

Pan. I do not care whether you do or no. She's a fool to stay behind her father; let her to the Greeks; and so I'll tell her the next time I see her: For my part, I'll meddle nor make no more in the matter.

Tro. Pandarus,—

Pan. Not I.

Tro. Sweet Pandarus,—

Pan. Pray you, speak no more to me; I will leave all as I found it, and there an end.

[Exit Pandarus. An Alarm.

Tro. Peace, you ungracious clamours! peace, rude sounds!

Fools on both sides! Helen must needs be fair, When with your blood you daily paint her thus. I cannot fight upon this argument; It is too starv'd a subject for my sword. But, Pandarus—O gods, how do you plague me! I cannot come to Cressid, but by Pandar; And he's as tetchy¹ to be woo'd to woo, As she is stubborn-chaste against all suit. Tell me, Apollo, for thy Daphne's love, What Cressid is, what Pandar, and what we? Her bed is India; there she lies, a pearl: Between our Ilium, and where she resides, Let it be call'd the wild and wandering flood; Ourself, the merchant; and this sailing Pandar, Our doubtful hope, our convoy, and our bark.

Alarm. Enter Æneas.

Æne. How now, prince Troilus? wherefore not a-field?

Tro. Because not there: This woman's answer For womanish it is to be from thence. [sorts,² What news, Æneas, from the field to-day?

Æne. That Paris is returned home, and hurt.

Tro. By whom?

Æne. By Menelaus.

Tro. Let him bleed. [Alarm.

Æne. Hark! what good sport is out of town to-day? [may.—

Tro. Better at home, if *would I might*, were But, to the sport abroad;—Are you bound thither?

Æne. In all swift haste.

Tro. Come, go we then together. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter Cressida and Alexander.

Cres. Who were those went by?

Alex. Queen Hecuba, and Helen.

Cres. And whither go they?

Alex. Up to the eastern tower, Whose height commands as subject all the vale, To see the battle. Hector, whose patience Is, as a virtue, fix'd, to-day was mov'd: He chid Andromache, and struck his armourer; And, like as there were husbandry in war, Before the sun rose, he was harness'd light, And to the field goes he; where every flower, Did, as a prophet, weep what it foresaw In Hector's wrath.

Cres. What was his cause of anger?

Alex. The noise goes, this: There is among the Greeks

1 Sifting.

2 Shrink.

3 Split.

1 Irritable.

2 Suits.

A lord of Trojan blood, nephew to Hector;
They call him Ajax.

Cres. Good; and what of him?

Alex. They say he is a very man *per se*,¹
And stands alone.

Cres. So do all men; unless they are drunk,
sick, or have no legs.

Alex. This man, lady, hath robbed many
beasts of their particular additions²; he is as
valiant as the lion, churlish as the bear, slow as
the elephant: a man into whom nature hath so
crowded humours, that his valour is crushed into³
folly, his folly sauced with discretion: there is
no man hath a virtue that he hath not a glimpse
of; nor any man an attain, but he carries some
stain of it: he is melancholy without cause, and
merry against the hair⁴: He hath the joints of
every thing; but everything so out of joint, that
he is a gouty Briareus, many hands and no use;
or purblind Argus, all eyes and no sight.

Cres. But how should this man, that makes
me smile, make Hector angry?

Alex. They say, he yesterday coped Hector in
the battle, and struck him down; the disdain
and shame whereof hath ever since kept Hector
fasting and waking.

Enter Pandarus.

Cres. Who comes here?

Alex. Madam, your uncle Pandarus.

Cres. Hector's a gallant man.

Alex. As may be in the world, lady.

Pan. What's that? what's that?

Cres. Good morrow, uncle Pandarus.

Pan. Good morrow, cousin Cressid: what do
you talk of?—Good morrow, Alexander.—How
do you, cousin? When were you at Ilium?

Cres. This morning, uncle.

Pan. What were you talking of when I came?
Was Hector armed, and gone, ere ye came to
Ilium? Helen was not up, was she?

Cres. Hector was gone; but Helen was not up.

Pan. E'en so; Hector was stirring early.

C. That were we talking of, and of his anger.

Pan. Was he angry?

Cres. So he says, here.

Pan. True, he was so; I know the cause
too; he'll lay about him to-day, I can tell them
that: and there is Troilus will not come far
behind him; let them take heed of Troilus; I
can tell them that too.

Cres. What, is he angry, too?

Pan. Who, Troilus? Troilus is the better
man of the two.

Cres. O, Jupiter! there's no comparison.

Pan. What, not between Troilus and Hector?
Do you know a man, if you see him?

C. Ay, if ever I saw him before, and knew him.

Pan. Well, I say, Troilus is Troilus.

Cres. Then you say as I say; for I am sure
he is not Hector.

Pan. No, nor Hector is not Troilus, in some
degrees.

Cres. 'Tis just to each of them; he is himself.

Pan. Himself! Alas, poor Troilus! I would
he were,—

Cres. So he is.

Pan.—'Condition I had gone barefoot to

Cres. He is not Hector. [India.]

Pan. Himself? no, he's not himself.—'Would
'a were himself! Well, the gods are above;
Time must friend, or end: Well, Troilus, well,
—I would my heart were in her body!—No,
Hector is not a better man than Troilus.

Cres. Excuse me.

Pan. He is elder.

Cres. Pardon me, pardon me.

Pan. The other's not come to't; you shall
tell me another tale, when the others come to't.
Hector shall not have his wit this year.

Cres. He shall not need it, if he have his own.

Pan. Nor his qualities;—

Cres. No matter.

Pan. Nor his beauty.

C. 'Twould not become him, his own's better.

Pan. You have no judgment, niece: Helen
herself swore the other day, that Troilus, for
a brown favour, (for so 'tis, I must confess,)—
Not brown neither.

Cres. No, but brown.

P. 'Faith, to say truth, brown and not brown.

Cres. To say the truth, true and not true.

P. She prais'd his complexion above Paris.

Cres. Why, Paris hath colour enough.

Pan. So he has.

Cres. Then Troilus should have too much: if
she praised him above, his complexion is higher
than his; he having colour enough, and the other
higher, is too flaming a praise for a good com-
plexion. I had as lief¹ Helen's golden tongue
had commended Troilus for a copper nose.

Pan. I swear to you, I think Helen loves him
better than Paris.

Cres. Then she's a merry Greek, indeed.

Pan. Nay, I am sure she does. She came to
him the other day into a compass'd² window,—
and, you know, he has not passed three or four
hairs on his chin.

Cres. Indeed, a tapster's arithmetick may
soon bring his particulars therein to a total.

Pan. Why, he is very young; and yet will he,
within three pound, lift as much as his brother
Hector.

C. Is he so young a man, and so old a lifter³?

Pan. But, to prove to you that Helen love
him;—she came, and puts me her white hand
to his cloven chin,—

C. Juno have mercy!—How came it cloven?

Pan. Why, you know, 'tis dimpled: I think,
his smiling becomes him better than any man
in all Phrygia.

Cres. O, he smiles valiantly.

Pan. Does he not?

Cres. O yes, and 'twere a cloud in autumn.

Pan. Why, go to then:—But to prove to you
that Helen loves Troilus,—

Cres. Troilus will stand to the proof, if you'll
prove it so.

Pan. Troilus? why he esteems her no more
than I esteem an addle egg.

C. If you love an addle egg as well as you love
an idle head, you would eat chickens i' the shell.

Pan. I cannot choose but laugh, to think how

¹ By himself.

³ Mingled with.

² Rivalled their qualities.

⁴ Grain.

¹ Willingly.

² Bow.

³ Thief.

she tickled his chin :—Indeed, she has a marvellous white hand, I must needs confess.

Cres. Without the rack.

Pan. And she takes upon her to spy a white hair on his chin.

Cres. Alas, poor chin ! many a wart is richer.

Pan. But, there was such laughing :—Queen Hecuba laughed, that her eyes ran o'er.

Cres. With mill-stones.

Pan. And Cassandra laughed.

C. But there was a more temperate fire under the pot of her eyes ;—Did her eyes run o'er too ?

Pan. And Hector laughed.

Cres. At what was all this laughing ?

Pan. Marry, at the white hair that Helen spied on Troilus' chin.

Cres. An't had been a green hair, I should have laughed too.

Pan. They laughed not so much at the hair as at his pretty answer.

Cres. What was his answer ?

Pan. Quoth she, *Here's but one and fifty hairs on your chin, and one of them is white.*

Cres. This is her question.

Pan. That's true ; make no question of that. *One and fifty hairs, quoth he, and one white : That white hair is my father, and all the rest are his sons. Jupiter, quoth she, which of these hairs is Paris my husband ? The forked one, quoth he ; pluck it out and give it him.* But, there was such laughing ! and Helen so blushed, and Paris so chafed, and all the rest so laughed, that it passed.¹

Cres. So let it now ; for it has been a great while going by.

Pan. Well, cousin, I told you a thing yesterday ; think on't.

Cres. So I do.

Pan. I'll be sworn, 'tis true ; he will weep you an 'twere a man born in April.

Cres. And I'll spring up in his tears, an 'twere a nettle against May. [*A Retreat sounded.*]

Pan. Hark, they are coming from the field : Shall we stand up here, and see them, as they pass toward Ilium ? good niece, do ; sweet niece Cressida.

Cres. At your pleasure.

Pan. Here, here, here's an excellent place ; here we may see most bravely : I'll tell you them all by their names, as they pass by ; but mark Troilus above the rest.

Aeneas passes over the Stage.

Cres. Speak not so loud.

Pan. That's Aeneas ; Is not that a brave man ? he's one of the flowers of Troy, I can tell you : But mark Troilus ; you shall see anon.

Cres. Who's that ?

Antenor passes over.

Pan. That's Antenor ; he has a shrewd wit, I can tell you ; and he's a man good enough ; he's one o' the soundest judgments in Troy, whosoever, and a proper man of person :—When comes Troilus ?—I'll show you Troilus anon ; if he see me, you shall see him nod at me.

Cres. Will he give you the nod ?²

¹ Went beyond description.

² Playing on the game at cards called noddly.

Pan. You shall see.

Cres. If he do, the rich shall have more.

Hector passes over.

Pan. That's Hector, that, that, look you, that : There's a fellow !—Go thy way, Hector : —There's a brave man, niece.—O brave, Hector ! —Look, how he looks ! there's a countenance : Is't not a brave man ?

Cres. O, a brave man !

Pan. Is't not ? It does a man's heart good.—Look you what hacks are on his helmet ? look you yonder, do you see ? look you there ! There's no jesting ; there's laying on ; take't off who will, as they say ; there be hacks !

Cres. Be those with swords ?

Paris passes over.

Pan. Swords ? any thing, he cares not : an the devil come to him, it's all one : It does one's heart good.—Yonder comes Paris, yonder comes Paris ; look ye yonder, niece ; Is't not a gallant man, too, is't not ? Why, this is brave now.—Who said he came hurt home to-day ? he's not hurt : why this will do Helen's heart good now. Ha ! would I could see Troilus now !—you shall see Troilus anon.

Cres. Who's that ?

Helenus passes over.

Pan. That's Helenus,—I marvel, where Troilus is :—That's Helenus ;—I think he went not forth to-day ;—That's Helenus.

Cres. Can Helenus fight, uncle ?

Pan. Helenus ? no ;—yes, he'll fight indifferently well :—I marvel, where Troilus is !—Hark ; do you not hear the people cry, Troilus ? —Helenus is a priest.

Cres. What sneaking fellow comes yonder ?

Troilus passes over.

Pan. Where ? yonder ? that's Deiphobus : 'Tis Troilus ! there's a man, niece !—Hem !—Brave Troilus ! the prince of chivalry !

Cres. Peace, for shame, peace !

Pan. Mark him ; note him.—O brave Troilus !—look well upon him, niece ; look you, how his sword is bloodied ; and his helm more hack'd than Hector's ; And how he looks, and how he goes !—O admirable youth ! he ne'er saw three and twenty. Go thy way, Troilus, go thy way ; had I a sister were a grace, or a daughter a god-dess, he should take his choice. O admirable man ! Paris ?—Paris is dirt to him ; and, I warrant, Helen, to change, would give an eye to boot.

Forces pass over the Stage.

Cres. Here come more.

Pan. Asses, fools, dolts ! chaff and bran, chaff and bran ; porridge after meat ! I could live and die i' the eyes of Troilus. Ne'er look, ne'er look ; the eagles are gone ; crows and daws, crows and daws ! I had rather be such a man as Troilus, than Agamemnon and all Greece.

Cres. There is among the Greeks, Achilles ; a better man than Troilus.

Pan. Achilles ? a drayman, a porter, a very camel.

Cres. Well, well.

Pan. Well, well?—Why, have you any discretion? have you any eyes? Do you know what a man is? Is not birth, beauty, good shape, discourse, manhood, learning, gentleness, virtue, youth, liberality, and such like, the spice and salt that season a man?

Cres. Ay, a minced man; and then to be baked with no date¹ in the pie,—for then the man's date is out.

Pan. You are such a woman ! one knows not at what ward you lie.

Cres. Upon my wit to defend my wiles; and upon my secrecy, to defend mine honesty; my mask, to defend my beauty; and you, to defend all these: and at all these wards I lie, at a thousand watches.

Enter Troilus' Boy.

Boy. Sir, my lord would instantly speak with

Pan. Where? [He looks at the clock.] [you.]

Boy. At your own house; there he unarms him.

Pan. Good boy, tell him I come: [*Exit Boy.*]
I doubt he be hurt.—Fare ye well, good niece.

Cres. Adieu, uncle.

Pan. I'll be with you, niece, by and by.

Cres. To bring, uncle, —

Pan. Ay, a token from Troilus.

Cres. By the same token—you are a pimp.

[Exit Pandarus.
Words, vows, griefs, tears, and love's full sacri-
He offers in another's enterprise: [fice.

But more in Troilus thousand fold I see
Than in the glass of Pandar's praise may be:
Yet hold I off. Women are angels, wooing:
Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing:
That she belov'd knows nought, that knows
not this.—

Men prize the thing ungain'd more than it is :
That she was never yet that ever knew
Love got so sweet, as when desire did sue :
Therefore this maxim out of love I teach,—
Achievement is command ; ungain'd, beseech :
Then though my heart's content firm love doth
bear.

Nothing of that shall from mine eyes appear.
[Exit.]

SCENE III.—THE GRECIAN CAMP. BEFORE
AGAMEMNON'S TENT.

Trumpets. Enter Agamemnon, Nestor, Ulysses, Menelaus, and others.

Agam. Princes.

What grief hath set the jaundice on your cheeks?
The ample proposition, that hope makes
In all designs begun on earth below,
Fails in the promis'd largeness; checks and dis-
Grows in the veins of actions highest rear'd;†asters
As knots, by the conflix of meeting sap,
Infect the sound pine, and divert his grain
Tortive and errant² from his course of growth.
Nor, princes, is it matter new to us,
That we come short of our suppose so far,
That, after seven years' siege, yet Troy walls
Thine³ every action that hath gone before, [stand;
Whereof we have record, trial did draw
Bias and thwart, not answering the aim,
And that unbodied figure of the thought

That gave't surmised shape. Why then, you
princes,

Do you with cheeks abash'd behold our works ;
And think them shames, which are, indeed, nought
But the protractive trials of great Jove, [else
To find persistive constancy in men?

The fineness of which metal is not found
In fortune's love: for them, the bold and coward
The wise and fool, the artist and unread,
The hard and soft, seem all affin'd and kin:
But, in the wind and tempest of her frown,
Distinction, with a broad and powerful fan,
Puffing at all, winnows the light away:
And what hath mass, or matter, by itself
Lies, rich in virtue, and unmingled.

Nest. With due observance of thy godlike seat,
Great Agamemnon, Nestor shall apply
Thy latest words. In the reproof of chance,
Lies the true proof of men: The sea being smooth,
How many shallow bauble boats dare sail
Upon her patient breast, making their way
With those of nobler bulk.

But let the ruffian Boreas once enrage
The gentle Thetis, and, anon, behold . . . [cut.
The strong-ribb'd bark through liquid mountains
Bounding between the two moist elements,
Like Perseus' horse: Where's then the saucy boat,
Whose weak untimber'd sides but even now
Co-ri-val'd greatness? either to harbour fled,
Or made a toast for Neptune. Even so
Doth valour's show, and valour's worth, divide,
In storms of fortune: For, in her ray and
brightness,

The herd hath more annoyance by the brize,²
Than by the tiger: but when the splitting wind
Makes flexible the knees of knotted oaks,
And flies fled under shade, why, then, the thing
Of courage.

As rous'd with rage, with rage doth sympathise,
And, with an accent tun'd the self-same key,
Returns to chiding fortune.

Ulyss. Agamemnon,—

Thou great commander, nerve and bone of Greece,
Heart of our numbers, soul and only spirit,
In whom the tempers and the minds of all
Should be shut up,—hear what Ulysses speaks.
Besides the applause and approbation,
The which,—most mighty for thy place and
 away.— [To Agamemnon.]

And thou most reverend for thy stretch'd-out
life,— [To Nestor.

I give to both your speeches,—which were such,
As Agamemnon and the hand of Greece
Should hold up high in brass; and such again,
As venerable Nestor, hatch'd in silver,³
Should with a bond of air (strong as the axle-tree
On which heaven rides, & knit all the Greekish ears
To his experience'd tongue,—yet let it please both,—
Thou great,—and wise,—to hear Ulysses speak.

Agam. Speak, prince of Ithaca; and be't of
less expect^d

That matter needless, of importless burden,
Divide thy lips: than we are confident,
When rank Thersites opens his mastiff jaws,
We shall hear musick, wit, and oracle,
Ulyss. Troy, yet upon his basis, had been down.

1 Dates were an ingredient in pastry of almost every kind. . . . 2 Twisted and deviating. . . . 3 Since.

1 Have affinity.
2 The gadfly.

3 Silver tongued.
4 Expectation.

And the great Hector's sword had lack'd a mas-
But for these instances.

The specialty of rule¹ hath been neglected :
And, look, how many Grecian tents do stand
Hollow upon this plain, so many hollow factions.
When that the General is not like the hive,
To whom the foragers shall all repair,
What honey is expected? Degree being vizarded,²
The unworthiest shows as fairly in the mask.
The heavens themselves, the planets, and this
Observe degree, priority, and place; [center,
Insisture,³ course, proportion, season, form,
Office, and custom, in all line of order ;
And therefore is the glorious planet, Sol,
In noble eminence enthron'd and spher'd
Amidst the other ; whose med'cinable eye
Corrects the ill aspects of planets evil,
And posts, like the commandment of a king,
Sans⁴ check, to good and bad : But when the
In evil mixture, to disorder wander, [planets,
What plagues, and what portents? what mutiny?
What raging of the sea, shaking of earth?
Commotion in the winds? frights, changes, hor-
Divert and crack, rend and deracinate⁵ [rors,
The unity and married calm of states
Quite from their fixture? O, when degree is
Which is the ladder of all high designs, [shak'd,
The enterprise is sick? How could communities,
Degrees in schools, and brotherhoods in cities,
Peaceful commerce from dividable⁶ shores,
The primogenitive and due of birth,
Prerogative of age, crowns, scepters, laurels,
But by degree, stand in authentick place?
Take but degree away, untune that string,
And, hark, what discord follows! each thing meets
In mere⁷ oppugnancy : The bounded waters
Should lift their bosoms higher than the shores,
And make a sop of all this solid globe :
Strength should be lord of imbecility,
And the rude son shall strike his father dead :
Force should be right; or, rather, right and wrong,
(Between whose endless jar justice resides,)
Should lose their names, and so should justice
Then every thing includes itself in power, [too.
Power into will, will into appetite;
And appetite, an universal wolf,
So doubly seconded with will and power
Must make perforce an universal prey,
And, last, eat up himself. Great Agamemnon,
This chaos, when degree is suffocate,
Follows the choking.

And this neglect of degree it is,
That by a pace goes backward, with a purpose
It hath to claim. The general's disdain'd
By him one step below ; he, by the next ;
That next by him beneath : so every step,
Exempl'd by the first pace that is sick
Of his superior, grows to an envious fever
Of pale and bloodless emulation :
And 'tis this fever that keeps Troy on foot,
Not her own sinews. To end a tale of length,
Troy in our weakness stands, not in her strength.

Nest. Most wisely hath Ulysses here discover'd
The fever whereof all our power is sick.

Ag. The nature of the sickness found, Ulysses,
What is the remedy?

U. The great Achilles,—whom opinion crowns
The sinew and the forehead of our host—
Having his ear full of his airy fame,
Grows dainty of his worth, and in his tent
Lies mocking our designs : With him, Patroclus,
Upon a lazy bed the live-long day
Breaks scurril jests,
And with ridiculous and awkward action
(Which, slanderer, he imitation calls,)
Hepageants¹ us. Sometime, great Agamemnon,
Thy topless² deputation he puts on;
And, like a strutting player,—whose conceit
Lies in his hamstring, and doth think it rich
To hear the wooden dialogue and sound
'Twixt his stretch'd footing and the scaffoldage,³
Such to-be-pitied and o'er-wrested⁴ seeming
He acts thy greatness in : and when he speaks,
'Tis like a chime a mending ; with terms un-
squad'd,

Which, from the tongue of roaring Typhon
Would seem hyperboles. At this fusty stuff,
The large Achilles, on his press'd bed lolling,
From his deep chest laughs out a loud applause;
Cries—*Excellent ! 'tis Agamemnon just.*—
Now play me Nestor ; hem, and stroke thy beard,
As, he being drest to some oration.

That's done;—as near as the extremest ends
Of parallels; as like as Vulcan and his wife:
Yet good Achilles still cries, *Excellent !*

'Tis Nestor right ! Now play him me, Patroclus,
Arming to answer in a night alarm.

And then, forsooth, the faint defects of age
Must be the scene of mirth; to cough and spit,
And with a palsy-fumbling on his gorget,
Shake in and out the rivet :—and at this sport,
Sir Valour dies; cries, *O!—enough, Patroclus;—*
Or give me ribs of steel ! I shall split all

In pleasure of my spleen. And in this fashion,
All our abilities, gifts, natures, shapes,
Severals and generals of grace exact,
Achievements, plots, orders, preventions,
Excitements to the field, or speech for truce,
Success, or loss, what is, or is not, serves
As stuff for these two to make paradoxes.

Nest. And in the imitation of these twain
(Whom, as Ulysses says, opinion crowns
With an imperial voice,) many are infect,
Ajax is grown self-will'd; and bears his head
In such a rein, in full as proud a place
As broad Achilles : keeps his tent like him;
Makes factious feasts; rails on our state of war,
Bold as an oracle : and sets Thersites
(A slave, whose gall coins slanders like a mint,)
To match us in comparisons with dirt;
To weaken and discredit our exposure,
How rank soever rounded in with danger.

Ulys. They tax our policy, and call it cowardice;
Count wisdom as no member of the war;
Foretell prescience, and esteem no act
But that of hand : the still and mental parts,—
That do contrive how many hands shall strike,
When fitness call them on; and know, by measure
Of their observant toil, the enemies' weight,—
Why, this hath not a finger's dignity :

1 Rights of authority.

2 Masked.

3 Constancy.

4 Without.

5 Uproot.

6 Separated.

7 Absolute opposition.

1 Ridicules us.

2 Supreme.

3 Stage.

4 Beyond the truth.

They call this—bed-work, mappery, closet-war:
So that the ram, that batters down the wall,
For the great swing and rudeness of his poise,
They place before his hand that made the engine:
Or those, that with the fineness of their souls
By reason guide his execution.

Nest. Let this be granted, and Achilles' horse
Makes many Thetis' sons. [*Trumpets sounded.*]
Agam. What trumpet? look, Menelaus.

Enter Æneas.

Men. From Troy.

Agam. What would you 'fore our tent?

Æne. Is this

Great Agamemnon's tent, I pray?

Agam. Even this.

Æne. May one that is a herald, and a prince,
Do a fair message to his kingly ears?

Ag. With surety stronger than Achilles' arm
'Fore all the Greekish heads, which with one voice
Call Agamemnon head and general.

Æne. Fair leave and large security. How may
A stranger to those most imperial looks
Know them from eyes of other mortals?

Agam. How?

Æne. Ay;

I ask, that I might waken reverence,
And bid the cheek be ready with a blush
Modest as morning when she coldly eyes
The youthful Phœbus:

Which is that god in office, guiding men?

Which is the high and mighty Agamemnon?

A. This Trojan scorns us; or the men of Troy
Are ceremonious courtiers.

Æne. Courtiers as free, as debonair, unarm'd,
As bending angels; that's their fame in peace:
But when they would seem soldiers, they have

galls, [accord,
Good arms, strong joints, true swords; and, Jove's
Nothing so full of heart. But peace, Æneas,
Peace, Trojan; lay thy finger on thy lips!
The worthiness of praise disdains his worth,
If that the prais'd himself bring the praise forth:
But what the repining enemy commends,
That breath fame follows; that praise, sole
pure, transcends.

Ag. Sir, you of Troy, call you yourself Æneas?

Æne. Ay, Greek, that is my name.

Agam. What's your affair, I pray you?

Æne. Sir, pardon; 'tis for Agamemnon's ears.

Agam. He hears nought privately, that comes
from Troy.

Æ. Nor I from Troy come not to whisper him:
I bring a trumpet to awake his ear:

To set his sense on the attentive bent,
And then to speak.

Agam. Speak frankly, as the wind;
It is not Agamemnon's sleeping hour:
That thou shalt know, Trojan, he is awake,
He tells thee so himself.

Æne. Trumpet, blow loud,
Send thy brass voice through all these lazy tents;—
And every Greek of mettle, let him know,
What Troy means fairly, shall be spoke aloud.

[*Trumpet sounds.*]

We have, great Agamemnon, here in Troy
A prince call'd Hector, (Priam is his father,)
Who in this dull and long continued truce

Is rusty grown: he bade me take a trumpet,
And to this purpose speak. Kings, princes, lords!
If there be one, among the fair'st of Greece,
That holds his honour higher than his ease;
That seeks his praise more than he fears his peril;
That knows his valour, and knows not his fear;
That loves his mistress more than in confession,
(With truant vows to her own lips he loves,)
And dare avow her beauty and her worth,
In other arms than hers,—to him this challenge.
Hector, in view of Trojans and of Greeks,
Shall make it good, or do his best to do it,
He hath a lady, wiser, fairer, truer,
Than ever Greek did compass in his arms;
And will to-morrow with his trumpet call,
Mid-way between your tents and walls of Troy,
To rouse a Grecian that is true in love:
If any come, Hector shall honour him;
If none, he'll say in Troy, when he retires,
The Grecian dames are sunburn'd, and not worth
The splinter of a lance. Even so much.

Agam. This shall be told our lovers, lord Æneas:
If none of them have soul in such a kind,
We left them all at home: But we are soldiers;
And may that soldier a mere recreant prove,
That means not, hath not, or is not in love!
If then one is, or hath, or means to be,
That one meets Hector; if none else, I am he.

Nest. Tell him of Nestor, one that was a man
When Hector's grandsire suck'd: he is old now,
But, if there be not in our Grecian host
One noble man, that hath one spark of fire
To answer for his love, tell him from me,—
I'll hide my silver beard in a gold beaver,
And in my vantbrace¹ put this wither'd brawn;
And, meeting him, will tell him, That my lady
Was fairer than his grandame, and as chaste
As may be in the world: His youth in flood,
I'll prove this truth with my three drops of blood.

Æ. Now heaven forbid such scarcity of youth!
Ulyss. Amen.

Ag. Fair lord Æneas, let me touch your hand;
To our pavilion shall I lead you, sir.
Achilles shall have word of this intent;
So shall each lord of Greece, from tent to tent:
Yourself shall feast with us before you go,
And find the welcome of a noble foe.

[*Exeunt all but Ulysses and Nestor.*]

Ulyss. Nestor,—

Nest. What says Ulysses?

Ulyss. I have a young conception in my brain,
Be you my time to bring it to some shape.

Nest. What is't?

Ulyss. This 'tis:
Blunt wedges rive hard knots: The seeded pride
That hath to this maturity blown up
In rank Achilles, must or now be cropp'd,
Or, shedding, breed a nursery of like evil,
To overbulk us all.

Nest. Well, and how?

U. This challenge that the gallant Hector sends,
However it is spread in general name,
Relates in purpose only to Achilles. [stance,

Nest. The purpose is perspicuous even as sub-
Whose grossness little characters sum up:
And, in the publication, make no strain,
But that Achilles, were his brain as barren

¹ An armour for the arm.

As banks of Libya,—though, Apollo knows,
 'Tis dry enough,—will with great speed of judg-
 Ay, with celerity, find Hector's purpose [ment,
 Pointing on him.

Ulyss. And wake him to the answer, think you?
Nest. Yes,

It is most meet: Whom may you else oppose,
 That can from Hector bring those honours off,
 If not Achilles? Though't be a sportful combat,
 Yet in the trial much opinion dwells;
 For here the Trojans taste our dear'st repute
 With their fin'st palate: And trust to me, Ulysses,
 Our imputation shall be oddly pois'd
 In this wild action: for the success,
 Although particular, shall give a scantling¹
 Of good or bad unto the general;
 And in such indexes, although small pricks²
 To their subsequent volumes, there is seen
 The baby figure of the giant mass³
 Of things to come at large. It is suppos'd,
 He, that meets Hector, issues from our choice:
 And choice, being mutual act of all our souls,
 Makes merit her election; and doth boil,
 As 'twere from forth us all, a man distill'd
 Out of her virtues; Who miscarrying,
 What heart receives from hence a conquering
 To steel a strong opinion to themselves? [part,
 Which entertain'd, limbs are his instruments,
 In no less working, than are swords and bows
 Directive by the limbs.

Ulyss. Give pardon to my speech;—
 Therefore, 'tis meet, Achilles meet not Hector.
 Let us, like merchants, show our foulest wares,
 And think, perchance, they'll sell; if not,
 The lustre of the better shall exceed,
 By showing the worst first. Do not consent,
 That ever Hector and Achilles meet;
 For both our honour and our shame, in this,
 Are dogg'd with two strange followers.

Nest. I see them not with my old eyes; what
 are they?

Ulyss. What glory our Achilles shares from
 Hector,

Were he not proud, we all should share with
 But he already is too insolent; [him;
 And we were better parch in Africk sun,
 Than in the pride and salt scorn of his eyes,
 Should he 'scape Hector fair: If he were foil'd,
 Why, then we did our main opinion³ crush
 In taint of our best man. No, make a lottery;
 And, by device, let blockish Ajax draw
 The sort⁴ to fight with Hector: Among ourselves,
 Give him allowance for the better man,
 For that will physick the great Myrmidon,
 Who broils in loud applause; and make him fall
 His crest, that prouder than blue Iris bends.
 If the dull brainless Ajax come safe off,
 We'll dress him up in voices: If he fail,
 Yet go we under our opinion³ still
 That we have better men. But, hit or miss,
 Our project's life this shape of sense assumes,—
 Ajax, employ'd, plucks down Achilles' plumes.

Nest. Ulysses,
 Now I begin to relish thy advice;
 And I will give a taste of it forthwith
 To Agamemnon: go we to him straight.

1 Measure.
 2 Points.

3 Estimate of character.
 4 Lot.

Two curs shall tame each other; Pride alone
 Must tarre¹ the mastiffs on, as 'twere their bone.
 [Exeunt.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

ANOTHER PART OF THE GRECIAN CAMP.

Enter Ajax and Thersites.

Ajax. Thersites,—

Ther. Agamemnon—how if he had boils? full
 all over, generally?

Ajax. Thersites,—

Ther. And those boils did run?—Say so,—did
 not the general run then? were not that a
 botchy core?

Ajax. Dog,—

Ther. Then would come some matter from
 him; I see none now.

A. Thou bitch-wolf's son, canst thou not hear?
 Feel then. [Strikes him.]

Ther. The plague of Greece upon thee, thou
 mongrel beef-witted lord!

Ajax. Speak then, thou unsalted leaven,
 speak! I will beat thee into handsomeness.

Ther. I shall sooner rail thee into wit and
 holiness: but, I think, thy horse will sooner con
 an oration, than thou learn a prayer without
 book. Thou canst strike, canst thou? a red
 murrain o' thy jade's tricks!

Ajax. Toad's-stool, learn me the proclamation.

Ther. Dost thou think, I have no sense, thou
 striketh me thus?

Ajax. The proclamation,—

Ther. Thou art proclaimed a fool, I think.

A. Do not, porcupine, do not; my fingers itch.

Ther. I would, thou didst itch from head to
 foot, and I had the scratching of thee; I would
 make thee the loathsome scab in Greece.
 When thou art forth in the incursions, thou
 striketh as slow as another.

Ajax. I say, the proclamation,—

Ther. Thou grumblest and raillest every hour
 on Achilles; and thou art as full of envy at his
 greatness, as Cerberus is at Proserpina's beauty,
 ay, that thou barkest at him.

Ajax. Mistress Thersites!

Ther. Thou shouldest strike him.

Ajax. Cobloaf²!

Ther. He would pun³ thee into shivers with
 his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit.

Ajax. You cur!

[Beating him.]

Ther. Do, do.

Ajax. Thou stool for a witch!

Ther. Ay, do, do; thou sodden-witted lord!
 thou hast no more brain than I have in mine
 elbows; an assine⁴ may tutor thee: Thou
 scurvy valiant ass! thou art here put to thrash
 Trojans; and thou art bought and sold among
 those of any wit, like a Barbarian slave. If
 thou use to beat me, I will begin at thy heel,
 and tell what thou art by inches, thou thing of
 no bowels, thou!

Ajax. You dog!

1 Urge.

2 Unshapely loaf.

3 Pound.

4 Little ass.

Ther. You scurvy lord!

Ajax. You cur! [Beating him.

Ther. Mars his idiot! do, rudeness; do, camel, do, do.

Enter Achilles and Patroclus.

Achil. Why, how now, Ajax? wherefore do you thus?

How now, Thersites? what's the matter, man?

Ther. You see him there, do you?

Achil. Ay; what's the matter?

Ther. Nay, look upon him.

Achil. So I do; What's the matter?

Ther. Nay, but regard him well.

Achil. Well, why I do so.

Ther. But yet you look not well upon him: for whosoever you take him to be, he is Ajax.

Achil. I know that, fool.

Ther. Ay, but that fool knows not himself.

Ajax. Therefore I beat thee.

Ther. Lo, lo, lo, lo, what modicums of wit he utters! his evasions have ears thus long. I have bobbed¹ his brain, more than he has beat my bones: I will buy nine sparrows for a penny, and his *pia mater* is not worth the ninth part of a sparrow. This lord, Achilles, Ajax,—who wears his wit in his belly, instead of his head,—I'll tell you what I say of him.

Achil. What?

Ther. I say this, Ajax——

[*Ajax offers to strike him, Achil. interposes.*

Achil. Nay, good Ajax.

Ther. Hast not so much wit——

Achil. Nay, I must hold you.

Ther. As will stop the eye of Helen's needle, for whom he comes to fight.

Achil. Peace, fool!

Ther. I would have peace and quietness, but the fool will not; he there; that he; look you there.

Ajax. O thou cur! I shall——

Achil. Will you set your wit to a fool's?

Ther. No, I warrant you; for a fool's will shame it.

Patr. Good words, Thersites.

Achil. What's the quarrel?

Ajax. I bade the vile owl, go, learn me the tenor of the proclamation, and he rails upon me.

Ther. I serve thee not.

Ajax. Well, go to, go to.

Ther. I serve here voluntary.

Achil. Your last service was sufferance, 'twas not voluntary; no man is beaten voluntary; Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an impress.

Ther. Even so?—a great deal of your wit too lies in your sinews, or else there be liars. Hector shall have a great catch, if he knock out either of your brains; 'a were as good crack a fusty nut with no kernel.

Achil. What, with me too, Thersites?

Ther. There's Ulysses, and old Nestor, whose wit was mouldy, ere your grandsires had nails on their toes,—yoke you like draught oxen, and make you plough up the wars.

Achil. What, what?

Ther. Yes, good sooth; to, Achilles! to, Ajax!

Ajax. I shall cut out your tongue. [to!

1 Beat.

Ther. 'Tis no matter; I shall speak as much as thou, afterwards.

Patr. No more words, Thersites; peace.

Ther. I will hold my peace when Achilles' brach¹ bids me, shall I?

Achil. There's for you, Patroclus.

Ther. I will see you hanged, like clotpoles, ere I come any more to your tents; I will keep where there is wit stirring, and leave the faction of fools. [Exit.

Patr. A good riddance.

Achil. Marry, this, sir, is proclaim'd through all our host:

That Hector, by the first hour of the sun, Will, with a trumpet, 'twist our tents and Troy, To-morrow morning call some knight to arms, That hath a stomach; and such a one, that dare Maintain—I know not what; 'tis trash: farewell.

Ajax. Farewell. Who shall answer him?

Achil. I know not, it is put to lottery; other—He knew his man. [wise,

Ajax. O, meaning you:—I'll go learn more of it. [Exit.

SCENE II.

TROY. A ROOM IN PRIAM'S PALACE.

Enter Priam, Hector, Troilus, Paris, and Helenus.

Pri. After so many hours, lives, speeches, spent, Thus once again says Nestor from the Greeks:

Deliver Helen, and all damage else—

As honour, loss of time, travel, expence, Wounds, friends, and what else dear that is con- In hot digestion of this cormorant war, — [sum'd Shall be struck off:—Hector, what say you to't.

Hec. Though no man lesser fears the Greeks As far as toucheth my particular, yet, [than I, Dread Priam,

There is no lady of more softer bowels, More spongy to suck in the sense of fear,

More ready to cry out—*Who knows what follows?* Than Hector is: The wound of peace is surety,

Surety secure; but modest doubt is call'd The beacon of the wise, the tent that searches

To the bottom of the worst. Let Helen go: [tion, Since the first sword was drawn about this ques-

Everytithesoul, 'mongst many thousand disinces,² Hath been as dear as Helen; I mean of ours:

If we have lost so many tenths of ours, To guard a thing not ours; not worth to us,

Had it our name, the value of one ten; What merit's in that reason, which denies

The yielding of her up?

Tro. Fie, fie, my brother! Weigh you the worth and honour of a king,

So great as our dread father, in a scale Of common ounces? will you with counters sum

The past proportion of his infinite? And buckle in a waist most fathomless,

With spans and inches so diminutive As fears and reasons! fie, for godly shame!

Hel. No marvel, though you bite so sharp at reasons,

You are so empty of them. Should not our father Bear the great sway of his affairs with reasons,

Because your speech hath none, that tells him so?

1 Hound.

2 Tenths.

T. You are for dreams and slumbers, brother priest, [reasons:]
 You fur your gloves with reason. Here are your
 You know, an enemy intends you harm;
 You know, a sword employ'd is perilous,
 And reason flies the object of all harm:
 Who marvels then, when Helenus beholds
 A Grecian and his sword, if he do set
 The very wings of reason to his heels;
 And fly like chidden Mercury from Jove,
 Or like a star disorb'd?—Nay, if we talk of reason,
 Let's shut our gates, and sleep: Manhood and
 honour [thoughts]
 Should have hare hearts, would they but fat their
 With this cramm'd reason: reason and respect¹
 Make livers pale, and lustihood deject. [cost
 H. Brother, she is not worth what she doth
 The holding.

Tro. What is aught, but as 'tis valued?
 Hec. But value dwells not in particular will;
 It holds his estimate and dignity
 As well wherein 'tis precious of itself
 As in the prizer: 'tis mad idolatry,
 To make the service greater than the god;
 And the will dotes, that is attributive
 To what infectiously itself affects,
 Without some image of the affected merit.

Tro. I take to-day a wife, and my election
 Is led on in the conduct of my will:
 My will enkindled by mine eyes and ears,
 Two traded pilots 'twixt the dangerous shores
 Of will and judgment: How may I avoid,
 Although my will distaste what it elected,
 The wife I chose? there can be no evasion
 To blench² from this, and to stand firm by honour:
 We turn not back the silks upon the merchant,
 When we have soil'd them; nor the remainder
 We do not throw in unrespective sieve,³ [viands
 Because we now are full. It was thought meet,
 Paris should do some vengeance on the Greeks:
 Your breath with full consent belied his sails;
 The seas and winds (old wranglers) took a truce,
 And did him service: he touch'd the ports desir'd;
 And, for an old aunt,⁴ whom the Greeks held
 captive, [freshness

He brought a Grecian queen, whose youth and
 Wrinkles Apollo's, and makes pale the morning.
 Why keep we her? the Grecians keep our aunt:
 Is she worth keeping? why, she is a pearl,
 Whose price hath launch'd above a thousand
 And turn'd crown'd kings to merchants. [ships,
 If you'll avouch, 'twas wisdom Paris went,
 (As you must needs, for you all cry'd—*Go, go,*)
 If you'll confess, he brought home noble prize,
 (As you must needs, for you all clapp'd your hands,
 And cry'd—*Inestimable!*) why do you now
 The issue of your proper wisdoms rate;
 And do a deed that fortune never did,
 Beggar the estimation which you priz'd
 Richer than sea or land? O theft most base;
 That we have stolen what we do fear to keep!
 But, thieves unworthy of a thing so stolen,
 That in their country did them that disgrace,
 We fear to warrant in our native place!

Cas. [Within.] Cry, Trojans, cry!

Pri. What noise? what shriek is this?

Tro. 'Tis our mad sister, I do know her voice.
 Cas. [Within.] Cry, Trojans!
 Hec. It is Cassandra.

Enter Cassandra, raving.

C. Cry, Trojans, cry! lend me ten thousand
 And I will fill them with prophetick tears. [eyes,
 Hec. Peace, sister, peace. [elders,
 Cas. Virgins and boys, mid-age, and wrinkled
 Soft infancy, that nothing canst but cry,
 Add to my clamours! let us pay betimes
 A moiety of that mass of moan to come.
 Cry, Trojans, cry! practice your eyes with tears?
 Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilium stand;
 Our fire-brand brother, Paris, burns us all.
 Cry, Trojans, cry! a Helen and a woe:
 Cry, cry! Troy burns, or else let Helen go. [Exit.
 H. Now, youthful Troilus, do not these high
 Of divination in our sister work [strains
 Some touches of remorse? or is your blood
 So madly hot, that no discourse of reason,
 Nor fear of bad success in a bad cause,
 Can qualify the same?

Tro. Why, brother Hector,
 We may not think the justness of each act
 Such and no other than event doth form it;
 Nor once deject the courage of our minds,
 Because Cassandra's mad; her brain-sick rap-
 Cannot distaste¹ the goodness of a quarrel, [tures
 Which hath our several honours all engag'd
 To make it gracious. For my private part,
 I am no more touch'd than all Priam's sons:
 And Jove forbid, there should be done amongst us
 Such things as might offend the weakest spleen
 To fight for and maintain!

P. Else might the world convince² of levity
 As well my undertakings as your counsels;
 But I attest the gods, your full consent
 Gave wings to my propension, and cut off
 All fears attending on so dire a project.
 For what, alas, can these my single arms?
 What propugnation³ is in one man's valour
 To stand the push and enmity of those
 This quarrel would excite? Yet, I protest,
 Were I alone to pass the difficulties,
 And had as ample power as I have will,
 Paris should ne'er retract what he hath done,
 Nor faint in the pursuit.

Pri. Paris, you speak
 Like one besotted on your sweet delights:
 You have the honey still, but these the gall;
 So to be valiant, is no praise at all.

Par. Sir, I propose not merely to myself
 The pleasures such a beauty brings with it;
 But I would have the soil of her fair rape
 Wip'd off, in honourable keeping her.
 What treason were it to the ransack'd queen,
 Disgrace to your great worths, and shame to me
 Now to deliver her possession up,
 On terms of base compulsion? Can it be,
 That so degenerate a strain as this,
 Should once set footing in your generous bosoms!
 There's not the meanest spirit on our party,
 Without a heart to dare, or sword to draw,
 When Helen is defended; nor none so noble,
 Whose life were ill bestow'd, or death unfam'd,
 Where Helen is the subject: then, I say,

1 Caution.
 2 Shrink.

3 Common bucket.
 4 Priam's sister, Hecuba.

1 Make worse. 2 Convict. 3 Defence.

Well may we fight for her, whom, we know well,
The world's large spaces cannot parallel.

Hect. Paris, and Troilus, you have both said
And on the cause and question now in hand [well:
Have glaz'd,¹—but superficially; not much
Unlike young men, whom Aristotle thought
Unfit to hear moral philosophy:
The reasons, you allege, do more conduce
To the hot passion of distemper'd blood,
Than to make up a free determination
Twixt right and wrong; For pleasure, and re-
venge,

Have ears more deaf than adders to the voice
Of any true decision. Nature craves,
All dues be render'd to their owners; Now
What nearer debt in all humanity,
Than wife is to the husband? if this law
Of nature be corrupted through affection;
And that great minds, of² partial indulgence
To their benumbed wills, resist the same;
There is a law in each well-order'd nation,
To curb those raging appetites that are
Most disobedient and refractory.
If Helen then be wife to Sparta's king,—
As it is known she is,—these moral laws
Of nature, and of nations, speak aloud
To have her back return'd: Thus to persist
In doing wrong, extenuates not wrong,
But makes it much more heavy, Hector's opinion
Is this, in way of truth: yet ne'ertheless,
My spritely brethren, I propend³ to you
In resolution to keep Helen still;
For 'tis a cause that hath no mean dependence
Upon our joint and several dignities.

T. Why, there you touch'd the life of our de-
We're it not glory that we more affected, [sign:
Than the performance of our heaving spleens,
I would not wish a drop of Trojan blood
Spent more in her defence. But, worthy Hector,
She is a theme of honour and renown;
A spur to valiant and magnanimous deeds;
Whose present courage may beat down our foes,
And fame, in time to come, canonize us:
For, I presume, brave Hector would not lose
So rich advantage of a promis'd glory,
As smiles upon the forehead of this action,
For the wide world's revenue.

Hect. I am yours,
You valiant offspring of great Priamus.—
I have a roisting⁴ challenge sent amongst
The dull and factious nobles of the Greeks,
Will strike amazement to their drowsy spirits:
I was advérts'd, their great general slept,
Whilst emulation⁵ in the army crept;
This, I presume, will wake him. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

THE GRECIAN CAMP. BEFORE ACHILLES' TENT.

Enter Thersites.

Ther. How, now, Thersites? what, lost in the
labyrinth of thy fury? Shall the elephant Ajax
carry it thus; he beats me, and I rail at him:
O worthy satisfaction! 'would, it were otherwise;
that I could beat him, whilst he railed at me: I'll
learn to conjure and raise devils, but I'll see some

issue of my spiteful execrations. Then there's
Achilles,—a rare engineer. If Troy be not
taken, till these two undermine it, the walls will
stand till they fall of themselves. O thou great
thunder-darter of Olympus, forget that thou
art Jove the king of gods; and, Mercury, lose
all the serpentine craft of thy *Caduceus*¹; if ye
take not that little little less-than-little wit from
them that they have! which short-armed igno-
rance itself knows is so abundant scarce, it will
not in circumvention deliver a fly from a spider,
without drawing their massy irons, and cutting
the web. After this, the vengeance on the whole
camp! I have said my prayers; and devil envy
say Amen. What, ho! my lord Achilles!

Enter Patroclus.

Patr. Who's there? Thersites? Good Ther-
sites, come in and rail.

Ther. If I could have remembered a gilt coun-
terfeit, thou wouldst not have slipped out of my
contemplation: but it is no matter; Thyself
upon thyself. The common curse of mankind,
folly and ignorance, be thine in great revenue!
heaven bless thee from a tutor, and discipline
come not near thee! Let thy blood² be thy
direction till thy death! then if she, that lays
thee out, says—thou art a fair corse, I'll besworn
and sworn upon't, she never shrouded any but
lazars.³ Amen.—Where's Achilles?

Patr. What, art thou devout? wast thou in
prayer?

Ther. Ay; The heavens hear me!

Enter Achilles.

Achil. Who's there?

Patr. Thersites, my lord.

Achil. Where, where?—Art thou come? Why,
my cheese, my digestion, why hast thou not
served thyself in to my table so many meals?
Come; what's Agamemnon?

Ther. Thy commander, Achilles;—Then tell
me, Patroclus, what's Achilles?

Patr. Thy lord, Thersites; Then tell me, I
pray thee, what's thyself?

Ther. Thy knower, Patroclus; Then tell me,
Patroclus, what art thou?

Patr. Thou mayest tell, that knowest.

Achil. O, tell, tell.

Ther. I'll decline the whole question. Aga-
memnon commaunds Achilles; Achilles is my
lord; I am Patroclus' knower; and Patroclus is
a fool.

Patr. You rascal!

Ther. Peace, fool; I have not done.

A. He is a privileged man.—Proceed, Thersites.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool; Achilles is a
fool; Thersites is a fool; and, as aforesaid,
Patroclus is a fool.

Achil. Derive this; come.

Ther. Agamemnon is a fool to offer to com-
mand Achilles; Achilles is a fool to be com-
manded of Agamemnon; Thersites is a fool to
serve such a fool; and Patroclus is a fool positive.

Patr. Why am I a fool?

Ther. Make that demand of the prover.—It
suffices me, thou art. Look you, who comes here?

1 Commented.

3 Incline.

5 Envy.

2 (Through.)

4 Blustering.

1 Mercury's wand wreathed with serpents.

2 Passions.

3 Lepers.

Enter Agamemnon, Ulysses, Nestor, Diomedes, and Ajax.

Achil. Patroclus, I'll speak with nobody:—Come in with me, Thersites. *[Exit.]*

Ther. Here is such patchery, such juggling, and such knavery! A good quarrel, to draw emulous factions, and bleed to death upon! Now the dry *serpigo* on the subject! and war, and lechery, and confound all! *[Exit.]*

Agam. Where is Achilles?

Pat. Within histent; but ill-dispos'd, my lord.

Agam. Let it be known to him, that we are here. He shent¹ our messengers; and we lay by Our appointments² visiting of him: Let him be told so; lest, perchance, he think We dare not move the question of our place, Or know not what we are.

Patr. I shall say so to him. *[Exit.]*

Ulyss. We saw him at the opening of his tent; He is not sick.

Ajax. Yes, lion-sick, sick of proud heart: you may call it melancholy, if you will favour the man; but, by my head, 'tis pride: But why, why? let him show us a cause.—A word, my lord. *[Takes Agamemnon aside.]*

Nest. What moves Ajax thus to bay at him?

Uly. Achilles hath inveigled his fool from him.

Nest. Who? Thersites?

Ulyss. He.

Nest. Then will Ajax lack matter, if he have lost his argument.³

Ulyss. No; you see, he is his argument, that has his argument; Achilles.

Nest. All the better; their fraction is more our wish, than their faction: But it was a strong composure, a fool could disunite.

Ulyss. The amity that wisdom knits not, folly may easily untie. Here comes Patroclus.

Re-enter Patroclus.

Nest. No Achilles with him.

Ulyss. The elephant hath joints, but none for courtesy; his legs are legs for necessity, not for flexure.

Patr. Achilles bids me say—he is much sorry, If any thing more than your sport and pleasure Did move your greatness, and this noble state, To call upon him; he hopes, it is no other, But, for your health and your digestion sake, An after-dinner's breath.⁴

Agam. Hear you, Patroclus:—We are too well acquainted with these answers: But his evasion, wing'd thus swift with scorn, Cannot outfly our apprehensions. Much attribute he hath; and much the reason Why we ascribe it to him: yet all his virtues,—Not virtuously on his own part beheld,—Do, in our eyes, begin to lose their gloss; Yea, like fair fruit in an unwholesome dish, Are like to rot untasted. Go and tell him, We come to speak with him; And you shall not If you do say—we think him over-proud, [sin, And under-honest; in self-assumption greater, Than in the note of judgment; and worthier than himself

Here tend⁵ the savage strangeness he puts on;

Disguise the holy strength of their command, And underwrite¹ in an observing kind His humorous predominance; yea, watch His pettish lunes,² his ebbs, his flows, as if The passage and whole carriage of this action Rode on his tide. Go, tell him this; and add, That, if he overhold his price so much, We'll none of him; but let him like an engine Not portable, lie under this report—Bring action hither, this cannot go to war: A stirring dwarf we do allowance³ give Before a sleeping giant:—Tell him so.

P. I shall, and bring his answer presently. *[Exit.]*

Agam. In second voice we'll not be satisfied, We come to speak with him.—Ulysses, enter. *[Exit Ulysses.]*

Ajax. What is he more than another?

Agam. No more than what he thinks he is.

Ajax. Is he so much? Do you not think, he thinks himself a better man than I am?

Agam. No question.

Ajax. Will you subscribe his thought, and say—he is?

Agam. No, noble Ajax; you are as strong, as valiant, as wise, no less noble, much more gentle, and altogether more tractable.

Ajax. Why should a man be proud? How doth pride grow? I know not what pride is.

Agam. Your mind's the clearer, Ajax, and your virtues the fairer. He that is proud, eats up himself: pride is his own glass, his own trumpet, his own chronicle; and whatever praises itself but in the deed, devours the deed in the praise.

Ajax. I do hate a proud man, as I hate the engendering of toads.

Nest. *[Aside.]* And yet he loves himself: Is it not strange?

Re-enter Ulysses.

Ulyss. Achilles will not to the field to-morrow.

Agam. What's his excuse?

Ulyss. He doth rely on none; But carries on the stream of his dispose, Without observance or respect of any, In will peculiar and in self-admission.

Agam. Why will he not, upon our fair request, Untent his person, and share the air with us?

Uly. Things small as nothing, for request's sake only, [ness;

He makes important: Possess'd he is with great—And speaks not to himself, but with a pride That quarrels at self-breath: imagin'd worth Holds in his blood such swoln and hot discourse, That, 'twixt his mental and his active parts, Kingdom'd Achilles in commotion rages, And batters down himself: What should I say? He is so plaguy proud, that the death-tokens of it Cry—No recovery.

Agam. Let Ajax go to him.—

Dear lord, go you and greet him in his tent: 'Tis said, he holds you well; and will be led, At your request a little from himself.

Ulyss. O Agamemnon, let it not be so! We'll consecrate the steps that Ajax makes When they go from Achilles: Shall the proud lord,

That bastes his arrogance with his own seam⁴;

1 Rated.

2 Appendages of rank.

3 Subject.

4 Exercise.

5 Attend.

1 Obey.

2 Fits.

3 Approbation.

4 Fat.

And never suffers matter of the world
Enter his thoughts,—save such as do revolve
And ruminate himself,—shall he be worshipp'd
Of that we hold an idol more than he?
No, this thrice worthy and right valiant lord
Must not so stale¹ his palm, nobly acquir'd;
Nor, by my will, assubjugate his merit,
As amply titled as Achilles is,
By going to Achilles:
That were to enlard his fat-already pride;
And add more coals to Cancer, when he burns
With entertaining great Hyperion.
This lord go to him! Jupiter forbid;
And say in thunder—*Achilles, go to him.*

Nest. [*Aside.*] O, this is well; he rubs the
vein of him.

Dio. [*Aside.*] And how his silence drinks up
this applause!

Ajax. If I go to him, with my arm'd fist I'll
pash² him

Over the face.

Agam. O, no, you shall not go.

Ajax. An he be proud with me, I'll pheeze³ his
Let me go to him. [*pride:*

Ulyss. Not for the worth that hangs upon our
quarrel.

Ajax. A paltry, insolent fellow,——

Nest. [*Aside.*] How he describes
Himself!

Ajax. Can he not be sociable?

Ulyss. [*Aside.*] The raven
Chides blackness.

Ajax. I will let his humours blood.

Agam. [*Aside.*] He'll be physician, that should
be the patient.

Ajax. An' all men

Were o' my mind,——

Ulyss. [*Aside.*] Wit would be out of fashion.
Ajax. He should not bear it so.

He should eat swords first: Shall pride carry it?

Nest. [*Aside.*] An 'twould, you'd carry half.

Ulyss. [*Aside.*] He'd have ten shares.

Ajax. I'll knead him, I will make him supple;—

Nest. [*Aside.*] He's not yet thorough warm:
force⁴ him with praises;

Pour in, pour in; his ambition is dry.

Ul. [*To Ag.*] My lord, you feed too much on
this dislike.

Nest. O noble general, do not do so.

Di. You must prepare to fight without Achilles.

O. Why, 'tis this naming of him does him harm.

Here is a man—But 'tis before his face;

I will be silent.

Nest. Wherefore should you so?

He is not emulous,⁵ as Achilles is.

Ulyss. Know the whole world, he is as valiant.

A. A vile dog, that shall palter⁶ thus with us!

I would, he were a Trojan!

Nest. What a vice

Were it in Ajax now——

Ulyss. If he were proud!

Dio. Or covetous of praise?

Ulyss. Ay, or surly borne?

Dio. Or strange, or self-afflicted?

Ulyss. Thank the heavens, lord, thou art of
sweet composure?

Praise him that got thee, she that gave thee suck:
Fam'd be thy tutor, and thy parts of nature
Thrice-fam'd, beyond all erudition:
But he that disciplin'd thy arms to fight,
Let Mars divide eternity in twain,
And give him half: and, for thy vigour,
Bull-bearing Milo his addition¹ yield
To sinewy Ajax. I will not praise thy wisdom,
Which, like a bourn,² a pale, a shore, confines
Thyspacious and dilated parts: Here's Nestor,—
Instructed by the antiquary times,
He must, he is, he cannot but be wise;—
But pardon, father Nestor, were your days
As green as Ajax, and your brain so tempered,
You should not have the eminence of him,
But be as Ajax.

Ajax. Shall I call you father?

Nest. Ay, my good son.

Dio. Be rul'd by him, lord Ajax.

Ulyss. There is no tarrying here; the hart
Achilles

Keeps thicket. Please it our great general
To call together all his state of war;
Fresh kings are come to Troy: To-morrow,
We must with all our main of power stand fast:
And here's a lord,—come knights from east to
west,

And cull their flower, Ajax shall cope the best.

Agam. Go we to council. Let Achilles sleep:
Light boats sail swift, though greater hulks draw
deep. [*Exeunt.*

Act Third.

SCENE I.

TROY. A ROOM IN PRIAM'S PALACE.

Enter Pandarus and a Servant.

Pan. Friend! you! pray you, a word: Do
not you follow the young lord Paris?

Serv. Ay, sir, when he goes before me.

Pan. You do depend upon him, I mean?

Serv. Sir, I do depend upon that lord.

Pan. You do depend upon a noble gentleman;
I must needs praise him.

Serv. Heaven be praised?

Pan. You know me, do you not?

Serv. Faith, sir, superficially.

Pan. Friend, know me better; I am the lord
Pandarus.

Serv. I hope, I shall know your honour better.

Pan. I do desire it.

Serv. You are in the state of grace.

[*Musick within.*

Pan. Grace! not so, friend; honour and lord-
ship are my titles:—What musick is this?

Serv. I do but partly know, sir; it is musick
in parts.

Pan. Know you the musicians?

Serv. Wholly, sir.

Pan. Who play they to?

Serv. To the hearers, sir.

Pan. At whose pleasure, friend?

Serv. At mine, sir, and theirs that love musick.

Pan. Command, I mean, friend.

Serv. Who shall I command, sir!

Pan. Friend, we understand not one another!

1 Make common. 8 Comb. 5 Envious.

2 Strike. 4 Stuff. 6 Trifle.

1 Titles.

2 Boundary.

I am too courtly, and thou art too cunning: At whose request do these men play?

Serv. That's to't, indeed, sir: Marry, sir, at the request of Paris, my lord, who is there in person; with him the mortal Venus, the heart-blood of beauty, love's invisible soul,——

Pan. Who, my cousin Cressida?

Serv. No, sir, Helen; Could you not find out that by her attributes?

Pan. It should seem, fellow, that thou hast not seen the lady Cressida. I come to speak with Paris from the prince Troilus: I will make a complimentary assault upon him, for my business seeths.¹

Serv. Sudden business! there's a stewed phrase indeed!

Enter Paris and Helen, attended.

Pan. Fair be to you, my lord, and to all this fair company! fair desires, in all fair measure, fairly guide them; especially to you, fair queen! fair thoughts be your fair pillow!

Helen. Dear lord, you are full of fair words.

Pan. You speak your fair pleasure, sweet queen—Fair prince, here is good broken musick.

Par. You have broke it, cousin: and, by my life, you shall make it whole again; you shall piece it out with a piece of your performance:—Nell, he is full of harmony.

Pan. Truly, lady, no.

Helen. O, sir,——

Pan. Rude, in sooth; in good sooth, very rude.

Par. Well said, my lord! well, you say so in² fits.

Pan. I have business to my lord, dear queen:—My lord, will you vouchsafe me a word?

Helen. Nay, this shall not hedge us out: we'll hear you sing certainly.

Pan. Well, sweet queen, you are pleasant with me.—But (marry) thus, my lord,—My dear lord, and most esteemed friend, your brother Troilus,——

Helen. My lord Pandarus; honey-sweet lord,——

Pan. Go to, sweet queen; go to:—commends himself most affectionately to you.

Helen. You shall not bob us out of our melody; If you do, our melancholy upon your head!

Pan. Sweet queen, sweet queen; that's a sweet queen i' faith.

Helen. And to make a sweet lady sad is a sour offence.

Pan. Nay, that shall not serve your turn; that shall it not, in truth, la. Nay, I care not for such words; no, no.—And, my lord, he desires you, that, if the king call for him at supper, you will make his excuse.

Helen. My lord Pandarus,——

Pan. What says my sweet queen, my very sweet queen?

Par. What exploit's in hand! where sups he to-night?

Helen. Nay, but my lord,——

Pan. What says my sweet queen?—My cousin will fall out with you. You must not know where he sups.

Par. I'll lay my life, with my disposer Cressida.

Pan. No, no, no such matter, you are wide³; come, your disposer is sick.

Par. Well, I'll make excuse.

Pan. Ay, good my lord. Why should you say—Cressida? no, your poor disposer's sick.

Par. I spy.

Pan. You spy! what do you spy!—Come, give me an instrument.—Now, sweet queen.

Helen. Why, this is kindly done.

Pan. My niece is horribly in love with a thing you have, sweet queen.

Helen. She shall have it, my lord, if it be not my lord Paris.

Pan. He! no, she'll none of him.—Come, come, I'll hear no more of this; I'll sing you a song now.

Helen. Ay, ay, pr'ythee now. By my troth, sweet lord, thou hast a fine forehead.

Pan. Ay, you may, you may.

Helen. Let thy song be love: this love will undo us all. O, Cupid, Cupid, Cupid!

Pan. Love! ay, that it shall, i' faith.

Par. Ay, good now, love, love, nothing but love.

Pan. In good troth, it begins so:

Love, love, nothing but love, still more!

For, oh, love's bow

Shoots buck and doe:

The shaft confounds,

Not that it wounds,

But tickles still the sore.

These lovers cry—Oh! oh! they die?

Yet that which seems the wound to kill,

Doth turn oh! oh! to ha! ha! he!

So dying love lives still:

Oh! oh! a while, but ha! ha! ha!

Oh! oh! groans out for ha! ha! ha!

Hey ho! [nose.]

Helen. In love, i' faith, to the very tip of the

Par. He eats nothing but doves, love; and that breeds hot blood, and hot blood begets hot thoughts, and hot thoughts beget love.

Pan. Is this the generation of love? hot blood, hot thoughts?—Why, they are vipers: Is love a generation of vipers? Sweet lord, who's a-field to-day?

Par. Hector, Deiphobus, Helenus, Antenor, and all the gallantry of Troy: I would fain have armed to-night, but my Nell would not have it so. How chance my brother Troilus went not?

Helen. He hangs the lip at something;—you know all, lord Pandarus.

Pan. Not I, honey-sweet queen.—I long to hear how they sped to-day.—You'll remember your brother's excuse?

Par. To a hair.

Pan. Farewell, sweet queen.

Helen. Commend me to your niece.

Pan. I will, sweet queen. [Exit.]

[A Retreat sounded.]

Par. They are come from field: let us to Priam's hall,——

To greet the warriors. Sweet Helen, I must woo To help unarm our Hector: his stubborn buckles, [touch'd,]

With these your white enchanting fingers Shall more obey, than to the edge of steel,

Or force of Greekish sinews: you shall do more Than all the island kings, disarm great Hector.

H. 'Twill make us proud to be his servant, Paris:

¹ Boils.

² (By.)

³ (Of your mark.)

Yea, what he shall receive of us in duty,
Give us more palm in beauty than we have;
Yea, overshines ourself.

Par. Sweet, above thought I love thee.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—PANDARUS' ORCHARD.

Enter Pandarus and a Servant, meeting.

Pan. How now? where's thy master? at my cousin Cressida's?

Serv. No, sir; he stays for you to conduct him thither.

Enter Troilus.

Pan. O, here he comes.—How now, how now?

Tro. Sirrah, walk off. [*Exit Servant.*]

Pan. Have you seen my cousin?

Tro. No, Pandarus: I stalk about her door, Like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks Staying for waftage. O, be thou my Charon, And give me swift transportance to those fields, Where I may wallow in the lily beds Propos'd for the deserver! O, gentle Pandarus, From Cupid's shoulder pluck his painted wings, And fly with me to Cressid!

Pan. Walk here i' the orchard, I'll bring her straight. [*Exit Pandarus.*]

Tro. I am giddy; expectation whirls meround. The imaginary relish is so sweet That it enchants my sense; and I do fear That I shall lose distinction in my joys; As doth a battle, when they charge on heaps The enemy flying.

Re-enter Pandarus.

Pan. She's making her ready, she'll come straight: you must be witty now. She does so blush, and fetches her wind so short, as if she were frayed with a sprite; I'll fetch her. It is the prettiest villain:—she fetches her breath as short as a new ta'en sparrow. [*Exit Pandarus.*]

Tro. Even such a passion doth embrace my bosom:

My heart beats thicker than a feverous pulse;
And all my powers do their bestowing lose,
Like vassalage at unawares encount'ring
The eye of majesty.

Enter Pandarus and Cressida.

Pan. Come, come, what need you blush? shame's a baby.—Here she is now: swear the oaths now to her, that you have sworn to me.—What, are you gone again? you must be watched ere you be made tame, must you? Come your ways, come your ways; an you draw backward, we'll put you i' the fills.¹—Why do you not speak to her?

Tro. You have bereft me of all words, lady.

Pan. Words pay no debts. What, billing again? Here's—*In witness whereof the parties interchangeably.*—Come in, come in; I'll go get a fire. [*Exit Pandarus.*]

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord?

Tro. O Cressida, how often have I wished me thus?

Cres. Wished, my lord?—The gods grant!—O my lord!

Tro. What should they grant? What makes

¹ Shafts (of a carriage).

this pretty abruption? What too curious dreg espies my sweet lady in the fountain of our love?

Cres. More dregs than water, if my fears have eyes.

Tro. Fears never see truly.

Cres. Blind fear, that seeing reason leads, finds safer footing than blind reason stumbling without fear: To fear the worst, oft cures the worst.

Tro. O, let my lady apprehend no fear: in all Cupid's pageant there is presented no monster.

Cres. Nor nothing monstrous neither?

Tro. Nothing, but our undertakings: when we vow to weep seas, live in fire, eat rocks, tame tigers: thinking it harder for our mistress to devise imposition enough, than for us to undergo any difficulty imposed. This is the monstrosity in love, lady—that the will is infinite, and the desire boundless.

Cres. They say, all lovers swear more performance than they are able, and yet reserve an ability that they never perform; vowing more than the perfection of ten, and discharging less than the tenth part of one. They that have the voice of lions, and the act of hares, are they not monsters?

Tro. Are there such? such are not we: Praise us as we are tasted, allow us as we prove; our head shall go bare, till merit crown it: no perfection in reversion shall have a praise in present: we will not name desert, before his birth; and, being born, his addition¹ shall be humble. Few words to fair faith: Troilus shall be such to Cressid, as what envy can say worst, shall be a mock for his truth; and what truth can speak truest, not truer than Troilus?

Cres. Will you walk in, my lord?

Re-enter Pandarus.

Pan. What, blushing still?

Cres. Well, uncle, what folly I commit, I dedicate to you.

Pan. I thank you for that; be true to my lord: if he flinch, chide me for it.

Tro. You know now your hostages; your uncle's word, and my firm faith.

Pan. Nay, I'll give my word for her too; our kindred, though they be long ere they are wooed, they are constant, being won: they are burs, I can tell you; they'll stick where they are thorn.

Cres. Boldness comes to me now, and brings me heart:—

Prince Troilus, I have lov'd you night and day For many weary months.

Tro. Why was my Cressid then so hard to win?
C. Hard to seem won; but I was won, my lord, With the first glance that ever—Pardon me;—If I confess much, you will play the tyrant.

I love you now; but not, till now, so much
But I might master it:—in faith, I lie;
My thoughts were like unbridled children, grown Too headstrong for their mother: See, we fools!
Why have I blabb'd? who shall be true to us, When we are so unsecret to ourselves?
But, though I lov'd you well, I wou'd you not:
And yet, good faith, I wish'd myself a man;
Or that we women had men's privilege
Of speaking first. Sweet, bid me hold my tongue;

¹ Titles.

For, in this rapture, I shall surely speak
The thing I shall repent. See, see, your silence,
Cunning in dumbness, from my weakness draws
My very soul of counsel : Stop my mouth.

T. And shall, albeit sweet music issues thence.

Pan. Pretty, I' faith.

Cres. My lord, I do beseech you, pardon me;
'Twas not my purpose, thus to beg a kiss :
I am ashamed ;—O heavens ! what have I done?—
For this time will I take my leave, my lord.

Tro. Your leave, sweet Cressid ?

Cres. Pray you, content you.

Tro. What offends you, lady ?

Cres. Sir, mine own company.

Tro. You cannot shun
Yourself.

Cres. Let me go and try :

I have a kind of self resides with you ;

But an unkind self, that itself will leave,

To be another's fool. I would be gone :

Where is my wit ? I know not what I speak.

Tro. Well know they what they speak, that
speak so wisely.

C. Perchance, my lord, I show more craft than
And tell so roundly to a large confession, [love ;
To angle for your thoughts : But you are wise ;
Or else you love not ; for to be wise, and love,
Exceeds man's might ; that dwells with gods above.

Tro. O, that I thought it could be in a woman,
(As, if it can, I will presume in you,)

To feed for aye her lamp and flames of love ;

To keep her constancy in plight and youth,

Outliving beauty's outward, with a mind

That doth renew swifter than blood decays !

Or, that persuasion could but thus convince me,—

That my integrity and truth to you

Might be affronted¹ with the match and weight

Of such a winnow'd purity in love ;

How were I then uplifted ! but, alas,

I am as true as truth's simplicity,

And simpler than the infancy of truth.

Cres. In that I'll war with you.

Tro. O virtuous fight,
When right with right wars who shall be most
right !

True swains in love shall, in the world to come,
Approve their truths by Troilus : when their
rhymes,

Full of protest, of oath, and big compare,²

Want similes, truth tir'd with iteration,—

As true as steel, as plantage to the moon,

As sun to day, as turtle to her mate,

As iron to adamant, as earth to the center,—

Yet, after all comparisons of truth,

As truth's authentick author to be cited,

As true as Troilus shall crown up³ the verse,

And sanctify the numbers.

Cres. Prophet may you be !

If I be false, or swerve a hair from truth,

When time is old and hath forgot itself,

When waterdrops have worn the stones of Troy,

And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,

And mighty states characterless are grated

To dusty nothing ; yet let memory,

From false to false, among false maids in love,

Upbraid my falsehood ! when they have said—
as false

As air, as water, wind, or sandy earth,

As fox to lamb, as wolf to heifer's calf,

Pard¹ to the hind, or stepdame to her son :

Yea, let them say, to stick the heart of falsehood,

As false as Cressid.

Pan. Go to, a bargain made : seal it, seal it ;
I'll be the witness.—Here I hold your hand :
here, my cousin's. If ever you prove false on
to another, since I have taken such pains to
bring you together, let all pitiful goers-between
be called to the world's end after my name, call
them all—Pandars ; let all inconstant men be
Troilus's, all false women Cressids, and all brokers-
between Pandars ! say, amen.

Tro. Amen.

Cres. Amen.

Pan. Amen. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—THE GRECIAN CAMP.

*Enter Agamemnon, Ulysses, Diomedes, Nestor,
Ajax, Menelaus, and Calchas.*

C. Now, princes, for the service I have done you,
The advantage of the time prompts me aloud
To call for recompense. Appear it to your mind,
That, through the sight I bear in things, to Jove
I have abandon'd Troy, left my possession,
Incurr'd a traitor's name ; expos'd myself,
From certain and possess'd conveniences,
To doubtful fortunes, séquest'ring from me all
That time, acquaintance, custom, and condition,
Made tame and most familiar to my nature ;
And here, to do you service, am become
As new into the world, strange, unacquainted :
I do beseech you, as in way of taste,
To give me now a little benefit,
Out of those many register'd in promise,
Which, you say, live to come in my behalf.

Agam. What wouldst thou of us, Trojan ? make
demand.

Cal. You have a Trojan prisoner call'd Antenor,
Yesterday took ; Troy holds him very dear.
Oft have you (often have you thanks therefore,)
Desir'd my Cressid in right great exchange,
Whom Troy hath still denied : But this Antenor,
I know, is such a wrest in their affairs,
That their negotiations all must slack,
Wanting his manage ; and they will almost
Give us a prince of blood, a son of Priam,
In change of him : let him be sent, great princes,
And he shall buy my daughter ; and her presence
Shall quite strike off all service I have done,
In most accepted pain.

Agam. Let Diomedes bear him,
And bring us Cressid hither ; Calchas shall have
What he requests of us.—Good Diomed,
Furnish you fairly for this interchange :
Withal, bring word—if Hector will to-morrow
Be answer'd in his challenge : Ajax is ready.

Dio. This shall I undertake ; and 'tis a burden
Which I am proud to bear.

[Exeunt Diomedes and Calchas.]

Enter Achilles and Patroclus, before their Tent.

U. Achilles stands i' the entrance of his tent :—
Please it our general to pass strangely² by him,
As if he were forgot ; and, princes all,

1 Met with.

2 Comparison.

3 Conclude.

1 Leopard.

2 Like a stranger.

Lay negligent and loose regard upon him:
I will come last: 'Tis like, he'll question me,
Why such unplausiv¹ eyes are bent, why turn'd
on him:

If so, I have derision med'cinable,
To use between your strangeness and his pride,
Which his own will shall have desire to drink;
It may do good: pride hath no other glass
To show itself, but pride; for supple knees
Feed arrogance, and are the proud man's fees.

Agam. We'll execute your purpose, and put on
A form of strangeness as we pass along;
So do each lord: and either greet him not,
Or else disdainfully, which shall shake him more
Than if not look'd on. I will lead the way.

Achil. What, comes the general to speak with
me? *[Exit Agamemnon and Nestor.]*
You know my mind, I'll fight no more 'gainst
Agam. What says Achilles? would he aught
with us?

N. Would you, my lord, aught with the general?

Achil. No.

Nest. Nothing, my lord.

Agam. The better.

[Exeunt Agamemnon and Nestor.]

Achil. *[Muttering.]* Good day, good day.

Men. How do you? how do you? *[Exit Men.]*

Achil. What does the villain scorn me?

Ajax. How now, Patroclus?

Achil. Good morrow, Ajax.

Ajax. *[Exit.]* Ha?

Achil. Good morrow.

Ajax. Ay, and good next day too. *[Exit Ajax.]*

Achil. What mean these fellows? Know they
not Achilles? *[Exit.]*

P. They pass by strangely: they were us'd to
To send their smiles before them to Achilles:
To come as humbly, as they us'd to creep
To holy altars.

Achil. What, am I poor of late? *[tune,*
'Tis certain, greatness, once fall'n out with for-
Must fall with men too: What the declin'd² is,
He shall as soon read in the eyes of others,
As feel in his own fall: for men, like butterflies,
Show not their mealy wings, but to the summer;
And not a man, for being simply man,
Hath any honour; but honour for those honours
That are without him, as place, riches, favour,
Prizes of accident as oft as merit:

Which when they fall, as being slippery standers,
The love that lean'd on them as slippery too,
Do one pluck down another, and together
Die in the fall. But 'tis not so with me:
Fortune and I are friends: I do enjoy
At ample point all that I did possess, *[out]*
Save these men's looks; who do, methinks, find
Something not worth in me such rich beholding
As they have often given. Here is Ulysses;
I'll interrupt his reading.—

How now, Ulysses?

Ulys. Now, great Thetis' son?

Achil. What are you reading?

Ulys. A strange fellow here
Writes me, That man—how dearly ever parted,³
How much in having, or without, or in,—
Cannot make boast to have that which he hath,

Nor feels not what he owes, but by reflection;
As when his virtue shining upon others
Heat them, and they retort that heat again
To the first giver.

Achil. This is not strange, Ulysses
The beauty that is borne here in the face
The bearer knows not, but commends itself
To others' eyes: nor doth the eye itself
(That most pure spirit of sense,) behold itself,
Not going from itself; but eye to eye oppos'd
Salutes each other with each other's form.
For speculation turns not to itself,
Till it hath travell'd, and is married there
Where it may see itself: this is not strange at all.

Ulys. I do not strain at the position,
It is familiar; but at the author's drift:
Who, in his circumstance,¹ expressly proves—
That no man is the lord of any thing,
(Though in and of him there be much consisting,)
Till he communicate his parts to others:
Nor doth he of himself know them for aught
Till he behold them form'd in the applause
Where they are extended; which, like an arch,
reverberates

The voice again; or like a gate of steel
Fronting the sun, receives and renders back
His figure and his heat. I was much rapt in this;
And apprehended here immediately
The unknown Ajax.

Heavens, what a man is there! a very horse;
That has he knows not what. Nature, what
things there are,

Most abject in regard, and dear in use!
What things again most dear in the esteem,
And poor in worth! now shall we see to-morrow,
An act that very chance doth throw upon him,
Ajax renowned. O heavens, what some men do,
While some men leave to do!
How some men creep in skittish fortune's hall,
While others play the idiots in her eyes!
How one man eats into another's pride,
While pride is fasting in his wantonness!
To see these Grecian lords!—why, even already
They clasp the lubber Ajax on the shoulder;
As if his foot were on brave Hector's breast,
And great Troy shrinking.

Achil. I do believe it: for they pass'd by me,
As misers do by beggars: neither gave to me
Good word, nor look: What, are my deeds forgot!

Ulys. Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his back,
Wherein he puts alms for oblivion,
A great-sized monster of ingratitude:
Those scraps are good deeds past; which are de-
As fast as they are made, forgot as soon *[your'd]*
As done; Perséverance, dear my lord,
Keeps honour bright: To have done is to hang
Quite out of fashion, like a rusty nail
In monumental mockery. Take the instant way;
For honour travels in a strait so narrow,
Where one but goes abreast: keep then the path;
For emulation hath a thousand sons,
That one by one pursue: if you give way,
Or hedge aside from the direct forthright,²
Like to an enter'd tide they all rush by,
And leave you hindmost;—
Or, like a gallant horse fall'n in first rank,
Lie there for pavement to the abject rear,

¹ Unappulsive.

³ Excellently endowed.

² (Declined one.)

¹ Argument.

² Straight path.

O'er-run and tramp'd on: Then what they do
 in present, [yours:
 Though less than yours in past, must o'er-top
 For time is like a fashionable host, [hand;
 That slightly shakes his parting guest by the
 And with his arms out-stretch'd, as he would fly,
 Grasps in the comer: Welcome ever smiles,
 And farewell goes out sighing. O, let not virtue
 Remuneration for the thing it was; [seek
 For beauty, wit,
 High birth, vigour of bone, desert in service,
 Love, friendship, charity, are subjects all
 To envious and calumniating time.
 One touch of nature makes the whole world kin,—
 That all, with one consent, praise new-born
 gawds,¹

Though they are made and moulded of things
 And give to dust that is a little gilt, [past;
 More laud than gilt o'er-dusted.

The present eye praises the present object:
 Then marvel not, thou great and complete man,
 That all the Greeks begin to worship Ajax;
 Since things in motion sooner catch the eye,
 Than what not stirs. The cry went once on thee,
 And still it might; and yet it may again,
 If thou wouldst not entomb thyself alive,
 And case thy reputation in thy tent;
 Whose glorious deeds, but in these fields of late,
 Made emulous missions 'mongst the gods them-
 And drave great Mars to faction. [selves,

Achil. Of this my privacy
 I have strong reasons.

Ulyss. But 'gainst your privacy
 The reasons are more potent and heroic:
 'Tis known, Achilles, that you are in love
 With one of Priam's daughters.

Achil. Ha! known?
Ulyss. Is that a wonder?

The providence that's in a watchful state,
 Knows almost every grain of Plutus' gold;
 Finds bottom in the uncomprehensive deeps;
 Keeps place with thought, and almost like the
 Does thoughts unveil in their dumb cradles. [gods,
 There is a mystery (with whom relation
 Durst never meddle) in the soul of state;
 Which hath an operation more divine,
 Than breath, or pen, can give expression to:
 All the commerce that you have had with Troy,
 As perfectly is ours, as yours, my lord;
 But it must grieve young Pyrrhus now at home,
 When fame shall in our islands sound her trumpet;
 And all the Greekish girls shall tripping sing,—
Great Hector's sister did Achilles win;
But our great Ajax bravely beat down him.
 Farewell, my lord: I as your lover² speak;
 The fool slides o'er the ice that you should break.

[Exit.

Pa. To this effect, Achilles, have I mov'd you:
 A woman impudent and mannish grown
 Is not more loath'd than an effeminate man
 In time of action. I stand condemn'd for this;
 They think, my little stomach to the war,
 And your great love to me, restrains you thus:
 Sweet, rouse yourself; and the weak wanton Cupid
 Shall from your neck unloose his amorous fold,
 And, like a dew-drop from the lion's mane,
 Be shook to air.

¹ Trinkets.

² Friend.

Achil. Shall Ajax fight with Hector?
P. Ay; and, perhaps, receive much honour by
Achil. I see, my reputation is at stake; [him.
 My fame is shrewdly gor'd.

Patr. O, then beware;
 Those wounds heal ill, that men do give them-
 Omission to do what is necessary [selves:
 Seals a commission to a blank of danger;
 And danger, like an ague, subtly taints
 Even then when we sit idly in the sun.

Ach. Go call Thersites hither, sweet Patroclus:
 I'll send the fool to Ajax, and desire him
 To invite the Trojan lords after the combat,
 To see us here unarm'd: I have a woman's
 An appetite that I am sick withal, [longing,
 To see great Hector in his weeds of peace;
 To talk with him, and to behold his visage,
 Even to my full of view. A labour sav'd!

Enter Thersites.

Ther. A wonder!

Achil. What?

Ther. Ajax goes up and down the field, ask-
 ing for himself.

Achil. How so?

Ther. He must fight singly to-morrow with Hec-
 tor; and is so prophetically proud of an heroic
 cudgelling, that he raves in saying nothing.

Achil. How can that be?

Ther. Why, he stalks up and down like a pea-
 cock, a stride, and a stand: ruminates, like an
 hostess, that hath no arithmetick but her brain to
 set down her reckoning: bites his lip with a poli-
 tical regard, as who should say—there were wit
 in this head, an 'twould out; and so there is; but
 it lies as coldly in him as fire in a flint, which
 will not show without knocking. The man's un-
 done for ever; for if Hector break not his neck i'
 the combat, he'll break it himself in vain-glory.
 He knows not me: I said, *Good morrow, Ajax;*
 and he replies, *Thanks, Agamemnon.* What think
 you of this man, that takes me for the general?
 He has grown a very land-fish, languageless, a
 monster. A plague of opinion! a man may wear
 it on both sides, like a leather jerkin.

Achil. Thou must be my ambassador to him,
 Thersites.

Ther. Who, I? why, he'll answer nobody;
 he professes not answering; speaking is for beg-
 gars: he wears his tongue in his arms. I will
 put on his presence; let Patroclus make demands
 to me, you shall see the pageant of Ajax.

Achil. To him, Patroclus: Tell him,—I hum-
 bly desire the valiant Ajax, to invite the most
 valorous Hector to come unarm'd to my tent;
 and to procure safe conduct for his person, of
 the magnanimous, and most illustrious, six-or-
 seven-times honoured captain general of the
 Grecian army, Agamemnon. Do this.

Patr. Jove bless great Ajax.

Ther. Humph!

Patr. I come from the worthy Achilles,—

Ther. Ha!

Patr. Who most humbly desires you, to invite
 Hector to his tent!—

Ther. Humph!

Patr. And to procure safe conduct from Aga-
 memnon.

Ther. Agamemnon?

Patr. Ay, my lord.

Ther. Ha!

Patr. What say you to't?

Ther. With all my heart.

Patr. Your answer, sir.

Ther. If to-morrow be a fair day, by eleven o'clock it will go one way or other; howsoever, he shall pay for me ere he has me.

Patr. Your answer, sir.

Ther. Fare you well, with all my heart.

Achil. Why, but he is not in this tune, is he?

Ther. No, but he's out o' tune thus. What musick will be in him when Hector has knocked out his brains, I know not: But, I am sure, none; unless the fiddler Apollo get his sinews to make catlings¹ on.

Achil. Come, thou shalt bear a letter to him straight.

Ther. Let me bear another to his horse; for that's the more capable² creature.

Achil. My mind is troubled, like a fountain stirr'd; And I myself see not the bottom of it.

[*Exeunt Achilles and Patroclus.*]

Ther. 'Would the fountain of your mind were clear again, that I might water an ass at it! I had rather be a tick in a sheep, than such a valiant ignorance. [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I. TROY: A STREET.

Enter, at one side, Æneas and Servant, with a Torch; at the other, Paris, Deiphobus, Antenor, Diomedes, and others, with Torches.

Par. See, ho! who's that there?

Dei. 'Tis the lord Æneas.

Æne. Is the prince there?

Dio. Good morrow, lord Æneas.

Par. A valiant Greek, Æneas; take his hand: Witness the process of your speech, wherein You told—how Diomed, a whole week by days, Did haunt you in the field.

Æne. Health to you, valiant sir, During all question³ of the gentle truce: But when I meet you arm'd, as black defiance, As heart can think, or courage execute.

Dio. The one and other Diomed embraces. Our bloods are now in calm; and, so long, health: But when contention and occasion meet, By Jove, I'll play the hunter for thy life, With all my force, pursuit, and policy.

Æne. And thou shall hunt a lion, that will fly With his face backward.—In humane gentleness, Welcome to Troy! now, by Anchises' life, Welcome, indeed! By Venus' hand I swear, No man alive can love, in such a sort, The thing he means to kill, more excellently.

Dio. We sympathise:—Jove, let Æneas live, If to my sword his fate be not the glory, A thousand complete courses of the sun! But, in mine emulous honour, let him die, With every joint a wound: and that to-morrow! *Æne.* We know each other well.

Dio. We do; and long to know each other worse.

¹ Lute-strings. ² Intelligent. ³ Intercourse.

Par. This is the most despitiful gentle greeting, The noblest hateful love, that e'er I heard of.—What business, lord, so early? [*not.*]

Æne. I was sent for to the king; but why, I know

Par. His purpose meets you: 'Twas to bring this Greek

To Calchas' house; and there to render him, For the enfrèd Antenor, the fair Cressid: Let's have your company: or, if you please, Haste there before us: I constantly do think, (Or, rather, call my thought a certain knowledge) My brother Troilus lodges there to-night; Rouse him, and give him note of our approach, With the whole quality wherefore: I fear We shall be much unwelcome.

Æne. That I assure you;

Troilus had rather Troy were borne to Greece, Than Cressid borne from Troy.

Par. There is no help;

The bitter disposition of the time

Will have it so. On, lord; we'll follow you.

Æne. Good morrow, all. [*Exit.*]

Par. And tell me, noble Diomed; faith, tell me Even in the soul of sound good fellowship,—(true, Who, in your thoughts, merits fair Helen best, Myself, or Menelaus?

Dio. Both alike:

He merits well to have her, that doth seek her (Not making any scruple of her soilure)

With such a hell of pain, and world of charge:

And you as well to keep her, that defend her

With such a costly loss of wealth and friends.

Par. You are too bitter on your countrywoman.

D. She's bitter to her country: Hear me, Paris,—

For every false drop in her wanton veins

A Grecian's life hath sunk; for every scruple

Of her contaminated carrion weight,

A Trojan hath been slain: since she could speak,

She hath not given so many good words breath,

As for her Greeks and Trojans suffer'd death.

Par. Fair Diomed, you do as chapmen do,

Dispraise the thing that you desire to buy:

But we in silence hold this virtue well,—

We'll not commend what we intend to sell.

Here lies our way. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

COURT BEFORE THE HOUSE OF PANDARUS.

Enter Troilus and Cressida.

T. Dear, trouble not yourself; the morn is cold, *Cres.* Then, sweet my lord, I'll call mine uncle

He shall unbolt the gates. [*down;*]

Tro. Trouble him not:

To bed, to bed; Sleep kill those pretty eyes,

And give as soft attachment to thy senses,

As infants' empty of all thought!

Cres. Good morrow, then.

Tro. Pr'ythee now, to bed.

Cres. Are you weary of me?

Tro. O Cressida! but that the busy day, Wak'd by the lark, hath rous'd the ribald¹ crows, I would not from thee.

Cres. Pr'ythee, tarry:— [*up.*]

You men will never tarry.—Hark! there's one

Pan. [*Within.*] What, are all the doors open

Tro. It is your uncle. [*here?*]

¹ Noisy.

Enter Pandarus.

C. A pestilence on him! now will he be mocking:
I shall have such a life, — [Cressid?

Pan. How now, how now! where's my cousin

C. Go hang yourself, you naughty mocking
uncle! [good,

Come, come; beshrew your heart! you'll ne'er be
Nor suffer others.

Pan. Ha, ha! Alas, poor wretch! a poor cap-
pocchia.¹ [Knocking.

Cres. Did I not tell you?—'would he were
knock'd o' the head!—

Who's that at door? good uncle, go and see.—
[Knocking.

How earnestly they knock!—pray you, come in;
I would not for half Troy have you seen here.

[*Exeunt Troilus and Cressida.*

Pan. [Going to the door.] Who's there? what's
the matter? will you beat down the door?
How now? what's the matter?

Enter Æneas.

Æne. Good morrow, lord, good morrow.

Pan. Who's there? my lord Æneas? By my
troth, I knew you not: what news with you so
early?

Æne. Is not prince Troilus here?

Pan. Here? what should he do here?

Æ. Come, he is here, my lord, do not deny him;
It doth import him much, to speak with me.

Pan. Is he here, say you? 'tis more than I know,
I'll be sworn:—For my own part, I came in late:
What should he do here?

Æne. Who!—nay, then:— [ware:
Come, come, you'll do him wrong ere you are
You'll be so true to him, to be false to him:
Do not you know of him, yet go fetch him hither;
Go.

As Pandarus is going out, enter Troilus.

Tro. How now? what's the matter?

Æ. My lord, I scarce have leisure to salute you,
My matter is so rash²: There is at hand
Paris your brother, and Deiphobus,
The Grecian Diomed, and our Antenor
Deliver'd to us; and for him forthwith,
Ere the first sacrifice, within this hour,
We must give up to Diomedes' hand
The lady Cressida.

Tro. Is it so concluded?

Æne. By Priam, and the general state of Troy:
They are at hand, and ready to effect it.

Tro. I will go meet them: and, my lord Æneas,
We met by chance; you did not find me here.

Æne. Good, good, my lord.

[*Exeunt Troilus and Æneas.*

Pan. Is't possible? no sooner got, but lost?
the young prince will go mad. A plague upon
Antenor, I would, they had broke's neck!

Enter Cressida.

Cres. How now? What is the matter? Who was

Pan. Ah, ah! [here?

Cres. Why sigh you so profoundly? where's
my lord gone?

Tell me, sweet uncle, what's the matter?

Pan. 'Would I were as deep under the earth
as I am above!

¹ Weak girl.

² Urgent.

Cres. O the gods!—what's the matter?

Pan. Pr'ythee, get thee in; 'Would thou
hadst ne'er been born! I knew, thou wouldst
be his death:—O poor gentleman!—A plague
upon Antenor!

Cres. Good uncle, I beseech you on my knees,
I beseech you, what's the matter?

Pan. Thou must be gone, wench, thou must
be gone; thou art changed for Antenor; thou
must to thy father, and be gone from Troilus;
'twill be his death: 'twill be his bane; he can-
not bear it.

Cres. O you immortal gods!—I will not go.

Pan. Thou must.

Cres. I will not, uncle: I have forgot my father;
I know no touch of consanguinity;

No kin, no love, no blood, no soul so near me,
As the sweet Troilus.—O you gods divine!

Make Cressid's name the very crown of falsehood,
If ever she leave Troilus! Time, force, and death,
Do to this body what extremes you can;

But the strong base and building of my love
Is as the very center of the earth,
Drawing all things to it.—I'll go in, and weep:—

Pan. Do, do. [cheeks,

C. Tear my bright hair, and scratch my praised
Crack my clear voice with sobs, and break my
heart

With sounding Troilus. I will not go from Troy.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—BEFORE PANDARUS' HOUSE.

*Enter Paris, Troilus, Æneas, Deiphobus,
Antenor, and Diomedes.*

Par. It is great morning; and the hour prefix'd
Of her delivery to this valiant Greek
Comes fast upon:—Good my brother Troilus,
Tell you the lady what she is to do,
And haste her to the purpose.

Tro. Walk in to her house;
I'll bring her to the Grecian presently:
And to his hand when I deliver her,
Think it an altar; and thy brother Troilus
A priest, there offering to it his own heart. [*Exit.*

Par. I know what 'tis to love;
And 'would, as I shall pity, I could help!—
Please you, walk in, my lords. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN PANDARUS' HOUSE.

Enter Pandarus and Cressida.

Pan. Be moderate, be moderate.

Cres. Why tell you me of moderation?
The grief is fine, full, perfect, that I taste,
And violenteth in a sense as strong
As that which causeth it: How can I moderate it?
If I could temporize with my affection,
Or brew it to a weak and colder palate,
The like allayment could I give my grief:
My love admits no qualifying dross:
No more my grief, in such a precious loss.

Enter Troilus.

Pan. Here, here, here he comes.—Ah, sweet
ducks!

Cres. O Troilus! Troilus! [*Embracing him.*

Pan. What a pair of spectacles is here! Let

me embrace too: *O heart*,—as the goodly saying is——

——*O heart, O heavy heart,*

Why sigh'st thou without breaking?

where he answers again,

Because thou canst not ease thy smart,

By friendship, nor by speaking.

There never was a truer rhyme. Let us cast away nothing, for we may live to have need of such a verse; we see it, we see it.—How now, lambs?

[purity,

Tro. Cressid, I love thee in so strain'd a That the blest gods—as angry with my fancy, More bright in zeal than the devotion which Cold lips blow to their deities,—take thee from

Cres. Have the gods envy? [me.

Pan. Ay, ay, ay, ay; 'tis too plain a case.

Cres. And is it true, that I must go from Troy?

Tro. A hateful truth.

Cres. What, and from Troilus too?

Tro. From Troy and Troilus.

Cres. Is it possible?

Tro. And suddenly: where injury of chance Puts back leave-taking, justles roughly by All time of pause, rudely beguiles our lips Of all rejoindure, forcibly prevents Our lock'd embrasures, strangles our dear vows Even in the birth of our own labouring breath: We two, that with so many thousand sighs Did buy each other, must poorly sell ourselves With the rude brevity and discharge of one. Injurious time now, with a robber's haste, Crams his rich thievery up, he knows not how: As many farewells as be stars in heaven, With distinct breath and consign'd¹ kisses to He fumbles up into a short adieu; [them, And scants us with a single famish'd kiss, Distasted with the salt of broken tears.

Æne. [Within.] My lord! is the lady ready?

Tro. Hark! you are call'd: Some say, the Genius so

Cries, *Come!* to him that instantly must die.— Bid them have patience: she shall come anon.

P. Where are my tears? rain, to lay this wind, Or my heart will be blown up by the root!

[Exit Pandarus.

Cres. I must then to the Greeks?

Tro. No remedy.

C. A woful Cressid² 'mongst the merry Greeks! When shall we see again? [heart,——

Tro. Hear me, my love! Be thou but true of

C. I true! how now? what wicked deem³ is this?

Tro. Nay, we must use expostulation kindly, For it is parting from us:

I speak not, *be thou true*, as fearing thee;

For I will throw my glove to death himself,

That there's no maculation³ in thy heart:

But, *be thou true*, say I, to fashion in

My sequent⁴ protestation: be thou true,

And I will see thee.

C. O, you shall be expos'd, my lord, to dangers As infinite as imminent! but, I'll be true.

Tro. And I'll grow friend with danger.

Wear this sleeve. [you?

Cres. And you this glove. When shall I see

Tro. I will corrupt the Grecian sentinels,

To give thee nightly visitations.

But yet, be true.

Cres. O heavens!—be true again?

Tro. Hear why I speak it, love;

The Grecian youths are full of quality¹; [flowing,

They're loving, well compos'd, with gifts of nature

And swelling o'er with arts and exercise;

How novelty may move, and parts with person,

Alas, a kind of godly jealousy

(Which, I beseech you, call a virtuous sin,)

Makes me afraid.

Cres. O heavens! you love me not.

Tro. Die I a villain then!

In this I do not call your faith in question,

So mainly as my merit: I cannot sing,

Nor heel the high lavolt,² nor sweeten talk,

Nor play at subtle games; fair virtues all,

Towhich the Grecians are most prompt and preg-

But I can tell, that in each grace of these [nant:

There lurks a still and dumb discursive devil,

That tempts most cunningly: but be not tempt-

Cres. Do you think I will? [ed.

Tro. No.

But something may be done, that we will not:

And sometimes we are devils to ourselves,

When we will tempt the frailty of our powers,

Presuming on their changeful potency.

Æne. [Within.] Nay, good my lord,——

Tro. Come, kiss; and let us part.

Par. [Within.] Brother Troilus!

Tro. Good brother, come you hither;

And bring Æneas, and the Grecian, with you.

Cres. My lord, will you be true?

Tro. Who, I? alas, it is my vice, my fault:

While others fish with craft for great opinion,

I with great truth catch mere simplicity;

Whilst some with cunning gild their copper crowns,

With truth and plainness I do wear mine bare.

Fear not my truth; the moral of my wit

Is—plain, and true,—there's all the reach of it.

Enter Æneas, Paris, Antenor, Deiphobus, and Diomedes.

Welcome, sir Diomed! here is the lady,

Which for Antenor we deliver you:

At the port,³ lord, I'll give her to thy hand;

And, by the way, possess⁴ thee what she is.

Entreat her fair; and, by my soul, fair Greek,

If e'er thou stand at mercy of my sword,

Name Cressid, and thy life shall be as safe

As Priam is in Ilion.

Dio. Fair lady Cressid, [pects.

So please you, save the thanks this prince ex-

The lustre in your eye, heaven in your cheek,

Pleads your fair usage; and to Diomed

You shall be mistress, and command him wholly.

T. Grecian, thou dost not use me courteously.

To shame the zeal of my petition to thee,

In praising her: I tell thee, lord of Greece,

She is as far high-soaring o'er thy praises,

As thou unworthy to be called her servant.

I charge thee, use her well, even for my charge:

For, by the dreadful Pluto, if thou dost not,

Though the great bulk Achilles be thy guard,

I'll cut thy throat.

1 Sealed.

3 Spot.

1 Accomplishments.

3 Gate.

2 Surmise.

4 Following.

2 A dance.

4 Inform.

Dio. O, be not mov'd, prince Troilus;
Let me be privileg'd by my place, and message,
To be a speaker free; when I am hence,
I'll answer to my lust! And know you, lord,
I'll nothing do on charge; To her own worth
She shall be priz'd; but that you say—be't so,
I'll speak it in my spirit and honour,—no.

Tro. Come, to the port.—I'll tell thee, Diomed,
This brave shall oft make thee to hide thy head.—
Lady, give me your hand; and, as we walk,
To our own selves bend we our needful talk.

[*Exeunt Tro., Cres., and Dio.*

[*Trumpet heard.*

Par. Hark! Hector's trumpet.

Æne. How have we spent this morning!
The prince must think me tardy and remiss,
That swore to ride before him to the field.

Par. 'Tis Troilus' fault: Come, come to field
Dei. Let us make ready straight. [with him.

Æne. Yea, with a bridegroom's fresh alacrity,
Let us address to tend on Hector's heels:
The glory of our Troy doth this day lie,
On his fair worth and single chivalry. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

THE GRECIAN CAMP. LISTS SET OUT.

*Enter Ajax, armed; Agamemnon, Achilles,
Patroclus, Menelaus, Ulysses, Nestor, and
others.*

Aga. Here art thou in appointment² fresh and
Anticipating time with starting courage. [fair,
Give with thy trumpet a loud note to Troy,
Thou dreadful Ajax; that the appalled air
May pierce the head of the great combatant,
And hale him hither.

Ajax. Thou, trumpet; there's my purse.
Now crack thy lungs, and split thy brazen pipe:
Blow, villain, till thy spher'd bias³ cheek
Out-swell the colick of puff'd Aquilon: [blood;
Come, stretch thy chest, and let thy eyes spout
Thou blow'st for Hector. [*Trumpet sounds.*

Ulyss. No trumpet answers.

Achil. 'Tis but early days.

Ag. Is not yon Diomed, with Calchas' daughter?

Ulyss. 'Tis he, I ken the manner of his gait:
He rises on the toe; that spirit of his
In aspiration lifts him from the earth.

Enter Diomed, with Cressida.

Agam. Is this the lady Cressid?

Dio. Even she. [lady.

Ag. Most dearly welcome to the Greeks, sweet

Nest. Our general doth salute you with a kiss.

Ulyss. Yet is the kindness but particular;

'Twere better, she were kiss'd in general.

Nest. And very courtly counsel: I'll begin.—
So much for Nestor.

Achil. I'll take that winter from your lips, fair
Achilles bids you welcome. [lady;

Men. I had good argument for kissing once.

Patr. But that's no argument for kissing now:

For thus popp'd Paris in his hardiment;

And parted thus you and your argument.

Ulys. O deadly gall, and theme of all our scorns!
For which we lose our heads, to gild his horns.

Patr. The first was Menelaus' kiss:—this, mine;
Patroclus kisses you.

Men.

O, this is trim!

Patr. Paris, and I, kiss evermore for him.

M. I'll have my kiss, sir:—Lady, by your leave.

Cres. In kissing do you render or receive?

Patr. Both take and give.

Cres. I'll make my match to live,

The kiss you take is better than you give:

Therefore no kiss.

M. I'll give you boot,¹ I'll give you three for one.

Cr. You're an odd man; give even, or give none.

Men. An odd man, lady! every man is odd.

Cres. No, Paris is not; for, you know, 'tis true,
That you are odd, and he is even with you.

Men. You fillip me o' the head.

Cres. No, I'll be sworn.

Ulyss. It were no match, your nail against his

May I, sweet lady, beg a kiss of you? [horn.—

Cres. You may.

Ulyss. I do desire it.

Cres. Why, beg then.

Uly. Why then, for Venus' sake, give me a kiss.

Cres. I am your debtor, claim it when 'tis due.

Ulyss. Never's my day, and then a kiss of you.

Dio. Lady, a word;—I'll bring you to your
father. [*Diomed leads out Cressida.*

Nest. A woman of quick sense.

Ulyss. Fie, fie upon her!

There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip,

Nay, her foot speaks; her wanton spirits look out

At every joint and motive² of her body.

O, these encounterers, so glib of tongue,

That give a coasting welcome ere it comes,

And wide unclasp the tables of their thoughts

To every ticklish reader! set them down

For sluttish spoils of opportunity,

And daughters of the game. [*Trumpet within.*

All. The Trojans' trumpet.

Agam. Yonder comes the troop.

*Enter Hector, armed; Aeneas, Troilus, and
other Trojans, with Attendants.*

Æne. Hail, all the state of Greece! what shall
be done [pose,

To him that victory commands? Or do you pur-

A victor shall be known? will you the knights

Shall to the edge of all extremity

Pursue each other; or shall they be divided

By any voice or order of the field?

Hector bade ask.

Agam. Which way would Hector have it?

Æne. He cares not, he'll obey conditions.

Ach. 'Tis done like Hector; but securely done,

A little proudly, and great deal misprizing³

The knight oppos'd.

Æne. If not Achilles, sir,

What is your name?

Achil. If not Achilles, nothing.

Æne. Therefore Achilles: But, what'er, know

In the extremity of great and little, [this;—

Valour and pride excel themselves in Hector;

The one almost as infinite as all,

The other blank as nothing. Weigh him well,

And that, which looks like pride, is courtesy.

This Ajax is half made of Hector's blood:

In love whereof, half Hector stays at home;

1 Over and above equality. 2 Motion. 3 Undervaluing.

1 Will.

2 Preparation.

3 (Implying the superlative degree.)

Half heart, half hand, half Hector comes to seek
This blended knight, half Trojan, and half Greek.

Re-enter Diomed.

Ag. Here is Sir Diomed:—Go, gentle knight,
Stand by our Ajax: as you and lord Æneas
Consent upon the order of their fight,
So be it; either to the uttermost,
Or else a breath¹: the combatants being kin
Half stints their strife before their strokes begin.

[Ajax and Hector enter the Lists.]

Ulyss. They are oppos'd already.

Ag. What Trojan is that same that looks so heavy?

Uly. The youngest son of Priam, a true knight;
Nor yet mature, yet matchless; firm of word;
Speaking in deeds, and deedless in his tongue;
Not soon provok'd, nor being provok'd, soon calm'd:

His heart and hand both open, and both free;
For what he has, he gives; what thinks, he shows;
Yet gives he not, till judgment guide his bounty,
Nor dignifies an impair² thought with breath:
Manly as Hector, but more dangerous;
For Hector, in his blaze of wrath, subscribes³
To tender objects; but he, in heat of action,
Is more vindictive than jealous love:
They call him Troilus; and on him erect
A second hope, as fairly built as Hector.
Thus says Æneas: one that knows the youth
Even to his inches, and, with private soul,
Did in great Ilium thus translate⁴ him to me.

[Alarum. Hector and Ajax fight.]

Agam. They are in action.

Nest. Now, Ajax, hold thine own!

Tro. Hector, thou sleep'st;

Awake thee! *[Ajax!]*

Agam. His blows are well dispos'd:—there,

Dio. You must no more. *[Trumpets cease.]*

Æne. Princes, enough, so please you.

Ajax. I am not warm yet, let us fight again.

Dio. As Hector pleases.

Hect. Why, then, will I no more:—

Thou art, great lord, my father's sister's son,
A cousin-german to great Priam's seed;

The obligation of our blood forbids
A gory emulation 'twixt us twain:

Were thy commixtion Greek and Trojan so,
That thou couldst say—*This hand is Grecian all,*

*And this is Trojan; the sinews of this leg
All Greek, and this all Troy; my mother's blood,*

*Runs on the dexter⁵ cheek, and this sinister⁶
Bounds in my father's;* by Jove multipotent,

Thou shouldst not bear from me a Greekish member

Wherein my sword had not impressure made
Of our rank feud: But the just gods gainsay,

That any drop thou borrow'st from thy mother,
My sacred aunt, should by my mortal sword

Be drain'd! Let me embrace thee, Ajax:
By him that thunders, thou hast lusty arms;

Hector would have them fall upon him thus:
Cousin, all honour to thee!

Ajax. I thank thee, Hector:
Thou art too gentle, and too free a man;

I came to kill thee, cousin, and bear hence
A great addition earned in thy death.

Hect. Not Neoptolemus so mirable!
(On whose bright crest, Fame with her loud'st

O yes
Cries, *This is he,*) could promise to himself
A thought of added honour torn from Hector.

Æ. There is expectance here from both the
What further you will do. *[sides,*

Hect. We'll answer it;

The issue is embracement:—Ajax, farewell.

Ajax. If I might in entreaties find success,
(As sold² I have the chance,) I would desire

My famous cousin to our Grecian tents.

D. 'Tis Agamemnon's wish; and great Achilles
Doth long to see unarm'd the valiant Hector.

Hect. Æneas, call my brother Troilus to me:
And signify this loving interview

To the expectors of our Trojan part;
Desire them home.—Give me thy hand, my cousin;

I will go eat with thee, and see your knights.

A. Great Agamemnon comes to meet us here.
Hect. The worthiest of them tell me name by

name;
But for Achilles, my own searching eyes
Shall find him by his large and portly size.

Agam. Worthy of arms, as welcome as to one
That would be rid of such an enemy;

But that's no welcome: Understand more clear,
What's past, and what's to come, is strew'd with

And formless ruin of oblivion; *[husks]*
But in this extant moment, faith and troth,

Strain'd purely from all hollow bias-drawing
Bids thee, with most divine integrity,

From heart of very heart, great Hector, welcome.
H. I thank thee, most imperious³ Agamemnon.

Agam. My well-fam'd lord of Troy, no less to
you. *[To Troilus.]*

Men. Let me confirm my princely brother's
greeting:—

You brace of warlike brothers, welcome hither.
Hect. Whom must we answer?

Men. The noble Menelaus.
Hect. O you, my lord? by Mars his gauntlet,

thanks!
Mock not, that I affect the untraded oath;

Your *quondam* wife swears still by Venus' glove:
She's well, but bade me not commend her to you.

Men. Name her not now, sir; she's a deadly
theme.

Hect. O pardon; I offend.
Nest. Have, thou gallant Trojan, seen thee oft,

Labouring for destiny, make cruel way
Through ranks of Greekish youth: and I have

seen thee,
As hot as Perseus, spur thy Phrygian steed,

Despising many forfeits and subduements,
When thou hast hung thy advanced sword¹ the

Nor letting it decline on the declin'd; *[air,*
That I have said to some my standers-by,

Lo, Jupiter is yonder, dealing life!
And I have seen thee pause, and take thy breath,

When that a ring of Greeks have hemm'd thee in,
Like an Olympian wrestling: This have I seen;

But this thy countenance, still lock'd in steel,
I never saw till now. I knew thy grandsire,⁴

1 Mere passage of arms.

2 Unsuitable.

3 Yields.

4 Explain.

5 Right.

6 Left.

1 Admirable.

2 Seldom.

3 Imperial.

4 (Laomedon.)

And once fought with him: he was a soldier good;
But, by great Mars, the captain of us all,
Never like thee: Let an old man embrace thee;
And, worthy warrior, welcome to our tents.

Æne. 'Tis the old Nestor.

Hect. Let me embrace thee, good old chronicle,
That hast so long walk'd hand in hand with time:
Most reverend Nestor, I am glad to clasp thee.

Nest. I would, my arms could match thee in
contention,

As they contend with thee in courtesy.

Hect. I would they could.

Nest. Ha! [morrow.
By this white beard, I'd fight with thee to-
Well, welcome, welcome! I have seen the time—

Ulyss. I wonder now how yonder city stands,
When we have here her base and pillar by us.

Hect. I know your favour, lord Ulysses, well.
Ah, sir, there's many a Greek and Trojan dead,
Since first I saw yourself and Diomed
In Ilium, on your Greekish embassy.

Ul. Sir, I foretold you then what would ensue:
My prophecy is but half his journey yet;
For yonder walls, that pertly front your town,
Yon towers, whose wanton tops do buss the
Must kiss their own feet. [clouds,

Hect. I must not believe you:
There they stand yet; and modestly I think,
The fall of every Phrygian stone will cost
A drop of Grecian blood: The end crowns all;
And that old common arbitrator, Time,
Will one day end it.

Ulyss. So to him we leave it.
Most gentle, and most valiant Hector, welcome:
After the general, I beseech you next
To feast with me, and see me at my tent.

Achil. I shall forestall thee, lord Ulysses,
thou!—

Now, Hector, I have fed mine eyes on thee;
I have with exact view perused thee, Hector,
And quoted¹ joint by joint.

Hect. Is this Achilles?

Achil. I am Achilles.

Hect. Stand fair, I pray thee; let me look on

Achil. Behold thy fill. [thee.

Hect. Nay, I have done already.

Achil. Thou art too brief; I will the second time,
As I would buy thee, view thee limb by limb.

Hect. O, like a book of sport thou'lt read me o'er;
But there's more in me than thou understand'st.
Why dost thou so oppress me with thine eye?

Achil. Tell me, you heavens, in which part
of his body [there?

Shall I destroy him? whether there, there, or
That I may give the local wound a name;
And make distinct the very breach whereout
Hector's great spirit flew: Answer me, heavens!

Hect. It would discredit the bless'd gods,
proud man,

To answer such a question: Stand again:
Think'st thou to catch my life so pleasantly,
As to prenominate² in nice conjecture,
Where thou wilt hit me dead.

Achil. I tell thee, yea.

Hect. Wert thou an oracle to tell me so,
I'd not believe thee. Henceforth guard thee well;
For I'll not kill thee there, nor there, nor there;

1 Observed.

2 Forename.

But, by the forge that stithied¹ Mars his helm,
I'll kill thee every where, yea, o'er and o'er.—
You wisest Grecians, pardon me this brag,
His insolence draws folly from my lips;
But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,
Or may I never—

Ajax. Do not chafe thee, cousin;—

And you, Achilles, let these threats alone,
Till accident, or purpose, bring you to't:

You may have every day enough of Hector,
If you have stomach; the general state, I fear,
Can scarce entreat you to be odd² with him.

Hect. I pray you, let us see you in the field;
We have had pelting wars, since you refus'd
The Grecians' cause.

Achil. Dost thou entreat me, Hector?
To-morrow, do I meet thee, fell as death:
To-night, all friends.

Hect. Thy hand upon that match.

Agam. First, all you peers of Greece, go to
my tent;

There in the full convive³ we: afterwards,
As Hector's leisure and your bounties shall
Concur together, severally entreat him.—
Beat loud the tabourines,⁴ let the trumpets blow,
That this great soldier may his welcome know.

[*Exeunt all but Troilus and Ulysses.*

Tro. My lord, Ulysses, tell me, I beseech you,
In what place of the field doth Calchas keep.

Uly. At Menelaus' tent, most princely Troilus:
There Diomed doth feast with him to-night;
Who neither looks upon the heaven, nor earth,
But gives all gaze and bent of amorous view
On the fair Cressid.

Tro. Shall I, sweet lord, be bound to you so
After we part from Agamemnon's tent, [much,
To bring me thither?

Ulyss. You shall command me, sir.
As gentle tell me, of what honour was
This Cressida in Troy? Had she no lover there
That wails her absence?

Tro. O, sir, to such as boasting show their scars,
A mock is due. Will you walk on, my lord?
She was belov'd, she lov'd; she is, and doth;
But, still, sweet love is food for fortune's tooth.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE GRECIAN CAMP. BEFORE ACHILLES' TENT.

Enter Achilles and Patroclus.

Achil. I'll heat his blood with Greekish wine
to-night,

Which with my scimitar I'll cool to-morrow.—
Patroclus, let us feast him to the height.

Patr. Here comes Thersites.

Enter Thersites.

Achil. How now, thou core of envy!
Thou crusty batch of nature, what's the news?

Ther. Why, thou picture of what thou seemest,
and idol of idiot-worshippers, here's a letter for thee.

1 Anvil'd.

2 (To fight.)

3 Feast.

4 Small drums.

Achil. From whence, fragment?

Ther. Why, thou full dish of fool, from Troy.

Patr. Who keeps the tent now?

Th. The surgeon's box, or the patient's wound.
Patr. Well said, Adversity¹! and what need these tricks?

Ther. Pr'ythee be silent, boy; I profit not by thy talk.

Patr. Why, you ruinous butt; you indistinguishable cur.

Ther. Why art thou exasperate, thou idle immaterial skein of sleive² silk, thou green saracenet flap for a sore eye, thou tassell of a prodigal's purse, thou? Ah, how the poor world is pestered with such water-flies; diminutives of nature!

Patr. Out, gall³!

Ther. Finch egg³!

Ach. My sweet Patroclus, I am thwarted quite From my great purpose in to-morrow's battle.

Here is a letter from queen Hecuba;

A token from her daughter, my fair love;

Both taxing me, and gaging me to keep

An oath that I have sworn. I will not break it:

Fail, Greeks; fail, fame; honour, or go, or stay,

My major vow lies here, this I'll obey.—

Come, come, Thersites, help to trim my tent;

This night in banqueting must all be spent.

Away, Patroclus.

[*Exeunt Achilles and Patroclus.*]

Ther. With too much blood, and too little brain, these two may run mad; but if with too much brain, and too little blood, they do, I'll be a curer of madmen. Here's Agamemnon,—an honest fellow enough, and one that loves quails, but he has not so much brain as ear-wax: And the goodly transformation of Jupiter there, his brother, the bull,—the primitive statue, and oblique memorial of cuckolds; a thrifty shoeing-horn in a chain, hanging at his brother's leg,—to what form, but that he is, should wit larded with malice, and malice forced⁴ with wit, turn him to? To an ass, were nothing; he is both ass and ox: to an ox, were nothing; he is both ox and ass. To be a dog, a mule, a cat, a fitchew,⁵ a toad, a lizard, an owl, a puttock, or a herring without a roe, I would not care: but to be Menelaus,—I would conspire against destiny. Ask me not what I would be, if I were not Thersites; for I care not to be the louse of a lazar,⁶ so I were not Menelaus.—Hey-day! spirits and fires!

Enter Hector, Troilus, Ajax, Agamemnon, Ulysses, Nestor, Menelaus, and Diomed, with Lights.

Agam. We go wrong, we go wrong.

Ajax. No, yonder 'tis;

There, where we see the lights.

Hect. I trouble you.

Ajax. No, not a whit.

Ulyss. Here comes himself to guide you.

Enter Achilles.

Achil. Welcome, brave Hector: welcome, princes all!

Agam. So now, fair prince of Troy, I bid good night.

Ajax commands the guard to tend on you.

Hect. Thanks, and good night to the Greeks'

Men. Good night, my lord. [general.]

Hect. Good night, sweet Menelaus.

Ther. Sweet draught: Sweet, quoth 'a! sweet sink, sweet sewer.

Achil. Good night,

And welcome, both to those that go or tarry.

Agam. Good night.

[*Exeunt Agamemnon and Menelaus.*]

Ach. Old Nestor tarries; and you too, Diomed.

Keep Hector company an hour or two.

Dio. I cannot, lord; I have important business,

The tide whereof is now.—Good night, great

Hect. Give me your hand. [Hector.]

Ulyss. [*Aside to Troilus.*] Follow his torch, he goes

To Calchas' tent; I'll keep you company.

Tro. Sweet sir, you honour me.

Hect. And so good night.

[*Exit Diomed; Ulysses and Troilus following.*]

Achil. Come, come, enter my tent.

[*Exeunt Achil., Hect., Ajax, and Nest.*]

Ther. That same Diomed's a false-hearted rogue, a most unjust knave; I will no more trust him when he leers, than I will a serpent when he hisses: he will spend his mouth, and promise, like Brabler the hound; but when he performs, astronomers foretell it: it is prodigious,¹ there will come some change; the sun borrows of the moon, when Diomed keeps his word. I will rather leave to see Hector, than not to dog him: they say, he keeps a Trojan drab, and uses the traitor Calchas' tent: I'll after. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—BEFORE CALCHAS' TENT.

Enter Diomedes.

Dio. What are you up here, ho? speak.

Cal. [*Within.*] Who calls?

Dio. Diomed.—Calchas, I think.—Where's your daughter?

Cal. [*Within.*] She comes to you.

Enter Troilus and Ulysses, at a distance; after them Thersites.

U. Stand where the torch may not discover us.

Enter Cressida.

Tro. Cressid, come forth to him!

Dio. How now, my charge?

Cres. Now, my sweet guardian!—Hark! a word with you. [*Whispers.*]

Tro. Yea, so familiar!

Ulyss. She will sing any man at first sight.

Ther. And any man may sing her, if he can take her cliff²; she's noted.

Dio. Will you remember?

Cres. Remember? yes.

Dio. Nay, but do then; And let your mind be coupled with your words.

Tro. What should she remember?

Ulyss. List. [*Whispers.*] [folly,

Cres. Sweet honey Greek, tempt me no more to

¹ Making *Ther.* the impersonation of adverseness.

² COATHE.

³ Stuffed. ⁴ A diseased beggar.

⁵ Terms of reproach. ⁶ Folecat.

Ther. Roguery !
Dio. Nay, then,—
Cres. I'll tell you what :
Dio. Pho, pho ! come, tell a pin : You are
 forsworn.—
C. In faith, I cannot : What would you have
Dio. What did you swear ? [me do ?]
Cres. I pr'ythee, do not hold me to mine oath ;
 Bid me do any thing but that, sweet Greek.
Dio. Good night.
Tro. Hold, patience !
Ulyss. How now, Trojan ?
Cres. Diomed, —
D. No, no, good night : I'll be your fool no
Tro. Thy better must. [more.
Cres. Hark ! one word in your ear.
Tro. O plague and madness !
U. You are mov'd, prince ; let us depart, I pray
 Lest your displeasure should enlarge itself [you,
 To wrathful terms : this place is dangerous ;
 The time right deadly ; I beseech you, go.
Tro. Behold, I pray you !
Ulyss. Now, good my lord, go off :
 You flow to great destruction : come, my lord.
Tro. I pr'ythee, stay.
Ulyss. You have not patience : come.
Tro. I pray you, stay ; I will not speak a word.
Dio. And so, good night.
Cres. Nay, but you part in anger.
Tro. Doth that grieve thee ?
 O wither'd truth !
Ulyss. Why, how now, lord ?
Tro. By Jove,
 I will be patient.
Cres. Guardian !—why, Greek !
Dio. Pho, pho ! adieu ; you palter.¹
Cres. In faith, I do not ; come hither once again.
U. You shake, my lord, at something ; will you
 You will break out. [go ?]
Tro. She strokes his cheek !
Ulyss. Come, come.
T. Nay, stay ; by Jove, I will not speak a word :
 There is between my will and all offences
 A guard of patience ;—stay a little while.
Dio. But will you then ?
Cres. In faith, I will, la ; never trust me else.
Dio. Give me some token for the surety of it.
Cres. I'll fetch you one. [Exit.
Ulyss. You have sworn patience.
Tro. Fear me not, my lord ;
 I will not be myself, nor have cognition²
 Of what I feel ; I am all patience.

Re-enter Cressida.

Ther. Now the pledge ; now, now, now !
Cres. Here, Diomed, keep this sleeve.
Tro. O beauty ! where's thy faith ?
Ulyss. My lord, —
Tro. I will be patient ; outwardly I will.
C. You look upon that sleeve ; Behold it well.—
 He loved me—O false wench !—Give 't me again.
Dio. Who was 't ?
Cres. No matter, now I have 't again.
 I will not meet with you to-morrow night :
 I pr'ythee, Diomed, visit me no more.
Th. Now she sharpens ;—Well said, whetstone.
Dio. I shall have it.

1 Shuffle.

2 Knowledge.

Cres. What, this ?
Dio. Ay, that.
Cres. O, all you gods !—O pretty, pretty pledge !
 Thy master now lies thinking in his bed
 Of thee and me ; and sighs, and takes my glove,
 And gives memorial dainty kisses to it,
 As I kiss thee.—Nay, do not snatch it from me ;
 He, that takes that, must take my heart withal.
Dio. I had your heart before, this follows it.
Tro. I did swear patience.
Cres. You shall not have it, Diomed ; 'faith
 you shall not ;
 I'll give you something else.
Dio. I will have this ; Whose was it ?
Cres. 'Tis no matter.
Dio. Come, tell me whose it was.
C. 'Twas one that loved me better than you will.
 But, now you have it, take it.
Dio. Whose was it ?
Cres. By all Diana's waiting-women yonder,¹
 And by herself, I will not tell you whose.
Dio. To-morrow will I wear it on my helm ;
 And grieve his spirit that dares not challenge it.
Tro. Wert thou the devil, and wor'st it on thy
 It should be challeng'd. [horn,
Cres. Well, well, 'tis done, 'tis past ;—And yet
 it is not ;
 I will not keep my word.
Dio. Why then, farewell ;
 Thou never shalt mock Diomed again.
C. You shall not go :—One cannot speak a word,
 But it straight starts you.
Dio. I do not like this fooling.
Ther. Nor I, by Pluto : but that that likes
 not you, pleases me best.
Dio. What, shall I come ? the hour ?
Cres. Ay, come :—O Jove !—
 Do come :—I shall be plagu'd.
Dio. Farewell till then.
Cres. Good night. I pr'ythee, come.—

[Exit Diomedes.

Troilus, farewell ! one eye yet looks on thee ;
 But with my heart the other eye doth see.
 Ah ! poor our sex ! this fault in us I find,
 The error of our eye directs our mind :
 What error leads, must err ; O then conclude,
 Minds, sway'd by eyes, are full of turpitude.

[Exit Cressida.

Ther. A proof of strength she could not publish
Ulyss. All's done, my lord, [more.

Tro. It is.
Ulyss. Why stay we then ?

Tro. To make a recordation² to my soul
 Of every syllable that here was spoke.
 But, if I tell how these two did co-act,
 Shall I not lie in publishing a truth ?
 Sith yet there is a credence in my heart,
 An esperance so obstinately strong,
 That doth invert the attest of eyes and ears ;
 As if those organs had deceptive functions,
 Created only to calumniate.
 Was Cressid here ?

Ulyss. I cannot conjure, Trojan.
Tro. She was not, sure.

Ulyss. Most sure she was.
Tr. Why, my negation hath no taste of madness.
U. Nor mine, my lord : Cressid was here but now.

1 The stars.

2 Record.

Tro. Let it not be believ'd for¹ womanhood !
Think, we had mothers; do not give advantage
To stubborn critics²—apt, without a theme,
For depravation,—to square the general sex
By Cressid's rule: rather think this not Cressid.

Ulyss. What hath she done, prince, that can
soil our mothers?

Tro. Nothing at all, unless that this were she.
Th. Will he swagger himself out on's own eyes?

Tro. This she? no, this is Diomed's Cressida:

If beauty have a soul, this is not she;
If souls guide vows, if vows be sanctimony,
If sanctimony be the gods' delight,
If there be rule in unity itself,
This was not she. O madness of discourse,
That cause sets up with and against itself !
Bi-fold authority ! where reason can revolt
Without perdition, and loss assume all reason
Without revolt; this is, and is not, Cressid !
Within my soul there doth commence a fight
Of this strange nature, that a thing inseparate
Divides more wider than the sky and earth;
And yet the spacious breadth of this division
Admits no orifice for a point, as subtle
As is Arachne's broken woof, to enter.
Instance, O instance ! strong as Pluto's gates;
Cressid is mine, tied with the bonds of heaven:
Instance, O instance ! strong as heaven itself;
The bonds of heaven are slipp'd, dissolv'd, and
And with another knot, five-finger-tied, [loos'd;
The fractions of her faith, orts of her love,
The fragments, scraps, the bits, and greasy
reliques

Of her o'er-eaten faith are bound to Diomed.

Ulyss. May worthy Troilus be half attach'd
With that which here his passion doth express?

Tro. Ay, Greek; and that shall be divulged well
In characters as red as Mars his heart
Inflam'd with Venus; never did young man
With so eternal and so fix'd a soul. [fancy³
Hark, Greek;—As much as I do Cressid love,
So much by weight hate I her Diomed:
That sleeve is mine, that he'll bear on his helm;
Were it a casque compos'd by Vulcan's skill,
My sword should bite it: not the dreadful spout,
Which shipmen do the hurricane call,
Constring'd⁴ in mass by the almighty sun
Shall dizzy with more clamour Neptune's ear
In his descent, than shall my prompted sword
Falling on Diomed.

Ther. He'll tickle it. [false !

Tro. O Cressid ! O false Cressid ! false, false,
Let all untruths stand by thy stained name,
And they'll seem glorious.

Ulyss. O, contain yourself;
Your passion draws ears hither.

Enter Æneas.

Æne. I have been seeking you this hour, my
Hector, by this, is arming him in Troy; [lord:
Ajax, your guard, stays to conduct you home.

Tro. Have with you, prince:—My courteous
lord, adieu:

Farewell, revolted fair !—and, Diomed,
Stand fast, and wear a castle on thy head !

Ulyss. I'll bring you to the gates.

¹ For the sake of.

² Cynics.

³ Love.

⁴ Compressed.

Tro. Accept distracted thanks.

[*Exeunt Troilus, Æneas, and Ulysses.*

Ther. 'Would, I could meet that rogue Diomed !
I would croak like a raven: I would bode, I
would bode. Patroclus would give me any thing
for the intelligence of this. [Exit.

SCENE III.—TROY. BEFORE PRIAM'S PALACE.

Enter Hector and Andromache.

And. When was my lord so much ungently
temper'd,

To stop his ears against admonishment ?

Unarm, unarm, and do not fight to-day.

Hect. You train me to offend you: get you in:
By all the everlasting gods, I'll go.

A. My dreams will, sure, prove ominous to the

Hect. No more, I say. [day.

Enter Cassandra.

Cas. Where is my brother Hector ?

And. Here, sister; arm'd, and bloody in intent:
Consort with me in loud and dear petition,
Pursue we him on knees; for I have dream'd
Of bloody turbulence, and this whole night
Hath nothing been but shapes and forms of
slaughter.

Cas. O, it is true.

Hect. Ho ! bid my trumpet sound !

Cas. No notes of sally for the heavens, sweet
brother.

Hect. Begone, I say: the gods have heard me
swear.

C. The gods are deaf to hot and peevish vows;
They are polluted offerings, more abhorr'd
Than spotted livers in the sacrifice.

And. O ! be persuaded: Do not count it holy
To hurt by being just: it is as lawful,
For we would give much, to use violent thefts,
And rob in the behalf of charity.

C. It is the purpose that makes strong the vow;
But vows, to every purpose, must not hold:
Unarm, sweet Hector.

Hect. Hold you still, I say;
Mine honour keeps the weather of my fate:
Life every man holds dear; but the dear man
Holds honour far more precious—dear than life.—

Enter Troilus.

How now, young man, mean'st thou to fight to-
day ?

And. Cassandra, call my father to persuade.
[Exit Cassandra.

H. No, faith, young Troilus; doff thy harness,
I am to-day i' the vein of chivalry: [youth,
Let grow thy sinews till their knots be strong,
And tempt not yet the brushes of the war.

Unarm thee, go; and doubt thou not, brave boy,
I'll stand, to-day, for thee, and me, and Troy.

Tro. Brother, you have a vice of mercy in you
Which better fits a lion, than a man. [for it.

H. What vice is that, good Troilus? chide me

T. When many times the captive Grecians fall,
Even in the fan and wind of your fair sword,
You bid them rise, and live.

Hect. O, 'tis fair play.

Tro. Fool's play, by heaven, Hector.

Hect. How now? how now?

¹ Foolish.

² Put off.

Tro. For the love of all the gods,
Let's leave the hermit pity with our mother ;
And when we have our armours buckled on,
The venom'd vengeance ride upon our swords ;
Spur them to ruthless¹ work, rein them from
Hect. Fie, savage, fie ! [*ruth.*²
Tro. Hector, then 'tis wars.
Hect. Troilus, I would not have you fight to-day.
Tro. Who should withhold me ?
Not fate, obedience, nor the hand of Mars
Beckoning with fiery truncheon my retire ;
Not Priamus and Hecuba on knees,
Their eyes o'ergalled with recourse of tears ;
Nor you, my brother, with your true sword
drawn,
Oppos'd to hinder me, should stop my way,
But by my ruin.

Re-enter Cassandra, with Priam.

Cas. Lay hold upon him, Priam, hold him fast :
He is thy crutch ; now if thou lose thy stay,
Thou on him leaning, and all Troy on thee,
Fall all together.

Pri. Come, Hector, come, go back :
Thy wife hath dream'd ; thy mother hath had
visions ;

Cassandra doth foresee, and I myself
Am like a prophet suddenly enrap't,
To tell thee—that this day is ominous :
Therefore, come back.

Hect. *Æneas* is a-field ;
And I do stand engag'd to many Greeks,
Even in the faith of valour, to appear
This morning to them.

Pri. But thou shalt not go.

Hect. I must not break my faith.
You know me dutiful ; therefore, dear sir,
Let me not shame respect ; but give me leave
To take that course by your consent and voice,
Which you do here forbid me, royal Priam.

Cas. O Priam, yield not to him.

And. Do not, dear father.

Hect. Andromache, I am offended with you :
Upon the love you bearme, get you in. [*Exit And.*
Tro. This foolish, dreaming, superstitious girl
Makes all these bodements.

Cas. O farewell, dear Hector.
Look, how thou diest ! look, how thy eye turns
pale !

Look, how thy wounds do bleed at many vents !
Hark, how Troy roars ! how Hecuba cries out !
How poor Andromache shrills her dolours forth !
Behold destruction, frenzy, and amazement,
Like witless anticks, one another meet,
And all cry—Hector ! Hector's dead ! O Hector !
Tro. Away !—Away ! [*leave ;*
Cas. Farewell.—Yet soft :—Hector, I take my
Thou dost thyself and all our Troy deceive.

[*Exit.*
Hect. You are amaz'd, my liege, at her exclaim ;
Go in, and cheer the town : we'll forth and fight :
Do deeds worth praise, and tell you them at night.

Pri. Farewell : the gods with safety stand
about thee.
[*Exeunt severally Pri. and Hect.* *Alarums.*
T. They are at it ; hark ! Proud Diomed, believe,
I come to lose my arm, or win my sleeve.

1 Woful.

2 Mercy.

*As Troilus is going out, enter, from the other
side, Pandarus.*

Pan. Do you hear, my lord ? do you hear ?

Tro. What now ?

Pan. Here's a letter from yon' poor girl.

Tro. Let me read.

Pan. A ptisick, a rascally ptisick so troubles
me, and the foolish fortune of this girl ; and
what one thing, what another, that I shall leave
you one o' these days : And I have a rheum in
mine eyes too ; and such an ache in my bones,
that, unless a man were curs'd,¹ I cannot tell
what to think on't.—What says she there ?

Tro. Words, words, mere words, no matter
from the heart ; [*Tearing the Letter.*
The effect doth operate another way.

Go, wind, to wind, there turn and change to-
gether.—

My love with words and errors still she feeds ;
But edifies another with her deeds.

[*Exeunt severally.*

SCENE IV.

BETWEEN TROY AND THE GRECIAN CAMP.

Alarums : Excursions. Enter Thersites.

Ther. Now they are clapper-clawing one an-
other ; I'll go look on. That dissembling abomi-
nable varlet, Diomed, has got that same scurvy
doting foolish young knave's sleeve of Troy
there, in his helm : I would fain see them meet :
that that same young Trojan ass, that loves the
wanton there, might send that Greekish villain
with the sleeve, back to the dissemblingluxurious
drab, on a sleeveless errand.—O' the other side,
the policy of those crafty swearing rascals,—that
stale old mouse-eaten dry cheese, Nestor ; and
that same dog-fox, Ulysses,—is not proved worth
a black-berry :—They set me up, in policy, that
mongrel cur, Ajax, against that dog of as bad a
kind, Achilles ; and now is the cur Ajax prouder
than the cur Achilles, and will not arm to-day :
Whereupon the Grecians begin to proclaim bar-
barism, and policy grows into an ill-opinion.—
Soft ! here come sleeve, and t'other.

Enter Diomedes, Troilus following.

Tro. Fly not ; for, shouldst thou take the river
I would swim after. [*Styx,*

Di. Thou dost miscall retire :

I do not fly ; but advantageous care
Withdrew me from the odds of multitude :
Have at thee !

Ther. Hold thy wanton, Grecian !—now for thy
wanton, Trojan !—now the sleeve, now the sleeve !

[*Exeunt Troilus and Diomedes, fighting.*

Enter Hector.

H. What art thou, Greek ? art thou for Hector's
Art thou of blood, and honour ? [*match?*

Ther. No, no :—I am a rascal ; a scurvy rail-
ing knave ; a very filthy rogue.

Hect. I do believe thee ;—live. [*Exit.*

Ther. Jove-a-mercy, that thou wilt believe
me ; But a plague break thy neck, for frightening
me ! What's become of the wenching rogues ? I
think, they have swallowed one another : I would
laugh at that miracle. I'll seek them. [*Exit.*

1 Under a curse.

SCENE V.—THE SAME.

Enter Diomedes and a Servant.

D. Go, go, my servant, take thou Troilus' horse;
Present the fair steed to my lady Cressid:
Fellow, commend my service to her beauty;
Tell her, I have chastis'd the amorous Trojan,
And am her knight by proof.

Serv. I go, my lord. [*Exit Servant.*]

Enter Agamemnon.

Agam. Renew, renew! The fierce Polydamus
Hath beat down Menon: bastard Margarelon
Hath Doreus prisoner:
And stands colossus-wise, waving his beam,¹
Upon the pashed² corpses of the kings
Epistrophus and Cediis: Polixenes is slain;
Amphimachus, and Thoas, deadly hurt;
Patroclus ta'en or slain; and Palamedes
Sore hurt and bruise'd: the dreadful Sagittary
Appals our numbers; haste we, Diomed,
To reinforcement, or we perish all.

Enter Nestor.

Nest. Go, bear Patroclus' body to Achilles;
And bid the snail-pac'd Ajax arm for shame.—
There is a thousand Hectors in the field:
Now here he fights on Galathea his horse,
And there lacks work; anon, he's there afoot,
And there they fly, or die, like scaled sculls³
Before the belching whale; then is he yonder,
And there the strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath:
Here, there, and every where, he leaves, and
takes;

Dexterity so obeying appetite,
That what he will, he does; and does so much,
That proof is call'd impossibility.

Enter Ulysses.

U. O, courage, courage, princes! great Achilles
Is arming, weeping, cursing, vowing vengeance:
Patroclus' wounds have rous'd his drowsy blood,
Together with his mangled myrmidons,
That noseless, handless, hack'd and chipp'd,
come to him,

Crying on Hector. Ajax hath lost a friend,
And foams at mouth, and he is arm'd, and at it,
Roaring for Troilus; who hath done to-day
Mad and fantastick execution;
Engaging and redeeming of himself,
With such a careless force, and forceless care,
As if that luck, in very spite of cunning,
Bade him win all.

Enter Ajax.

Ajax. Troilus! thou coward Troilus! [*Exit.*]

Dio. Ay, there, there.

Nest. So, so, we draw together.

Enter Achilles.

Achil. Where is this Hector?
Come, come, thou boy-queller, show thy face:
Know what it is to meet Achilles angry.
Hector! where's Hector? I will none but Hector.

[*Exeunt.*]

1 Beam-like lance.
2 Crushed.

3 Shoal of fish.

SCENE VI.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Enter Ajax.

Ajax. Troilus, thou coward Troilus, show thy head!

Enter Diomedes.

Dio. Troilus, I say! where's Troilus?

Ajax. What would'st thou?

Dio. I would correct him.

Ajax. Were I the general, thou should'st have my office,

Ere that correction:—Troilus, I say! what Troilus!

Enter Troilus.

Tro. O traitor Diomed!—turn thy false face,
thou traitor,

And pay thy life thou ow'st me for my horse!

Dio. Ha! art thou there?

Ajax. I'll fight with him alone: stand, Diomed.

Dio. He is my prize, I will not look upon.¹

Tro. Come both, you cogging² Greeks; have
at you both. [*Exeunt fighting.*]

Enter Hector.

Hect. Yea, Troilus? O, well fought, my youngest brother!

Enter Achilles.

Achil. Now do I see thee: Ha!—Have at thee Hector.

Hect. Pause, if thou wilt.

Achil. I do disdain thy courtesy, proud Trojan.

Be happy, that my arms are out of use:

My rest and negligence befriend thee now,

But thou anon shalt hear of me again;

Till when, go seek thy fortune. [*Exit.*]

Hect. Fare thee well:—

I would have been much more a fresher man,
Had I expected thee.—How now, my brother?

Re-enter Troilus.

Tro. Ajax hath ta'en Æneas; Shall it be?

No, by the flame of yonder glorious heaven,

He shall not carry³ him; I'll be taken too,

Or bring him off:—Fate, hear me what I say!

I reek⁴ not though I end my life to-day. [*Exit.*]

Enter one in sumptuous Armour.

Hect. Stand, stand, thou Greek? thou art a
goodly mark:—

No? wilt thou not?—I like thy armour well;

I'll frush⁵ it, and unlock the rivets all,

But I'll be master of it:—Wilt thou not, beast,
abide?

Why, then fly on, I'll hunt thee for thy hide.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—THE SAME.

Enter Achilles, with Myrmidons.

Ac. Come here about me, you my myrmidons⁶;

Mark what I say.—Attend me where I wheel:

Strike not a stroke, but keep yourselves in breath:

And when I have the bloody Hector found,

Empale him with your weapons round about;

In fellest manner execute your arms.

Follow me, sirs, and my proceedings eye:

It is decreed—Hector the great must die.

[*Exeunt.*]

1 Be a looker-on.

2 Cheating.

3 Overcome.

4 Care.

5 Burst.

6 Thessalians—the word now
signifies ruffian.

SCENE VIII.—THE SAME.

*Enter Menelaus and Paris, fighting: then
Thersites.*

Ther. Now, bull! now, dog! 'Loo, Paris,
'loo! now, my double-henned sparrow! 'loo,
Paris, 'loo! The bull has the game:—'ware
horns, ho! [*Exeunt Paris and Menelaus.*]

Enter Margarelon.

Mar. Turn, slave, and fight.

Ther. What art thou?

Mar. A bastard son of Priam's.

Ther. I am a bastard too: I love bastards: I
am a bastard begot, bastard instructed, bastard
in mind, bastard in valour, in every thing ille-
gitimate. One bear will not bite another, and
wherefore should one bastard? Take heed, the
quarrel's most ominous to us: and tempts
judgment: Farewell, bastard. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IX.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Enter Hector.

Hect. Most putrefied core, so fair without,
Thy goodly armour thus hath cost thy life.
Now is my day's work done; I'll take good
breath;
Rest, sword; thou hast thy fill of blood and
death!

[*Puts off his Helmet, and hangs his Shield
behind him.*]

Enter Achilles and Myrmidons.

Achil. Look, Hector, how the sun begins to set,
How ugly night comes breathing at his heels:
Even with the vail and dark'ning of the sun,
To close the day up, Hector's life is done.

Hect. I am unarm'd; forego this vantage, Greek.

Achil. Strike, fellows, strike; this is the man
I seek. [*Hector falls.*]

So Ilium, fall thou next! now, Troy, sink down;
Here lies thy heart, thy sinews, and thy bone.—
On, Myrmidons; and cry you all amain,
Achilles hath the mighty Hector slain.

[*A Retreat sounded.*]

Hark! a retreat upon our Grecian part.

M. The Trojan trumpets sound the like, mylord.

Achil. The dragon wing of night o'erspreads the
And, stickler¹ like, the armies separates. [earth,
My half-suppl'd sword, that frankly² would
have fed,

Pleas'd with this dainty bit, thus goes to bed.—

[*Sheathes his sword.*]

Come, tie his body to my horse's tail;

Along the field I will the Trojan trail. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE X.—THE SAME.

*Enter Agamemnon, Ajax, Menelaus, Nestor,
Diomedes, and others, marching. Shouts
within.*

Agam. Hark! hark! what shout is that?

Nest. Peace, drums.

[*Within.*] Achilles!

Achilles! Hector's slain! Achilles!

1 Judge (of games).

2 Freely.

Dio. The bruit¹ is—Hector's slain, and by
Achilles.

Ajax. If it be so, yet bragless let it be;
Great Hector was as good a man as he.

Ag. March patiently along:—Let one be sent
To pray Achilles see us at our tent.

If in his death the gods have us befriended,
Great Troy is ours, and our sharp wars are ended.
[*Exeunt marching.*]

SCENE XI.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Enter Aeneas and Trojans.

Aene. Stand, ho! yet are we masters of the
field:

Never go home; here starve we out the night.

Enter Troilus.

Tro. Hector is slain.

All. Hector?—The gods forbid!

Tro. He's dead; and at the murderer's horse's
tail,

In beastly sort, dragg'd through the shameful
field,—

Frown on you heavens, effect your rage with
speed!

Sit, gods, upon your thrones, and smile at Troy!
I say, at once let your brief plagues be mercy,
And linger not our sure destructions on!

Aene. My lord, you do discomfort all the host.

Tro. You understand me not, that tell me so:

I do not speak of flight, of fear, of death;

But dare all imminence, that gods and men,

Address their dangers in. Hector is gone!

Who shall tell Priam so, or Hecuba?

Let him, that will a screech-owl aye be call'd,

Go in to Troy, and say there—Hector's dead:

There is a word will Priam turn to stone;

Make wells and Niobes of the maids and wives,

Cold statues of the youth; and, in a word,

Scare Troy out of itself. But, march, away;

Hector is dead; there is no more to say.

Stay yet;—You vile abominable tents,

Thus proudly pight² upon our Phrygian plains,

Let Titan rise as early as he dare,

I'll through and through you!—And thou,

great-siz'd coward!

No space of earth shall sunder our two hates:

I'll haunt thee like a wicked conscience still,

That mouldeth goblins swift as frenzy thoughts.—

Strike a free march to Troy!—with comfort go:

Hope of revenge shall hide our inward woe.

[*Exeunt Aeneas and Trojans.*]

*As Troilus is going out, enter, from the other
side, Pandarus.*

Pan. But hear you, hear you!

Tro. Hence, broker lackey! ignomy and shame
Pursue thy life, and live aye with thy name!

[*Exit Troilus.*]

Pan. A goodly med'cine for my aching
bones!—

O world! world! world! thus is the poor agent
despised! O traitors and pimps, how earnestly
are you set a' work, and how ill requited!

[*Exit.*]

1 Rumour.

2 Pitched.

Timon of Athens.

Persons Represented.

TIMON, a noble Athenian.

LUCIUS,
LUCULLUS, } Lords, and Flatterers of
SEMPRONIUS, } Timon.

VENTIDIUS, one of Timon's false Friends.

APEMANTUS, a churlish Philosopher.

ALCIBIADES, an Athenian General.

FLAVIUS, Steward to Timon.

FLAMINIUS,
LUCILIUS, } Timon's Servants.

SERVILIUS, }
CAPHIS, }
PHILOTUS, } Servants to Timon's Creditors.
TITUS, }
LUCIUS, }
HORTENSIVS, }

Two Servants of Varro.

The Servant of Isidore.

Two of Timon's Creditors.

CUPID and Maskers.

Three Strangers.

Poet.

Painter.

Jeweller.

Merchant.

An old Athenian.

A Page.

A Fool.

Other Lords, Senators, Officers, Soldiers, Thieves,
and Attendants.

SCENE.—Athens; and the Woods adjoining.

Act First.

SCENE I.

ATHENS. A HALL IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter Poet, Painter, Jeweller, Merchant, and
others, at several doors.

Poet. Good day, sir.

Pain. I am glad you are well.

Poet. I have not seen you long; How goes
the world?

Pain. It wears, sir, as it grows.

Poet. Ay, that's well known:
But what particular rarity? what strange,
Which manifold record not matches? See,
Magick of bounty! all these spirits thy power
Hath conjur'd to attend. I know the merchant.

Pain. I know them both; t'other's a jeweller.

Mer. O, 'tis a worthy lord!

Jew. Nay, that's most fix'd.

Mer. A most incomparable man; breathed,¹
as it were,

To an untirable and continue² goodness:

He passes.³

Jew. I have a jewel here. [sir?

Mer. O, pray, let's see't: For the lord Timon,
J. If he will touch the estimate; But, for that—
Poet. *When we for recompense have prais'd the
It stains the glory in that happy verse [vile,
Which aptly sings the good.*

Mer. 'Tis a good form. [Looking at the jewel.

Jew. And rich: here is a water, look you.

Pain. You are rapt, sir, in some work, some
To the great lord. [dedication

Poet. A thing slipp'd idly from me.
Our poesy is as a gum, which oozes
From whence 'tis nourish'd: The fire i' the flint
Shows not till it be struck; our gentle flame

¹Inured. ²Continual. ³Exceeds the common.

Provokes itself, and, like the current, flies
Each bound it chafes. What have you there?

Pain. A picture, sir.—And when comes your
book forth?

Poet. Upon the heels of my presentment, sir.
Let's see your piece.

Pain. 'Tis a good piece.

Poet. So 'tis: this comes off well and excellent.

Pain. Indifferent.

Poet. Admirable: How this grace
Speaks his own standing! what a mental power
This eye shoots forth! how big imagination
Moves in this lip! to the dumbness of the ges-
One might interpret. [ture

Pain. It is a pretty mocking of the life.

Here is a touch; Is't good?

Poet. I'll say of it,

It tutors nature: artificial strife¹

Lives in these touches, livelier than life.

Enter certain Senators, and pass over.

Pain. How this lord's follow'd!

Poet. The senators of Athens:—Happy men!

Pain. Look, more!

Poet. You see this confluence, this great
flood of visitors.

I have, in this rough work, shap'd out a man,
Whom this beneath world doth embrace and hug
With amplest entertainment: My free drift
Halts not particularly,² but moves itself
In a wide sea of wax: no levell'd malice
Infects one comma in the course I hold;
But flies an eagle flight, bold, and forth on,
Leaving no tract behind.

Pain. How shall I understand you?

Poet. I'll unbolt to you.
You see how all conditions, how all minds,
(As well of glib and slippery creatures, as

¹The contest of art with nature.

²At any particular character.

Of grave and austere quality,) tender down
Their services to lord Timon: his large fortune,
Upon his good and gracious nature hanging,
Subdues and properties to his love and tendance
All sorts of hearts: yea, from the glass-fac'd
flatterer¹

To Apemantus, that few things loves better
Than to abhor himself; even he drops down
The knee before him, and returns in peace
Most rich in Timon's nod.

Pain. I saw them speak together.

Poet. Sir, I have upon a high and pleasant hill,
Feign'd Fortune to be thron'd: The base o' the
mount

Is rank'd with all deserts, all kind of natures,
That labour on the bosom of this sphere
To propagate their states²; amongst them all,
Whose eyes are on this sovereign lady fixed,
One do I personate of lord Timon's frame,
Whom Fortune with her ivory hands wafts to her;
Whose present grace to present slaves and ser-
Translates his rivals. [*vants*]

Pain. 'Tis conceiv'd to scope.
This throne, this Fortune, and this hill, methinks,
With one man beckon'd from the rest below,
Bowing his head against the steepy mount
To climb his happiness, would be well express'd
In our condition.

Poet. Nay, sir, but hear me on:
All those which were his fellows but of late,
(Some better than his value,) on the moment,
Follow his strides, his lobbies fill with tendance,
Rain sacrificial whisperings in his ear,
Make sacred even his stirrop, and through him
Drink the free air.

Pain. Ay, marry, what of these?

Poet. When Fortune in her shift and change
of mood,

Spurns down her late belov'd, all his dependents,
Which labour'd after him to the mountain's top,
Even on their knees and hands, let him slip down,
Not one accompanying his declining foot.

Pain. 'Tis common:

A thousand moral paintings I can show
That shall demonstrate these quick blows of
fortune

More pregnant than words. Yet you do well,
To show lord Timon that mean eyes have seen
The foot above the head.

Trumpets sound. Enter Timon, attended; the
Servant of Ventidius talking with him.

Tim. Imprison'd is he, say you?

Ven. Serv. Ay, my good lord: five talents is
his debt;

His means most short, his creditors most strait:
Your honourable letter he desires
To those have shut him up; which failing to him,
Periods his comfort.

Tim. Noble Ventidius! Well;
I am not of that feather, to shake off
My friend when he must needs me. I do know him,
A gentleman, that well deserves a help, [him].
Which he shall have: I'll pay the debt, and free

Ven. Serv. Your lordship ever binds him.

Tim. Commend me to him: I will send his
ransome;

And, being enfranchis'd, bid him come to me:—
'Tis not enough to help the feeble up,
But to support him after.—Fare you well.

Ven. S. All happiness to your honour. [*Exit.*]

Enter an old Athenian.

Old Ath. Lord Timon, hear me speak.

Tim. Freely, good father.

Old Ath. Thou hast a servant nam'd Lucilius.

Tim. I have so: What of him?

Old Ath. Most noble Timon, call the man be-
fore thee.

Tim. Attends he here, or no?—Lucilius!

Enter Lucilius.

Luc. Here, at your lordship's service.

Old Ath. This fellow here, lord Timon, this
thy creature,

By night frequents my house. I am a man
That from my first have been inclin'd to thrift,
And my estate deserves an heir more rais'd,
Than one which holds a trencher.

Tim. Well; what further?

Old Ath. One only daughter have I, no kin else,
On whom I may confer what I have got:
The maid is fair, o' the youngest for a bride,
And I have bred her at my dearest cost,
In qualities of the best. This man of thine
Attempts her love: I pr'ythee, noble lord,
Join with me to forbid him her resort;
Myself have spoke in vain.

Tim. The man is honest.

Old Ath. Therefore he will be, Timon:
His honesty rewards him in itself,
It must not bear my daughter.

Tim. Does she love him?

Old Ath. She is young and apt:
Our own precedent passions do instruct us
What levity's in youth.

Tim. [To Lucilius.] Love you the maid?

Luc. Ay, my good lord, and she accepts of it.

Old Ath. If in her marriage my consent be
missing,

I call the gods to witness, I will choose
Mine heir from forth the beggars of the world,
And dispossess her all.

Tim. How shall she be endow'd,
If she be mated with an equal husband?

Old Ath. Three talents, on the present; in
future, all.

T. This gentleman of mine hath serv'd me long;
To build his fortune, I will strain a little,
For 'tis a bond in men. Give him thy daughter:
What you bestow, in him I'll counterpoise,
And make him weigh with her.

Old Ath. Most noble lord,
Pawn me to this your honour, she is his.

Tim. My hand to thee; mine honour on my
promise.

Lu. Humbly I thank your lordship: Never may
That state or fortune fall into my keeping,
Which is not ow'd to you!

[*Exeunt Lucilius and old Athenian.*]

Poet. Vouchsafe my labour, and long live
your lordship!

T. I thank you; you shall hear from me
anon:

Go not away.—What have you there, my friend?

¹ Reflecting his patron's looks. ² Conditions of life.

Pain. A piece of painting, which I do beseech
Your lordship to accept.

Tim. Painting is welcome.
The painting is almost the natural man;
For since dishonour trafficks with man's nature,
He is but outside: These pencil'd figures are
Even such as they give out. I like your work;
And you shall find, I like it: wait attendance,
Till you hear further from me.

Pain. The gods preserve you!

Tim. Well fare you, gentlemen: Give me
your hand:
We must needs dine together.—Sir, your jewel
Hath suffer'd under praise.

Jew. What, my lord? dispraise?
Tim. A mere satiety of commendations.
If I should pay you for't as 'tis extoll'd,
It would unclew¹ me quite.

Jew. My lord, 'tis rated [know,
As those, which sell, would give: But you well
Things of like value, differing in the owners,
Are prized by their masters; believe't, dear lord,
You mend the jewel by wearing it.

Tim. Well mock'd.

Mer. No, my good lord; he speaks the com-
mon tongue,

Which all men speak with him. [chid?
Tim. Look, who comes here? Will you be

Enter Apemantus.

Jew. We will bear with your lordship.

Mer. He'll spare none.

Tim. Good morrow to thee, gentle Apemantus!

Apem. Till I be gentle, stay for thy good
morrow;

When thou art Timon's dog, and these knaves
honest.

Tim. Why dost thou call them knaves? thou
know'st them not.

Apem. Are they not Athenians?

Tim. Yes.

Apem. Then I repent not.

Jew. You know me, Apemantus.

Apem. Thou knowest, I do; I call'd thee by
thy name.

Tim. Thou art proud, Apemantus.

Apem. Of nothing so much, as that I am not
like Timon.

Tim. Whither art going?

A. To knock out an honest Athenian's brains.

Tim. That's a deed thou'lt die for.

A. Right, if doing nothing be death by the law.

Tim. How likest thou this picture, Apemantus?

Apem. The best, for the innocence.

Tim. Wrought he not well, that painted it?

Ap. He wrought better that made the painter;
and yet he's but a filthy piece of work.

Pain. You are a dog.

Apem. Thy mother's of my generation.

Tim. Wilt dine with me, Apemantus?

Apem. No, I eat not lords.

Tim. An thou shouldst, thou'dst anger ladies;
How dost thou like this jewel, Apemantus?

Apem. Not so well as plain dealing,² which
will not cost a man a doit.

¹ Ruin.

² Alluding to the proverb: Plain-dealing is a jewel,
but they who use it beggars.

Tim. What dost thou think 'tis worth?

A. Not worth my thinking.—How now, poet?

Poet. How now, philosopher?

Apem. Thou liest.

Poet. Art not one?

Apem. Yes.

Poet. Then I lie not.

Apem. Art not a poet?

Poet. Yes.

Apem. Then thou liest: look in thy last work,
where thou hast feign'd him a worthy fellow.

Poet. That's not feign'd, he is so.

Apem. Yes, he is worthy of thee, and to
pay thee for thy labour: He, that loves to be
flattered, is worthy o' the flatterer. Heavens,
that I were a lord!

Tim. What would'st do then, Apemantus?

Apem. Even as Apemantus does now, hate a
lord with my heart.

Tim. What, thyself?

Apem. Ay.

Tim. Wherefore?

Apem. That I had no angry wit to be a lord.—
Art not thou a merchant?

Mer. Ay, Apemantus.

A. Traffick confound thee, if the gods will not!

Mer. If traffick do it, the gods do it.

Ap. Traffick's thy god, and thy god confound
thee?

Trumpets sound. Enter a Servant.

Tim. What trumpet's that?

Serv. 'Tis Alcibiades and
Some twenty horse, all of companionship.

Tim. Pray, entertain them; give them guide
to us.— [Exeunt some Attendants.

You must needs dine with me:—Go not you
hence,

Till I have thank'd you; and when dinner's
done, [sighs.—

Show me this piece.—I am joyful of your

Enter Alcibiades, with his Company.

Most welcome, sir! [They salute.

Apem. So, so; there!—

Aches contract and starve your supple joints!—
That there should be small love 'mongst these
sweet knaves,

And all this court'sy! The strain of man's bred
Into baboon and monkey. [out

Alcib. Sir, you have sav'd my longing, and I feed
Most hungrily on your sight.

Tim. Right welcome, sir:

Ere we depart, we'll share a bounteous time

In different pleasures. Pray you, let us in.

[Exeunt all but Apemantus.

Enter two Lords.

1 Lord. What time a day is't, Apemantus?

Apem. Time to be honest.

1 Lord. That time serves still.

A. The most accursed thou, that still omit'st it.

2 Lord. Thou art going to lord Timon's feast.

Apem. Ay; to see meat fill knaves, and wine
heat fools.

2 Lord. Fare thee well, fare thee well.

Ap. Thou art a fool, to bid me farewell twice.

2 Lord. Why, Apemantus?

Apem. Shouldst have kept one to thyself, for I mean to give thee none.

1 *Lord.* Hang thyself.

Apem. No, I will do nothing at thy bidding; make thy requests to thy friend.

2 *Lord.* Away, unpeaceable dog, or I'll spurn thee hence.

Apem. I will fly, like a dog, the heels of the ass.

[*Exit.*

1 *Lord.* He's opposite to humanity. Come, shall we in,
And taste lord Timon's bounty? he outgoes
The very heart of kindness.

2 *Lord.* He pours it out; Plutus the god of gold
Is but his steward: no meed,¹ but he repays
Sevenfold above itself; no gift to him,
But breeds the giver a return exceeding
All use of quittance.

1 *Lord.* The noblest mind he carries,
That ever govern'd man.

2 *Lord.* Long may he live in fortunes! Shall
we in?

1 *Lord.* I'll keep you company. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

A ROOM OF STATE IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Hautboys playing loud Musick. A great Banquet served in; Flavius and others attending; then enter Timon, Alcibiades, Lucius, Lucullus, Sempronius, and other Athenian Senators, with Ventidius, and Attendants. Then comes, dropping after all, Apemantus, discontentedly.

Ven. Most honour'd Timon, 't hath pleased
the gods remember

My father's age, and call him to long peace.
He is gone happy, and has left me rich:
Then, as in grateful virtue I am bound
To your free heart, I do return those talents,
Doubled with thanks, and service, from whose
I deriv'd liberty. [*help*

Tim. O, by no means,
Honest Ventidius: you mistake my love;
I gave it freely ever; and there's none
Can truly say, he gives, if he receives:
If our betters play at that game, we must not
dare

To imitate them; Faults that are rich, are fair.

Ven. A noble spirit.

[*They all stand ceremoniously looking on Timon.*

Tim. Nay, my lords, ceremony
Was but devis'd at first, to set a gloss
On faint deeds, hollow welcomes,
Recanting goodness, sorry ere 'tis shown;
But where there is true friendship, there needs
none.

Pray sit; more welcome are ye to my fortunes,
Than my fortunes to me. [*They sit.*

1 *Lord.* My lord, we always have confessed it.

Apem. Ho, ho, confess'd it? hang'd it, have
you not?

Tim. O, Apemantus!—you are welcome.

Apem. No.

You shall not make me welcome:

I come to have thee thrust me out of doors.

1 Desert.

Tim. Fie, thou art a churl; you have got a
humour there

Does not become a man, 'tis much to blame:
They say, my lords, that *ira furor brevis est*,¹
But yond' man's ever angry.

Go, let him have a table by himself;

For he does neither affect company,

Nor is he fit for it, indeed.

Apem. Let me stay, at thine own peril, Timon:
I come to observe; I give thee warning on't.

Tim. I take no heed of thee; thou art an
Athenian; therefore welcome: I myself would
have no power: pr'ythee, let my meat make
thee silent.

Apem. I scorn thy meat; 'twould choke me,
for I should

Ne'er flatter thee.—O you gods! what a number
Of men eat Timon, and he sees them not!

It grieves me to see so many dip their meat
In one man's blood; and all the madness is,
He cheers them up too.

I wonder men dare trust themselves with men:
Methinks they should invite them without
knives;

Good for their meat, and safer for their lives.
There's much example for't; the fellow, that
Sits next him now, parts bread with him, and
pledges

The breath of him in a divided draught,
Is the readiest man to kill him: it has been
if I [prov'd.

Were a huge man, I should fear to drink at meals;
Lest they should spy my windpipe's dangerous
notes:

Great men should drink with harness² on their
throats.

Tim. My lord, in heart³; and let the health
go round.

2 *Lord.* Let it flow this way, my good lord.
Apem. Flow this way!

A brave fellow!—he keeps his tides well. Timon,
Those healths will make thee, and thy state,
look ill.

Here's that which is too weak to be a sinner,
Honest water, which ne'er left man i' the mire:
This, and my food, are equals: there's no odds.
Feasts are too proud to give thanks to the gods.

APEMANTUS' GRACE.

Immortal gods, I crave no pelf;

I pray for no man but myself;

Grant I may never prove so fond,⁴

To trust man on his oath or bond;

Or a wanton for her weeping;

Or a dog that seems a sleeping;

Or a keeper with my freedom;

Or my friends, if I should need 'em.

Amen. So fall to't:

Rich men sin, and I eat root.

[*Eats and drinks.*

Much good dich⁵ thy good heart, Apemantus!

Tim. Captain Alcibiades, your heart's in the
field now.

Alcib. My heart is ever at your service, my lord.

Tim. You had rather be at a breakfast of
enemies, than a dinner of friends.

1 Anger is a short madness.

2 Armour.

3 With sincerity.

4 Foolish.

5 Do it.

Alcib. So they were bleeding-new, my lord, there's no meat like them; I could wish my best friend at such a feast.

Apem. 'Would all those flatterers were thine enemies then; that then thou might'st kill 'em, and bid me to 'em.

1 Lord. Might we but have that happiness, my lord, that you would once use our hearts, whereby we might express some part of our zeals, we should think ourselves for ever perfect.

Tim. O, no doubt, my good friends, but the gods themselves have provided that I shall have much help from you? How had you been my friends else? why have you that charitable title from thousands, did you not chiefly belong to my heart? I have told more of you to myself, than you can with modesty speak in your own behalf; and thus far I confirm you. O, you gods, think I, what need we have any friends, if we should never have need of them? they were the most needless creatures living, should we ne'er have use for them; and would most resemble sweet instruments hung up in cases, that keep their sounds to themselves. Why, I have often wished myself poorer, that I might come nearer to you. We are born to do benefits: and what better or properer can we call our own, than the riches of our friends? O, what a precious comfort 'tis, to have so many, like brothers, commanding one another's fortunes! O joy, e'en made away ere it can be born! Mine eyes cannot hold out water, methinks: to forget their faults, I drink to you.

Apem. Thou weepest to make them drink, Timon.

2 Lord. Joy had the like conception in our eyes.

3 L. I promise you, my lord, you mov'd me much.

Apem. Much! [Trucket sounded.]

Tim. What means that trumpet?—How now?

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Please you, my lord, there are certain ladies most desirous of admittance.

Tim. Ladies? what are their wills?

Serv. There comes with them a forerunner, my lord, which bears that office, to signify their pleasures.

Tim. I pray, let them be admitted.

Enter Cupid.

Cup. Hail to thee, worthy Timon;—and to all That of his bounties taste!—The five best senses Acknowledge thee their patron; and come freely To gratulate thy plenteous bosom: The ear, Taste, touch, smell, all pleas'd from thy table rise;

They only now come but to feast thine eyes.

Tim. They are welcome all; let them have kind admittance:

Musick, make their welcome. [Exit Cupid.]

1 Lord. You see, my lord, how ample you are belov'd.

Musick. Re-enter Cupid, with a Masque of Ladies as Amazons, with Lutes in their Hands, dancing, and playing.

Apem. Hey day, what a sweep of vanity comes this way!

They dance! they are mad women.

Like madness is the glory of this life,
As this pomp shows to a little oil, and root.
We make ourselves fools, to disport ourselves;
And spend our flatteries with poisonous spite and
Who lives, that's not [envy.
Depraved, or depraves? who dies, that bears
Not one spurn to their graves of their friends'
gift?

I should fear, those, that dance before me now,
Would one day stamp upon me: It has been
done;

Men shut their doors against a setting sun.

The Lords rise from Table with much adoring of Timon; and to show their Loves, each singles out an Amazon, and all dance, Men with Women, a lofty Strain or two to the Hautboys, and cease.

T. You have done our pleasures much grace,
fair ladies,

Set a fair fashion on our entertainment,
Which was not half so beautiful and kind;
You have added worth unto't, and lively lustre,
And entertain'd me with mine own device;
I am to thank you for it.

1 Lady. My lord, you take us even at the best.

Apem. Faith for the worst is filthy.

Tim. Ladies, there is an idle banquet
Attends you: Please you to dispose yourselves.
All Lad. Most thankfully, my lord.

[Exit Cupid, and Ladies.]

Tim. Flavius,——

Flav. My lord.

Tim. The little casket bring me hither.

Flav. Yes, mylord. —[Aside.] More jewels yet!
There is no crossing him in his humour;
Else I should tell him,—Well,—i' faith, I should,
When all's spent, he'd be cross'd! then, an he
could.

'Tis pity, bounty had not eyes behind;
That man might ne'er be wretched for his mind.³

[Exit, and returns with the Casket.]

1 Lord. Where be our men?

Serv. Here, my lord, in readiness.

2 Lord. Our horses.

Tim. O my friends, I have one word
To say to you:—Look you, my good lord, I must
Entreat you, honour me so much, as to
Advance this jewel;

Accept, and wear it, kind my lord.

1 Lord. I am so far already in your gifts,—

All. So are we all.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. My lord, there are certain nobles of the
Newly alighted, and come to visit you. [senate
Tim. They are fairly welcome.

Flav. I beseech your honour,
Vouchsafe me a word: it does concern you near.

Tim. Near? why then another time I'll hear
I pry'thee, let us be provided [thee:
To show them entertainment.

Flav. [Aside.] I scarce know how.

Enter another Servant.

2 S. May it please your honour, the Lord Lucius,

¹ Have his hand crossed with money.

² To see the ruin he leaves in his wake.

³ Following his inclinations.

Out of his free love, hath presented to you
Four milk-white horses, trapp'd in silver.
Tim. I shall accept them fairly: let the presents

Enter a third Servant.

Be worthily entertain'd.—How now, what news?
3 Serv. Please you, my lord, that honourable
gentleman, lord Lucullus, entreats your company to-
morrow to hunt with him; and has sent your
honour two brace of greyhounds.

T. I'll hunt with him; And let them be receiv'd,
Not without fair reward.

Flav. [Aside.] What will this come to?
He commands us to provide, and give great gifts,
And all out of an empty coffer.—
Nor will he know his purse; or yield me this,
To show him what a beggar his heart is,
Being of no power to make his wishes good;
His promises fly so beyond his state,
That what he speaks is all in debt, he owes
For every word; he is so kind, that he now
Pays interest for't; his lands put to their books.
Well, 'would I were gently put out of office,
Before I were forc'd out!

Happier is he that has no friend to feed,
Than such as do even enemies exceed.
I bleed inwardly for my lord. *[Exit.]*

Tim. You do yourselves
Much wrong, you bait too much of your own
merits:

Here, my lord, a trifle of our love.

2 Lord. With more than common thanks I
will receive it.

3 Lord. O, he is the very soul of bounty!
T. And now I remember me, my lord, you gave
Good words the other day of a bay courser
I rode on: it is yours, because you lik'd it.

2 L. I beseech you, pardon me, my lord, in that.

T. You may take my word, my lord; I know, no
man

Can justly praise, but what he does affect;
I weigh my friend's affection with mine own:
I'll tell you true, I'll call on you.

All Lords. None so welcome.

Tim. I take all and your several visitations
So kind to heart, 'tis not enough to give;
Methinks, I could deal kingdoms to my friends,
And ne'er be weary.—Alciades,
Thou art a soldier, therefore seldom rich,
It comes in charity to thee: for all thy living
Is 'mongst the dead; and all the lands thou hast
Lie in a pitch'd field.

Alcib. Ay, defiled land, my lord.

1 Lord. We are so virtuously bound,—

Tim. And so

Am I to you.

2 Lord. So infinitely endear'd,—

Tim. All to you.—Lights, more lights.

1 Lord. The best of happiness,

Honour, and fortunes, keep with you, lord
Tim. Ready for his friends. *[Timon!]*

[Exeunt Alc., Lords, &c.]

Apem. What a coil's here! serving of becks!
I doubt whether their legs be worth the sums
That are given for 'em. Friendship's full of
dregs:

Methinks, false hearts should never have sound

1 (All happiness to you.)

2 Salutations.

Thus honest fools lay out their wealth on
court'sies.

Tim. Now, Apemantus, if thou wert not
I'd be good to thee. *[Sullen.]*

Apem. No, I'll nothing; for,
If I should be brib'd too, there would be none left
To rail upon thee; and then thou wouldst sin
the faster.

Thou giv'st so long, Timon, I fear me, thou
Wilt give away thyself in paper shortly!

What needs these feasts, pomps, and vain

Tim. Nay, *[glories?]*

Am you begin to rail on society once,
I am sworn, not to give regard to you.

Farewell; and come with better musick. *[Exit.]*

Apem. So;—

Thou'lt not hear me now,—thou shalt not then,

I'll lock *[be]*
Thy heaven² from thee. O, that men's ears should
To counsel deaf, but not to flattery! *[Exit.]*

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN A SENATOR'S HOUSE.

Enter a Senator, with Papers in his Hand.

Sen. And late, five thousand to Varro; and to
Isidore

He owes nine thousand; besides my former
sum,

Which makes it five and twenty.—Still in motion
Of raging waste? It cannot hold; it will not.

If I want gold, steal but a beggar's dog,
And give it Timon, why, the dog coins gold:

If I would sell my horse, and buy twenty more
Better than he, why, give my horse to Timon,

Ask nothing, give it him, it foals me, straight,
And able horses: no porter at his gate;

But rather one that smiles, and still invites
All that pass by. It cannot hold; no reason

Can found his state in safety. Caphis, ho!
Caphis, I say!

Enter Caphis.

Caph. Here, sir; what is your pleasure?

Sen. Get on your cloak, and haste you to
lord Timon:

Impörtune him for my monies: be not ceas'd³
With slight denial; nor then silenc'd, when—

Commend me to your master—and the cap
Plays in the right hand, thus:—but tell him,

My uses cry to me, I must serve my turn *[sirrah]*,
Out of mine own; his days and times are past,

And my reliances on his fractur'd⁴ dates⁵
Have smit my credit; I love and honour him;

But must not break my back, to heal his finger:
Immediate are my needs; and my relief

Must not be toss'd and turn'd to me in words,
But find supply immediate. Get you gone:

Put on a most importunate aspect,
A visage of demand; for, I do fear,

When every feather sticks in his own wing,
Lord Timon will be left a naked gull,

Which flashes now a phoenix. Get you gone.

¹ Be ruined by the bills he gives.

² That which is thy heaven—flattery.

³ Stopped. ⁴ Broken. ⁵ (Of dishonoured bills.)

Caph. I go, sir.

Sen. I go, sir?—take the bonds along with
And have the dates in compt.¹ [you,

Caph. I will, sir.

Sen. Go. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A HALL IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter Flavius, with many Bills in his Hand.

Flav. No care, no stop! so senseless of expense,
That he will neither know how to maintain it,
Nor cease his flow of riot: Takes no account
How things go from him; nor resumes no care
Of what is to continue: Never mind
Was to be so unwise, to be so kind.
What shall be done? He will not hear, till feel:
I must be round with him now he comes from
Fie, fie, fie, fie! [hunting.

Enter Caphis, and the Servants of Isidore and Varro.

Caph. Good even, Varro: What,
You come for money?

Var. Serv. Is't not your business too?

Caph. It is;—And yours too, Isidore?

Isid. Serv. It is so.

Caph. 'Would we were all discharg'd?

Var. Serv. I fear it.

Caph. Here comes the lord.

Enter Timon, Alcibiades, and Lords, &c.

Tim. So soon as dinner's done, we'll forth
again,

My Alcibiades.—With me? What's your will?

Caph. My lord, here is a note of certain dues.

Tim. Dues? Whence are you?

Caph. Of Athens here, my lord.

Tim. Go to my steward.

Ca. Please it your lordship, he hath put me off
To the succession of new days this month:

My master is awak'd by great occasion,
To call upon his own; and humbly prays you,
That with your other noble parts you'll suit,
In giving him his right.

Tim. Mine honest friend,
I pry'thee, but repair to me next morning.

Caph. Nay, good my lord,—

Tim. Contain thyself, good friend.

Var. Serv. One Varro's servant, my good lord,—
Isid. Serv. From Isidore;

He humbly prays your speedy payment,—

Caph. If you did know, my lord, my master's
wants,—

Var. Serv. 'Twas due, on forfeiture, my lord,
six weeks,
And past,—

Isid. Serv. Your steward puts me off, my lord;
And I am sent expressly to your lordship.

Tim. Give me breath:—

I do beseech you, good my lords, keep on;

[Exeunt Alcibiades and Lords.

I'll wait upon you instantly.—[To Flavius.] Come
hither, pray you,

How goes the world, that I am thus encounter'd
With clamorous demands of date-broke bonds,
And the detention of long-since-due debts,
Against my honour?

1 Reckoning.

Flav. Please you, gentlemen,
The time is unagreeable to this business:
Your importunity cease, till after dinner;
That I may make his lordship understand
Wherefore you are not paid.

Tim. Do so, my friends:
See them well entertain'd. [Exit Tim.

Flav. I pray, draw near. [Exit Flavius.

Enter Apemantus and a Fool.

Caph. Stay, stay, here comes the fool with
Apemantus; let's have some sport with 'em.

Var. Serv. Hang him, he'll abuse us.

Isid. Serv. A plague upon him, dog!

Var. Serv. How dost, fool?

Apem. Dost dialogue with thy shadow?

Var. Serv. I speak not to thee.

Apem. No; 'tis to thyself,—Come away.

[To the Fool.

Isid. Serv. [To Var. Serv.] There's the fool
hangs on your back already.

Apem. No, thou stand'st single, thou art not
on him yet.

Caph. Where's the fool now?

Apem. Helast ask'd the question.—Poor rogues,
and usurers' men! between gold and want!

All Serv. What are we, Apemantus?

Apem. Asses.

All Serv. Why?

Apem. That you ask me what you are, and
do not know yourselves.—Speak to 'em, fool.

Fool. How do you, gentlemen?

All Serv. Gramercies, good fool: How does
your mistress?

Enter Page.

Fool. Look you, here comes my mistress'
page.

Page. [To the Fool.] Why, how now, captain?
what do you in this wise company?—How dost
thou, Apemantus?

Apem. 'Would I had a rod in my mouth, that
I might answer thee profitably.

Page. Pry'thee, Apemantus, read me the
superscription of these letters; I know not
which is which.

Apem. Canst not read?

Page. No.

Apem. There will little learning die then,
that day thou art hanged. This is to lord
Timon; this to Alcibiades. Go.

Page. Thou wast whelped a dog; and thou
shalt famish, a dog's death. Answer not, I am
gone. [Exit Page.

Apem. Even so thou out-run'st grace. Fool,
I will go with you to lord Timon's.

Fool. Will you leave me there?

Apem. If Timon stay at home.—You three
serve three usurers?

All Serv. 'Would they served us!

Apem. So would I,—as good a trick as ever
hangman served thief.

Fool. Are you three usurers' men?

All Serv. Ay, fool.

Fool. I think, no usurer but has a fool to his
servant: My mistress is one, and I am her fool.
When men come to borrow of your masters,
they approach sadly, and go away merry; but

they enter my mistress' house merrily, and go away sadly. The reason of this?

Var. Serv. I could render one.

Apem. Do it then, that we may account thee a knave; which, notwithstanding, thou shalt be no less esteemed.

Var. Serv. What is a knave, fool?

Fool. A fool in good clothes, and something like thee. 'Tis a spirit; sometime, it appears like a lord; sometime, like a lawyer; sometime, like a philosopher, with two stones more than his artificial one; He is very often like a knight; and, generally, in all shapes, that man goes up and down in, from fourscore to thirteen, this spirit walks in.

Var. Serv. Thou art not altogether a fool.

Fool. Nor thou altogether a wiseman: as much foolery as I have, so much wit thou lackest.

A. That answer might have become *Ape-mantus*.

All Serv. Aside, aside; here comes lord Timon.

Re-enter Timon and Flavius.

Apem. Come, with me, fool, come.

Fool. I do not always follow lover, elder brother, and woman; sometime, the philosopher.

[*Exeunt Apemantus and Fool.*]

Flav. 'Pray you, walk near; I'll speak with you anon.

[*Exeunt Serv.*]

Tim. You make me marvel: Wherefore, ere this time;

Had you not fully laid my state before me; That I might so have rated my expense, As I had leave of means?

Flav. You would not hear me. At many leasures I propos'd.

Tim. Go to: Perchance, some single vantages you took, When my indisposition put you back; And that unaptness made your minister, Thus to excuse yourself.

Flav. O my good lord! At many times I brought in my accounts, Laid them before you; you would throw them off, And say, you found them in mine honesty. When, for some trifling present, you have bid me Return so much, I have shook my head, and wept; Yea, 'gainst the authority of manners, pray'd you To hold your hand more close: I did endure Not seldom, nor no slight checks; when I have Prompted you, in the ebb of your estate, And your great flow of debts. My dear-lov'd lord, Though you hear now, (too late!) yet now's a time,

The greatest of your having lacks a half To pay your present debts.

Tim. Let all my land be sold.

Flav. 'Tis all engag'd, some forfeited and gone; And what remains will hardly stop the mouth Of present dues: the future comes apace: What shall defend the interim? and at length How goes our reckoning?

Tim. To Lacedæmon did my land extend.

Flav. O my good lord, the world is but a word; Were it all yours to give it in a breath, How quickly were it gone?

Tim. You tell me true.

Fl. If you suspect my husbandry, or falsehood,

Call me before the exactest auditors, And set me on the proof. So the gods bless me, When all our offices have been oppress'd With riotous feeders; when our vaults have wept With drunken spilth of wine; when every room Hath blaz'd with lights, and bray'd with min- I have retir'd me to a wasteful cock, [strelay: And set mine eyes at flow.

Tim. Pr'ythee, no more.

Fl. Heavens, have I said, the bounty of this lord! [sants, How many prodigal bits have slaves, and pea- This night englutted! Who is not Timon's? What heart, head, sword, force, means, but is lord Timon's?

Great Timon, noble, worthy, royal Timon?

Ah! when the means are gone, that buy this praise,

The breath is gone whereof this praise is made: Feast-won, fast-lost; one cloud of winter showers, These flies are couch'd.

Tim. Come, sermon me no further: No villainous bounty yet hath pass'd my heart; Unwisely, not ignobly, have I given.

Why dost thou weep? Canst thou the conscience lack,

To think I shall lack friends? Secure thy heart; If I would broach the vessels of my love, And try the argument of hearts by borrowing, Men, and men's fortunes, could I frankly use, As I can bid thee speak.

Flav. Assurance bless your thoughts

Tim. And, in some sort, these wants of mine are crown'd,

That I account them blessings; for by these Shall I try friends: You shall perceive, how you Mistake my fortunes: I am wealthy in my friends. Within there, ho!—Flaminius, Servilius!

Enter Flaminius, Servilius, and other Servants.

Serv. My lord, my lord,—

Tim. I will despatch you severally.—You, to lord Lucius.—

To lord Lucullus you; I hunted with his Honour to-day;—You to Sempronius; Commend me to their loves; and, I am proud, say That my occasions have found time to use them Toward a supply of money: let the request Be fifty talents.

Flam. As you have said, my lord.

Flav. [*Aside.*] Lord Lucius, and lord Lucullus? humph!

Tim. [*To another Serv.*] Go you, sir, to the senators,

(Of whom, even to the state's best health, I have Deserv'd this hearing,) bid 'em send o' the instant A thousand talents to me.

Flav. I have been bold, (For that I knew it the most general way,) To them to use your signet, and your name; But they do shake their heads, and I am here No richer in return.

Tim. Is't true? can it be?

Fl. They answer, in a joint and corporate voice, That now they are at fall, want treasure, cannot Do what they would; are sorry—you are honourable,— [but

But yet they could have wish'd—they know not—

Something hath been amiss—a noble nature
May catch a wretch—would all were well—'tis
pity—

And so, intending¹ other serious matters,
After distasteful looks, and these hard fractions,
With certain half-caps,² and cold-moving nods,
They froze me into silence.

Tim. You gods, reward them !—
I pry'thee, man, look cheerly; these old fellows
Have their ingratitude in them hereditary:
Their blood is cak'd, 'tis cold, it seldom flows;
'Tis lack of kindly warmth, they are not kind;
And nature, as it grows again toward earth,
Is fashion'd for the journey, dull, and heavy.—
[*To a Serv.*] Go to Ventidius,—[*To Flav.*] 'Pr'y-
thee, be not sad,

Thou art true, and honest; ingeniously³ I speak,
No blame belongs to thee: [*To Serv.*] Ventidius
lately

Buried his father; by whose death, he's stepp'd
Into a great estate: when he was poor,
Imprison'd, and in scarcity of friends, [me;
I clear'd him with five talents; Greet him from
Bid him suppose, some good necessity [ber'd
Touches his friend, which craves to be remem-
With those five talents:—that had,—[*To Flav.*]
give it these fellows

To whom 'tis instant due. Ne'er speak, or think,
That Timon's fortunes 'mong his friends can sink.

Flav. I would, I could not think it; that
thought is bounty's foe;
Being free⁴ itself, it thinks all others so. [*Exeunt.*

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN LUCULLUS' HOUSE.

Flaminius waiting. Enter a Servant to him.

Serv. I have told my lord of you; he is coming
down to you.

Flam. I thank you, sir.

Enter Lucullus.

Serv. Here's my lord.

Lucul. [*Aside.*] One of lord Timon's men? a
gift, I warrant. Why this hits right; I dreamt
of a silver basin and ewer to-night. Flaminius,
honest Flaminius; you are very respectively⁵
welcome, sir.—Fill me some wine.—[*Exit Servant.*]
And how does that honourable, com-
plete, free-hearted gentleman of Athens, thy
very bountiful good lord and master?

Flam. His health is well, sir.

Lucul. I am right glad that his health is well,
sir. And what hast thou there, under thy
cloak, pretty Flaminius?

Flam. Faith, nothing but an empty box, sir;
which, in my lord's behalf, I come to entreat
your honour to supply; who, having great and
instant occasion to use fifty talents, hath sent
to your lordship to furnish him; nothing doubt-
ing your present assistance therein.

Lucul. La, la, la, la,—nothing doubting, says
he? alas, good lord! a noble gentleman 'tis, if

1 Attending. 2 A cap slightly mov'd, not put off.
3 For ingenuously. 4 Liberal. 5 For respectfully.

he would not keep so good a house. Many a
time and often I have din'd with him, and told
him on't; and come again to supper to him, of
purpose to have him spend less: and yet he
would embrace no counsel, take no warning by
my coming. Every man has his fault, and
honesty¹ is his; I have told him on't, but I
could never get him from it.

Re-enter Servant with Wine.

Serv. Please your lordship, here is the wine.

Lucul. Flaminius, I have noted thee always
wise. Here's to thee.

Flam. Your lordship speaks your pleasure.

Lucul. I have observed thee always for a to-
wardly prompt spirit,—give thee thy due,—and
one that knows what belongs to reason; and
canst use the time well, if the time use thee
well: good parts in thee.—[*To the Servant, who
goes out.*]—Get you gone, sirrah.—Draw nearer,
honest Flaminius. Thy lord's a bountiful gentle-
man: but thou art wise; and thou knowest well
enough, although thou comest to me, that this
is no time to lend money; especially upon bare
friendship, without security. Here's three so-
lidares for thee; good boy, wink at me, and say,
thou sawest me not. Fare thee well.

Flam. Is't possible, the world should so much
differ;

And we alive, that liv'd? Fly, accursed baseness,
To him that worships thee.

[*Throwing the money away.*

Lucul. Ha! Now I see thou art a fool, and fit
for thy master. [*Exit Lucullus.*

Flam. May these add to the number that may
scald thee!

Thou disease of a friend, and not himself!
Has friendship such a faint and milky heart,
It turns in less than two nights? O, you gods,
I feel my master's passion²! This slave
Unto his honour, has my lord's meat in him:
Why should it thrive, and turn to nutriment,
When he is turn'd to poison?
O, may diseases only work upon't!
And, when he is sick to death, let not that part
of nature

Which my lord paid for, be of any power
To expel sickness, but prolong his hour! [*Exit.*

SCENE II.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Lucius, with three Strangers.

Luc. Who, the lord Timon? he is my very
good friend, and an honourable gentleman.

1 *Stran.* We know him for no less, though we
are but strangers to him. But I can tell you one
thing, my lord, and which I hear from common
rumours; now lord Timon's happy hours are
done and past, and his estate shrinks from him.

Luc. Fie, no, do not believe it: he cannot want
for money.

2 *Stran.* But believe you this, my lord, that
not long ago, one of his men was with the lord
Lucullus, to borrow so many talents; nay, urged
extremely for't, and show'd what necessity be-
long'd to't, and yet was denied.

Luc. How?

1 (Liberal.) 2 Suffering.

2 *Stran.* I tell you, denied, my lord.

Luc. What a strange case was that? now, before the gods, I am ashamed on't. Denied that honourable man? there was very little honour show'd in't. For my own part, I must needs confess, I have received some small kindnesses from him, as money, plate, jewels, and such like trifles, nothing comparing to his; yet, had he mistook him, and sent to me, I should ne'er have denied his occasion so many talents.

Enter Servilius.

Ser. See, by good hap, yonder's my lord; I have sweat to see his honour.—[*To Lucius.*] My honoured lord,—

Luc. Servilius! you are kindly met, sir. Fare thee well:—Commend me to thy honourable-virtuous lord, my very exquisite friend.

Ser. May it please your honour, my lord hath sent—

Luc. Ha! what has he sent? I am so much endeared to that lord; he's ever sending: How shall I thank him, thinkest thou? And what has he sent now?

Ser. He has only sent his present occasion now, my lord; requesting your lordship to supply his instant use with so many talents.

Luc. I know, his lordship is but merry with me; He cannot want fifty-five hundred talents.

Ser. But in the meantime he wants less, my lord. If his occasion were not virtuous,¹ I should not urge it half so faithfully.

Luc. Dost thou speak seriously, Servilius?

Ser. Upon my soul, 'tis true, sir.

Luc. What a wicked beast was I, to disfigure myself against such a good time, when I might have shown myself honourable! how unluckily it happened, that I should purchase the day before for a little part, and undo a great deal of honour!—Servilius, now, before the gods, I am not able to do't; the more beast, I say:—I was sending to use lord Timon myself, these gentlemen can witness; But I would not for the wealth of Athens, I had done it now. Commend me bountifully to his good lordship; and I hope, his honour will conceive the fairest of me, because I have no power to be kind: And tell him this from me, I count it one of my greatest afflictions, say, that I cannot pleasure such an honourable gentleman. Good Servilius, will you befriend me so far, as to use mine own words to him?

Ser. Yes, sir, I shall.

Luc. I will look you out a good turn, Servilius.—

[*Exit Servilius.*]

True, as you said, Timon is shrunk, indeed; And he, that's once denied, will hardly speed.

[*Exit Lucius.*]

1 *Stran.* Do you observe this, Hostilius?

2 *Stran.* Ay, too well.

1 *Stran.* Why this

Is the world's soul; and just of the same piece Is every flatterer's spirit. In my knowing, The noble Timon has been this lord's father, And kept his credit with his purse; Supported his estate; nay, Timon's money Has paid his men their wages; He ne'er drinks, But Timon's silver treads upon his lip;

1 Proper necessity.

And yet, (O, see the monstrousness of man When he looks out in an ungrateful shape!) He does deny him, in respect of his, What charitable men afford to beggars.

3 *Stran.* Religion groans at it.

1 *Stran.* For mine own part, I never tasted Timon in my life, Nor came any of his bounties over me, To mark me for his friend; yet, I protest, For his right noble mind, illustrious virtue And honourable carriage, Had his necessity made use of me, I would have put my wealth into donation, And the best half should have return'd to him, So much I love his heart: But, I perceive, Men must learn now with pity to dispense: For policy sits above conscience. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN SEMPRONIUS' HOUSE.

Enter Sempronius, and a Servant of Timon's.

Sem. Must he needs trouble me in't? 'Bove all others?

He might have tried lord Lucius, or Lucullus; And now Ventidius is wealthy too, Whom he redeem'd from prison: All these three Owe their estates unto him.

Serv. O my lord, They have all been touch'd, and found base metal; They have all denied him!

[*For Sem.*] How! have they denied him?

Has Ventidius and Lucullus denied him? And does he send to me? Three? humph!—It shows but little love or judgment in him.

Must I be his last refuge! His friends, like physicians,

Thrive, give him over; Must I take the cure upon me? [him]

He has much disgrac'd me in't; I am angry at That might have known my place: I see no sense for't,

But his occasions might have woo'd me first; For, in my conscience, I was the first man That e'er receiv'd gift from him:

And does he think so backwardly of me now, That I'll requite it last? No: So it may prove An argument of laughter to the rest, And I amongst the lords be thought a fool.

I had rather than the worth of thrice the sum, He had sent to me first, but for my mind's sake; I had such a courage to do him good. But now return,

And with their faint reply this answer join; Who bates mine honour shall not know my coin.

[*Exit.*]

Serv. Excellent! Your lordship's a goodly villain. The devil knew not what he did, when he made man politic; he crossed himself by it: and I cannot think, but in the end, the villainies of man will set him clear. How fairly this lord strives to appear foul! takes virtuous copies to be wicked; like those that, under hot ardent zeal, would set whole realms on fire. Of such a nature is his politic love.

This was my lord's best hopes; now all are fled, Save the gods only: Now his friends are dead, Doors, that were ne'er acquainted with their wards

Many a bounteous year, must be employ'd
Now to guard sure their master.
And this is all a liberal course allows;
Who cannot keep his wealth, must keep his
house. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—A HALL IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter two Servants of Varro, and the Servant of
Lucius, meeting Titus, Hortensius, and other
Servants to Timon's Creditors, waiting his
coming out.

Var. Serv. Well met; good morrow, Titus
and Hortensius.

Tit. The like to you, kind Varro.

Hor. Lucius?

What, do we meet together?

Luc. Serv. —Ay, and, I think,
One business does command us all; for mine
is money.

Tit. So is theirs and ours.

Enter Philotus.

Luc. Serv. —And sir
Philotus too!

Phi. Good day at once.

Luc. Serv. Welcome, good brother.
What do you think the hour?

Phi. Labouring for nine.

Luc. Serv. So much?

Phi. Is not my lord seen yet?

Luc. Serv. Not yet.

P. I wonder on't: he was wont to shine at seven.

Luc. Serv. Ay, but the days are waxed shorter
with him:

You must consider, that a prodigal course
Is like the sun's; but not, like his, recoverable.
I fear,

'Tis deepest winter in lord Timon's purse;
That is, one may reach deep enough, and yet
Find little.

Phi. I am of your fear for that.

T. I'll show you how to observe a strange event.
Your lord sends now for money.

Hor. Most true, he does.

Tit. And he wears jewels now of Timon's gift,
For which I wait for money.

Hor. It is against my heart.

Luc. Serv. Mark, how strange it shows,
Timon in this should pay more than he owes;
And e'en as if your lord should wear rich jewels,
And send for money for 'em.

Hor. I am weary of this charge, the gods can
witness:

I know, my lord hath spent of Timon's wealth,
And now ingratitude makes it worse than stealth.

1 Var. Serv. Yes, mine's three thousand crowns:
What's yours?

Luc. Serv. Five thousand mine.

1 Var. Serv. 'Tis much deep: and it should
seem by the sum,

Your master's confidence was above mine;
Else, surely his had equal'd.

Enter Flaminius.

Tit. One of lord Timon's men.

Luc. Serv. Flaminius! sir, a word: 'Pray, is
my lord ready to come forth?

Flam. No, indeed, he is not

Tit. We attend his lordship; 'pray, signify so
much.

Flam. I need not tell him that: he knows
you are too diligent. [Exit Flaminius.]

Enter Flavius in a Cloak, muffled.

Luc. Ser. Ha! is not that his steward muffled
so?

He goes away in a cloud: call him, call him.

Tit. Do you hear, sir.

1 Var. Serv. By your leave, sir,—

Flav. What do you ask of me, my friend?

Tit. We wait for certain money here, sir.

Flav. Ay,

If money were as certain as your waiting,
'Twere sure enough. Why then prefer'd you not
Your sums and bills, when your false masters eat
Of my lord's meat? Then they could smile, and
fawn

Upon his debts, and take down th' interest
Into their gluttonous maws. You do yourselves
but wrong,

To stir me up; let me pass quietly:

Believe 't, my lord and I have made an end:

I have no more to reckon, he to spend.

Luc. Serv. Ay, but this answer will not serve.

Flav. If 'twill not,

'Tis not so base as you; for you serve knaves. [Exit.]

1 Var. Serv. How! what does his cashier'd
worship mutter?

2 Var. Serv. No matter what; he's poor, and
that's revenge enough. Who can speak broader
than he that has no house to put his head in?
such may rail against great buildings.

Enter Servilius.

Tit. O, here's Servilius; now we shall know
Some answer.

Ser. If I might beseech you, gentlemen,
To repair some other hour, I should much
Derive from it: for, take it on my soul,
My lord leans wond'rously to discontent.
His comfortable temper has forsook him;
He is much out of health, and keeps his chamber.

Luc. Serv. Many do keep their chambers, are
not sick:

And, if it be so far beyond his health,
Methinks, he should the sooner pay his debts,
And make a clear way to the gods.

Ser.

Good gods!

Tit. We cannot take this for an answer, sir.

Flam. [Within.] Servilius, help!—my lord!
my lord!—

Enter Timon in a rage; Flaminius following.

Tim. What, are my doors oppos'd against my
passage?

Have I been ever free, and must my house

Be my retentive enemy, my gaol?

The place, which I have feasted, does it now,

Like all mankind, show me an iron heart?

Luc. Serv. Put in now, Titus.

Tit. My lord, here is my bill.

Luc. Serv. Here's mine.

Hor. Serv. And mine, my lord.

Both Var. Serv. And ours, my lord.

Phi. All our bills.

Tim. Knock me down with 'em¹: cleave me to the girdle.

Luc. Serv. Alas! my lord,——

Tim. Cut my heart in sums.

Tit. Mine, fifty talents.

Tim. Tell out my blood.

Luc. Serv. Five thousand crowns, my lord.

Tim. Five thousand drops pays that.—

What yours?—and yours?

1 Var. Serv. My lord,——

2 Var. Serv. My lord,——

Tim. Tear me, take me, and the gods fall upon you! [Exit.]

Hor. 'Faith, I perceive our masters may throw their caps at their money; these debts may well be call'd desperate ones, for a madman owes 'em.

[Exeunt.]

Re-enter Timon and Flavius.

T. They have e'en put my breath from me, the Creditors!—devils. [slaves:]

Flav. My dear lord,——

Tim. What if it should be so?

Flav. My lord,——

Tim. I'll have it so:—My steward!

Flav. Here, my lord.

Tim. So fitly? Go, bid all my friends again, Lucius, Lucullus, and Sempronius; all: I'll once more feed the rascals.

Flav. O my lord,
You only speak from your distracted soul;
There is not so much left to furnish out
A moderate table.

Tim. Be't not in thy care; go,
I charge thee; invite them all: let in the tide
Of knaves once more; my cook and I'll provide.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—THE SENATE-HOUSE.

The Senate sitting. Enter Alcibiades, attended.

1 Sen. My lord, you have my voice to it; the fault's

Bloody; 'tis necessary he should die:

Nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy.

2 Sen. Most true; the law shall bruise him.

Alcib. Honour, health, and compassion to the senate;

1 Sen. Now, captain?

Alcib. I am an humble suitor to your virtues;
For pity is the virtue of the law,
And none but tyrants use it cruelly.
It pleases time, and fortune, to lie heavy
Upon a friend of mine, who in hot blood,
Hath stepp'd into the law, which is past depth
To those that, without heed, do plunge into it.
He is a man, setting his fate aside,
Of comely virtues:

Nor did he soil the fact with cowardice;

(An honour in him which buys out his fault,)

But, with a noble fury, and fair spirit,

Seeing his reputation touch'd to death,

He did oppose his foe:

And with such sober and unnoted passion

He did behave² his anger, ere 'twas spent,

As if he had but prov'd an argument.

¹ A quibble: they present their Bills of debts; he catches at the word, and alludes to bills or battle-axes.

² Restrain.

1 Sen. You undergo too strict a paradox,
Striving to make an ugly deed look fair:
Your words have took such pains, as if they
labour'd

To bring manslaughter into form, set quarrelling
Upon the head of valour; which, indeed,
Is valour misbegot, and came into the world
When sects and factions were newly born:

He's truly valiant, that can wisely suffer

The worst that man can breathe; and make his
wrongs

His outsidcs; wear them like his raiment, care-
lessly;

And ne'er prefer his injuries to his heart,
To bring it into danger.

If wrongs be evils, and enforce us kill,

What folly 'tis to hazard life for ill?

Alcib. My lord,——

1 Sen. You cannot make gross sins look
clear:

To revenge is no valour, but to bear.

Alcib. My lords, then, under favour, pardon
me,

If I speak like a captain.——

Why do fond men expose themselves to battle,
And not endure all threatenings? sleep upon it,
And let the foes quietly cut their throats,

Without repugnancy? but if there be
Such valour in the bearing, what make we

Abroad? why then, women are more valiant,

That stay at home, if bearing carry it;

And th' ass, more captain than the lion; the felon,
Loaden with irons, wiser than the judge,

If wisdom be in suffering. O my lords,

As you are great, be pitifully good:

Who cannot condemn rashness in cold blood?

To kill, I grant, is sin's extremest gust¹;

But, in defence, by mercy, 'tis most just.

To be in anger is impiety;

But who is man, that is not angry?

Weigh but the crime with this.

2 Sen. You breathe in vain.

Alcib. In vain? his service done
At Lacedæmon, and Byzantium,

Were a sufficient briber for his life.

1 Sen. What's that?

Alcib. Why, I say, my lords, h'as done fair
service,

And slain in fight many of your enemies:

How full of valour did he bear himself

In the last conflict, and made plenteous wounds?

2 Sen. He has made too much plenty with
'em, he

Is a sworn rioter; h'as a sin that often

Drowns him, and takes his valour prisoner:

If there were no foes, that were enough alone

To overcome him: in that beastly fury

He has been known to commit outrages,

And cherish factions: 'Tis infer'd to us,

His days are foul, and his drink dangerous.

1 Sen. He dies.

Alcib. Hard fate! he might have died in war.
My lords, if not for any parts in him,

(Though his right arm might purchase his own
time,

And be in debt to none,) yet more to move you,
Take my deserts to his, and join them both:

¹ Aggravation.

And, for I know, your reverend ages love Security, I'll pawn my victories, all My honour to you, upon his good returns. If by this crime he owes the law his life, Why, let the war receive't in valiant gore; For law is strict and war is nothing more.

1 Sen. We are for law, he dies; urge it no more, On height of our displeasure: Friend, or brother, He forfeits his own blood, that spills another.

Alcib. Must it be so? it must not be. My lords, I do beseech you, know me.

2 Sen. How?

Alcib. Call me to your remembrances.

3 Sen. What?

Alcib. I cannot think, but your age has forgotten me;

It could not else be, I should prove so base,¹ To sue, and be denied such common grace: My wounds ache at you.

1 Sen. Do you dare our anger? 'Tis in few words, but spacious in effect; We banish thee for ever.

Alcib. Banish me? Banish your dotage; banish usury, That makes the senate ugly.

1 Sen. If, after two days' shine, Athens contain thee,

Attend our weightier judgment. And, not to swell our spirit,

He shall be executed presently.

[Exeunt Senators.]

Alcib. Now the gods keep you old enough: that you may live

Only in bone, that none may look on you! I am worse than mad: I have kept back their foes, While they have told their money, and let out Their coin upon large interest; I myself, Rich only in large hurts;—All those, for this? Is this the balsam, that the usuring senate Pours into captains' wounds? ha! banishment! It comes not ill; I hate not to be banish'd; It is a cause worthy my spleen and fury, That I may strike at Athens. I'll cheer up My discontented troops, and lay for hearts,² 'Tis honour, with most lands to be at odds; Soldiers should brook as little wrongs, as gods.

[Exit.]

SCENE VI.

A MAGNIFICENT ROOM IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Musick. Tables set out: Servants attending.

Enter divers Lords, at several Doors.

1 Lord. The good time of day to you, sir.
2 Lord. I also wish it to you. I think, this honourable lord did but try us this other day.

1 Lord. Upon that were my thoughts tiring,³ when we encountered: I hope it is not so low with him, as he made it seem in the trial of his several friends.

2 Lord. It should not be, by the persuasion of his new feasting.

1 Lord. I should think so: He hath sent me an earnest inviting, which many my near occasions did urge me to put off; but he hath conjured me beyond them, and I must needs appear.

¹ Be treated so basely.

² Strive for the people's hearts.

³ Employed.

2 Lord. In like manner was I in debt to my importunate business, but he would not hear my excuse. I am sorry, when he sent to borrow of me, that my provision was out.

1 Lord. I am sick of that grief too, as I understand how all things go.

2 Lord. Every man here's so. What would he have borrowed of you?

1 Lord. A thousand pieces.

2 Lord. A thousand pieces!

1 Lord. What of you?

3 Lord. He sent to me, sir—Here he comes.

Enter Timon, and Attendants.

Tim. With all my heart, gentlemen both:—And how fare you?

1 Lord. Ever at the best, hearing well of your lordship.

2 Lord. The swallow follows not summer more willing, than we your lordship.

Tim. [Aside.] Nor more willingly leaves winter; such summer-birds are men.—Gentlemen, our dinner will not recompense this long stay: feast your ears with the musick awhile; if they will fare so harshly on the trumpet's sound: we shall to't presently.

1 Lord. I hope it remains not unkindly with your lordship, that I returned you an empty messenger.

Tim. O, sir, let it not trouble you.

2 Lord. My noble lord,——

Tim. Ah, my good friend, what cheere?

[The Banquet brought in.]

2 Lord. My most honourable lord, I am e'en sick of shame, that, when your lordship this other day sent to me, I was so unfortunate a beggar.

Tim. Think not on't, sir.

2 Lord. If you had sent but two hours before,——

Tim. Let it not cumber your better remembrance.—Come, bring in all together.

2 Lord. All covered dishes!

1 Lord. Royal cheer, I warrant you.

3 Lord. Doubt not that, if money and the season can yield it.

1 Lord. How do you? what's the news?

3 Lord. Alcibiades is banished: Hear you of it?

1 & 2 Lord. Alcibiades banished!

3 Lord. 'Tis so, be sure of it.

1 Lord. How? how?

2 Lord. I pray you, upon what?

Tim. My worthy friends, will you draw near?

3 Lord. I'll tell you more anon. Here's a noble feast toward.

2 Lord. This is the old man still.¹

3 Lord. Will't hold! will't hold?

2 Lord. It does: but time will—and so——

3 Lord. I do conceive.

Tim. Each man to his stool, with that spur as he would to the lip of his mistress: your diet shall be in all places alike. Make not a city feast of it, to let the meat cool ere we can agree upon the first place: Sit, sit. The gods require our thanks.

You great benefactors, sprinkle our society with thankfulness. For your own gifts, make yourselves praised: but reserve still to give, lest your detties be despised. Lend to teach man

enough, that one need not lend to another: for, were your godheads to borrow of men, men would forsake the gods. Make the meat be beloved, more than the man that gives it. Let no assembly of twenty be without a score of villains: If there sit twelve women at the table, let a dozen of them be—as they are.—The rest of your fees, O gods,—the senators of Athens, together with the common lag¹ of people,—what is amiss in them, you gods make suitable for destruction. For these my present friends,—as they are to me nothing, so in nothing bless them, and to nothing they are welcome.

Uncover, dogs, and lap.

[The dishes uncovered are full of warm water.

Some speak. What does his lordship mean?

Some other. I know not.

Tim. May you a better feast never behold,
You knot of mouth-friends! smoke, and luke-warm water

Is your perfection. This is Timon's last;

Who stuck and spangled you with flatteries,

Washes it off, and sprinkles in your faces

[Throwing water in their faces.

Your reeking villainy. Live loath'd, and long,

Most smiling, smooth, detested parasites.

Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears,

You fools of fortune, trencher-friends, time's flies.

Cap and knee slaves, vapours, and minute-jacks!

Of man and beast, the infinite malady

Crust you quite o'er!—What, dost thou go?

Soft, take thy physick first—thou too,—and thou;—

[Throws the dishes at them, and drives them out.

Stay, I will lend thee money, borrow none.—

What, all in motion? Henceforth be no feast,

Whereat a villain's not a welcome guest.

Burn, house! sink, Athens! henceforth hated be

Of Timon, man, and all humanity! [Exit,

Re-enter the Lords, with other Lords and Senators.

1 Lord. How now, my lords?

2 Lord. Know you the quality of lord Timon's fury?

3 Lord. Psha! did you see my cap?

4 Lord. I have lost my gown.

3 Lord. He's but a mad lord, and nought but humour sways him. He gave me a jewel the other day, and now he has beat it out of my hat:—Did you see my jewel?

4 Lord. Did you see my cap?

2 Lord. Here 'tis.

4 Lord. Here lies my gown.

1 Lord. Let's make no stay.

2 Lord. Lord Timon's mad.

3 Lord. I feel't upon my bones.

4 Lord. One day he gives us diamonds, next day stones. [Exit.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—WITHOUT THE WALLS OF ATHENS.

Enter Timon.

Tim. Let me look back upon thee, O thou wall,
That girdest in those wolves! Dive in the earth,

1 Lowest.

And fence not Athens! Matrons, turn incontinent!

Obedience fail in children! slaves, and fools,
Pluck the grave wrinkled senate from the bench,
And minister in their steads! bankrupts, hold fast;

Rather than render back, out with your knives,
And cut your trusters' throats! bound servants, steal!

Large-handed robbers your grave masters are,
And pill by law! Son of sixteen,

Pluck the lin'd crutch from the old limping sire,
With it beat out his brains! piety, and fear,

Religion to the gods, peace, justice, truth,
Domestick awe, night-rest, and neighbourhood,

Instruction, manners, mysteries, and trades,
Degrees, observances, customs, and laws,

Decline to your confounding contraries,
And yet confusion live!—Plagues, incident to

Your potent and infectious fevers heap [men,
On Athens, ripe for stroke! thou cold sciatica,

Cripple our senators, that their limbs may halt
As lamely as their manners! lust and liberty

Creep in the minds and marrows of our youth;
That 'gainst the stream of virtue they may strive,

And drown themselves in riot! itches, blains,
Sow all the Athenian bosoms; and their crop

Be general leprosy! breath infect breath,
That their society, as their friendship, may

Be merely poison! Nothing I'll bear from thee,
But nakedness, thou detestable town!

Take thou that too, with multiplying banes!—
Timon will to the woods; where he shall find

The unkindest beast more kinder than mankind.
The gods confound (hear me, ye good gods all!)

The Athenians both within and out that wall!
And grant, as Timon grows, his hate may grow

To the whole race of mankind, high and low!
[Exit.

SCENE II.

ATHENS. A ROOM IN TIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter Flavius, with two or three Servants.

1 Serv. Hear you, master steward, where's our master?

Are we undone? cast off? nothing remaining?

Fl. Alack, my fellows, what should I say to you?

Let me be recorded by the righteous gods,
I am as poor as you.

1 Serv. Such a house broke!
So noble a master fallen! All gone! and not

One friend, to take his fortune by the arm,
And go along with him!

2 Serv. As we do turn our backs
From our companion, thrown into his grave;

So his familiars to his buried fortunes
Slink all away; leave their false vows with him,

Like empty purses pick'd: and his poor self,
A dedicated beggar to the air,

With his disease of all-shunn'd poverty, [lows.
Walks, like contempt, alone.—More of our fel-

Enter other Servants.

Flav. All broken implements of a ruin'd house.

3 Serv. Yet do our hearts wear Timon's livery,
That see I by our faces; we are fellows still,

Serving alike in sorrow: Leak's our bark;

1 Curses.

And we, poor mates, stand on the dying deck,
Hearing the surges threat: we must all part
Into this sea of air.

Flav. Good fellows all,
The latest of my wealth I'll share amongst you.
Wherever we shall meet, for Timon's sake,
Let's yet be fellows; let's shake our heads, and say,
As 'twere a knell unto our master's fortunes,
We have seen better days. Let each take some;

[*Giving them money.*]

Nay, put out all your hands. Not one word more:
Thus part we rich in sorrow, parting poor.

[*Exeunt Servants.*]

O, the fierce wretchedness that glory brings us!
Who would not wish to be from wealth exempt,
Since riches point to misery and contempt?
Who'd be so mock'd with glory? or to live
But in a dream of friendship?
To have his pomp, and all what state compounds,
But only painted like his varnish'd friends?
Poor honest lord, brought low by his own heart;
Undone by goodness! Strange, unusual blood,¹
When man's worst sin is, he does too much good!
Who then dares to be half so kind again?
For bounty, that makes gods, does still mar men.
My dearest lord,—bless'd to be most accus'd,
Rich, only to be wretched;—thy great fortunes
Are made thy chief afflictions. Alas, kind lord!
He's flung in rage from this ungrateful seat
Of monstrous friends: nor has he with him to
Supply his life, or that which can command it.
I'll follow, and inquire him out;
I'll serve his mind with my best will;
Whilst I have gold, I'll be his steward still. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—THE WOODS.

Enter Timon.

Ti. O blessed breeding sun, draw from the earth
Rotten humidity; below thy sister's orb
Infect the air! Twinn'd brothers of one womb
Whose procreation, residence, and birth,
Scarce is dividant,—touch them with several
fortunes;

The greater scorns the lesser: Not nature,
To whom all sores lay siege, can bear great for-
But by contempt of nature. [tune,
Raise me this beggar, and denude that lord;
The senator shall bear contempt hereditary,
The beggar native honour.
It is the pasture lards the brother's sides,
The want that makes him lean. Who dares,
who dares,

In purity of manhood stand upright,
And say, *This man's a flatterer?* If one be,
So are they all; for every grize² of fortune
Is smooth'd by that below: the learned pate
Ducks to the golden fool: All is oblique;
There's nothing level in our cursed natures,
But direct villainy. Therefore be abhorr'd
All feasts, societies, and throngs of men!
His semblable, yea, himself, Timon disdains:
Destruction fang³ mankind!—Earth, yield me
roots! [*Digging.*]

Who seeks for better of thee, sauce his palate
With thy most operant⁴ poison! What is here!

Gold? yellow, glittering, precious gold? No, gods,
I am no idle votarist. Roots, you clear heavens!
Thus much of this, will make black, white;
foul, fair;

Wrong, right; base, noble; old, young; coward,
Ha, you gods! why this? What this, you gods?

Why this

Will lug your priests and servants from your sides;
Pluck stout men' spillows from below their heads:
This yellow slave

Will knit and break religions; bless the accurs'd;
Make the hoar leprosy ador'd; place thieves,
And give them title, knee, and approbation,
With senators on the bench: this is it,
That makes the wappen'd¹ widow wed again;
Come, accurs'd earth, I will make thee
Do thy right nature. [*March afar off.*] Ha? a
drum?—Thou'rt quick,

But yet I'll bury thee: Thou'lt go, strong thief,
When gouty keepers of thee cannot stand:—
Nay, stay thou out for earnest.

[*Keeping some gold.*]

*Enter Alcibiades, with Drum and Fife, in
warlike manner.*

Alcib. What art thou there?
Speak.

Tim. A beast, as thou art. The canker gnaw
thy heart,
For showing me again the eyes of man!

Alcib. What is thy name? Is man so hateful to
That art thyself a man? [thee,

Tim. I am *misanthropos*, and hate mankind.
For thy part, I do wish thou wert a dog,
That I might love thee something.

Alcib. I know thee well:
But in thy fortunes am unlearn'd and strange.

Tim. I know thee too; and more, than that
I know thee,

I not desire to know. Follow thy drum;
With man's blood paint the ground, gules, gules²:
Religious canons, civil laws are cruel;
Then what should war be?

A. How came the noble Timon to this change?
T. As the moon does, by wanting light to give:
But then renew I could not, like the moon;
There were no suns to borrow of.

Alcib. Noble Timon,
What friendship may I do thee?

Tim. None, but to
Maintain my opinion.

Alcib. What is it, Timon?

T. Promise me friendship, but perform none: If
Thou wilt not promise, the gods plague thee, for
Thou art a man! if thou dost perform, confound
thee,

For thou'rt a man!

Alcib. I have heard in some sort of thy miseries.

Tim. Thou saw'st them, when I had prosperity.

Alcib. I see them now: then was a blessed time.

Tim. As thine is now.

Alcib. His wits are drown'd and lost in his
calamities.

I have but little gold of late, brave Timon,
The want whereof doth daily make revolt
In my penurious band; I have heard, and griev'd,
How curs'd Athens, mindless of thy worth,

1 Disposition.
2 Step.

3 Seize.
4 Active.

1 Sorrowful. 2 Red.

Forgetting thy great deeds, when neighbour states,

But for thy sword and fortune, trod upon them,—
T. I pr'ythee, beat thy drum, and get thee gone.

Alc. I am thy friend, and pity thee, dear Timon.
Tim. How dost thou pity him, whom thou dost
I had rather be alone. [trouble?

Alcib. Why, fare thee well:

Here's some gold for thee.

Tim. Keep't, I cannot eat it.

Alcib. When I have laid proud Athens on a heap,—

Tim. Warr'st thou against Athens?

Alcib. Ay, Timon, and have cause.

Tim. The gods confound them all i' thy conquest; and

Thee after, when thou hast conquer'd!

Alcib. Why me, Timon?

Tim. That

By killing villains, thou wast born to conquer
My country.

Put up thy gold: Go on,—here's gold,—go on;
Be as a planetary plague, when Jove

Will o'er some high-vic'd city hang his poison
In the sick air: Let not thy sword skip one:

Pity not honour'd age for his white beard,
He's an usurer: Strike me the counterfeited matron;
It is her habit only that is honest.

Let not the virgin's cheek

Make soft thy trenchant¹ sword: for those
milk-paps,

That through the window-bars bore at men's eyes,
Are not within the leaf of pity writ,

But set them down horrible traitors: Spare
not the babe,

Whose dimpled smiles from fools exhaust their
Think it a bastard, whom the oracle [mercy;

Hath doubtfully pronounc'd thy throat shall cut,
And mince it sans remorse²: Swear against ob-

jects³:

Put armour on thine ears, and on thine eyes;

Whose proof, nor yells of mothers, maids, nor
babes,

Nor sight of priests in holy vestments bleeding,
Shall pierce a jot. There's gold to pay thy soldiers:

Make large confusion; and, thy fury spent,
Confound'd be thyself! speak not, be gone.

Alcib. Hast thou gold yet? I'll take the gold
thou giv'st me!

Not all thy counsel.

Tim. Dost thou, or dost thou not, heaven's
curse upon thee!

Alcib. Strike up the drum towards Athens.
Farewell, Timon!

If I thrive well, I'll visit thee again.

Tim. If I hope well, I'll never see thee more.

Alcib. I never did thee harm.

Tim. Yes, thou spok'st well of me.

Alcib. Call'st thou that harm?

Tim. Men daily find it such. Get thee away.

Alcib. We but offend him.—

Strike. [Drum beats. Exit Alcibiades.
T. That nature, being sick of man's unkindness.

Should yet be hungry!—Common mother, thou

Whose womb unmeasurable, and infinite breast,
Teems, and feeds all; whose self-same mettle,

Whereof thy proud child, arrogant man, is puff'd,
Engenders the black toad, and adder blue,
The gilded newt, and eyeless venom'd worm,
With all the abhorred births below crisp'd heaven
Whereon Hyperion's quickening fire doth shine;
Yield him, who all thy human sons doth hate,
From forth thy plenteous bosom one poor root!
Ensear thy fertile and conception womb,
Let it no more bring out ungrateful man!
Go great with tigers, dragons, wolves, and bears;
Teem with new monsters, whom thy upward
Hath to the marbled mansion all above [face
Never presented!—O, a root,—Dear thanks!
Dry up thy marrows, vines, and plough-torn leas;
Whereof ingrateful man, with liquorish draughts,
And morsels unctuous, greases his pure mind,
That from it all consideration slips!

Enter Apemantus.

More man? Plague! plague!

Apem. I was directed hither: Men report,
Thou dost affect my manners, and dost use them.

T. 'Tis then, because thou dost not keep a dog
Whom I would imitate: consumption catch thee!

Apem. This is in thee a nature but affected;
A poor unmanly melancholy, sprung [place?

From change of fortune. Why this spade? this
This slave-like habit, and these looks of care?

Thy flatterers yet wear silk, drink wine, lie soft,
Hug their diseases'd perfumes, and have forgot

That ever Timon was. Shame not these woods,
By putting on the cunning of a carper.²

Be thou a flatterer now, and seek to thrive
By that which has undone thee: hinge thy knee,

And let his very breath, whom thou'lt observe
Blow off thy cap: praise his most vicious strain,

And call it excellent; thou wast told thus;
Thou gav'st thine ears, like tapsters, that bid

welcome,

To knaves, and all approachers: 'Tis most just,
That thou turn rascal; had'st thou wealth again,

Rascals should have't. Donot assume my likeness.

T. Were I like thee, I'd throw away myself.
Apem. Thou hast cast away thyself, being

like thyself;

A madman so long, now a fool: What, think'st
That the bleak air, thy boisterous chamberlain,

Will put thy shirt on warm? Will these moss'd
trees,

That have outliv'd the eagle, page thy heels,
And skip when thou point'st out? Will the cold

brook,

Candied with ice, caudle thy morning taste,
To cure thy o'er-night surfeit? call the creatures,—

Whose naked natures live in all the spite
Of wreakful heaven; whose bare unhoused

To the conflicting elements expos'd, [trunks,
Answer mere nature,—bid them flatter thee;

O! thou shalt find—

Tim. A fool of thee: Depart.
Apem. I love thee better now than e'er I did.

Tim. I hate thee worse.

Apem. Why?

Tim. Thou flatter'st misery.
Apem. I flatter not; but say thou art a caitiff.

Tim. Why dost thou seek me out?

Apem. To vex thee.

1 Rounded.

2 Critic.

1 Cutting. 2 Without pity. 3 (Of charity.)

Tim. Always a villain's office, or a fool's.
Dost please thyself in't?

Apem. Ay.
Tim. What! a knave too?

Apem. If thou didst put this sour cold habit on
To castigate thy pride, 'twere well: but thou
Dost it enforcedly; thou 'dst courtier be again,
Wert thou not beggar. Willing misery
Outlives uncertain pomp, is crown'd before!
The one is filling still, never complete;
The other, at high wish: Best state, contentless,
Hath a distracted and most wretch'd being,
Worse than the worst, content.

Thou shouldst desire to die, being miserable.
T. Not by his breath² that is more miserable.
Thou art a slave, whom fortune's tender arm
With favour never clasp'd; but bred a dog.
Hadst thou, like us, from our first swath³ pro-
ceeded,

The sweet degrees that this brief world affords
To such as may the passive drugs of it
Freely command, thou wouldst have plunged
In gen'ral riot; and have never learn'd [thyself
The icy precepts of respect, but follow'd
The sugar'd game before thee. But myself,

Who had the world as my confectionary; [men
The mouths, the tongues, the eyes and hearts of
At duty, more than I could frame employment;
That numberless upon me stuck, as leaves
Do on the oak, have with one winter's brush
Fell from their boughs, and left me open, bare
For every storm that blows.—I to bare this,
That never knew but better, is some burden:
Thy nature did commence in sufferance, time
Hath made thee hard in't. Why shouldst thou
hate men? [given?

They never flatter'd thee: What hast thou
Poor rogue hereditary. Hence! be gone!—
If thou hadst not been born the worst of men,
Thou hadst been a knave, and flatterer.

Apem. Art thou proud yet?

Tim. Ay, that I am not thee.

Apem. I, that I was

No prodigal.

Tim. I, that I am one now;

Were all the wealth I have, shut up in thee,
I'd give thee leave to hang it. Get thee gone.—
That the whole life of Athens were in this!
Thus would I eat it. [Eating a Root.

Apem. Here; I will mend thy feast.
[Offering him something.

T. First mend my company, take away thyself.

A. So I shall mend mine own, by the lack of
thine.

Tim. 'Tis not well mended so, it is but botch'd;
If not, I would it were.

Apem. What wouldst thou have to Athens?

Tim. Thee thither in a whirlwind. If thou wilt
Tell them there, I have gold; look, so I have.

Apem. Here is no use for gold.

Tim. The best and truest;

For here it sleeps, and does no hired harm.

Apem. Where ly'st o' nights, Timon?

Tim. Under that's above me.

Where feed'st thou o' days, Apemantus?

Apem. Where my stomach finds meat; or,
rather, where I eat it.

Tim. Would poison were obedient, and knew
my mind!

Apem. Where wouldst thou send it?

Tim. To sauce thy dishes.

Apem. The middle of humanity thou never
knewest, but the extremity of both ends: When
thou wast in thy gilt, and thy perfume, they
mocked thee for too much curiosity¹; in thy
rags thou knowest none, but art despised for the
contrary. There's a medlar for thee, eat it.

Tim. On what I hate, I feed not.

Apem. Dost hate a medlar?

Tim. Ay, though it look like thee.

Apem. An thou hadst hated medlars sooner,
thou shouldst have loved thyself better now.
What man didst thou ever know unthrift, that
was beloved after his means?

Tim. Who, without those means thou talkest
of, didst thou ever know beloved?

Apem. Myself.

Tim. I understand thee; thou hadst some
means to keep a dog.

Apem. What things in the world canst thou
nearest compare to thy flatterers?

Tim. Women nearest: but men, men are the
things themselves. What would'st thou do with
the world, Apemantus, if it lay in thy power?

Apem. Give it the beasts, to be rid of the men.

Tim. Wouldst thou have thyself fall in the
confusion of men, and remain a beast with the
beasts?

Apem. Ay, Timon.

Tim. A beastly ambition, which the gods grant
thee to attain to! If thou wert the lion, the
fox would beguile thee: if thou wert the lamb,
the fox would eat thee: if thou wert the fox, the
lion would suspect thee, when, peradventure,
thou wert accus'd by the ass: if thou wert the
ass, thy dulness would torment thee; and still
thou livest but as a breakfast to the wolf: if
thou wert the wolf, thy greediness would afflict
thee, and oft thou shouldst hazard thy life for
thy dinner: wert thou the unicorn, pride and
wrath would confound thee, and make thine own
self the conquest of thy fury: wert thou a bear,
thou wouldst be killed by the horse: wert thou
a horse, thou wouldst be seized by the leopard:
wert thou a leopard, thou wert german² to the
lion, and the spots of thy kindred were jurors on
thy life: all thy safety were remotion³; and
thy defence, absence. What beast couldst thou
be, that were not subject to a beast? and what
a beast art thou already, that seest not thy loss
in transformation?

Apem. If thou couldst please me with speak-
ing to me, thou mightst have hit upon it here:
The commonwealth of Athens is become a forest
of beasts.

Tim. How has the ass broke the wall, that
thou art out of the city?

Apem. Yonder comes a poet and a painter:
The plague of company light upon thee! I will
fear to catch it, and give way: When I know
not what else to do, I'll see thee again.

Tim. When there is nothing living but thee,
thou shalt be welcome. I had rather be a beg-
gar's dog, than Apemantus.

¹ Sconer.

² Sentence.

³ Infancy.

¹ Delicacy.

² Kindred.

³ Removal.

Apem. Thou art the cap¹ of all the fools alive.
Tim. 'Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon.

A. A plague on thee, thou art too bad to curse.

T. All villains, that do stand by thee, are pure.

A. There is no leprosy but what thou speak'st.

Tim. If I name thee,—

I'll beat thee—but I should infect my hands.

Apem. I would, my tongue could rot them off!

Tim. Away, thou issue of a mangy dog!

Choler does kill me, that thou art alive;

I swoon to see thee.

Apem. 'Would thou wouldst burst!

Tim. Away,

Thou tedious rogue! I am sorry, I shall lose

A stone by thee. [*Throws a Stone at him.*]

Apem. Beast!

Tim. Slave!

Apem. Toad!

Tim. Rogue, rogue, rogue!

[*Apemantus retreats backward, as going.*]

I am sick of this false world; and will love nought
 But even the mere necessities upon it.

Then, Timon, presently prepare thy grave;

Lie where the light foam of the sea may beat

Thy grave-stone daily: make thine epitaph,

That death in me at others' lives may laugh,

O thou sweet king-killer, and dear divorce

[*Looking on the Gold.*]

'Twixt natural son and sire! thou bright defiler

Of Hymen's purest bed! thou valiant Mars!

Thou ever young, fresh, lov'd, and delicate wooer,

Whose blush doth thaw the consecrated snow

That lies on Dian's lap; thou visible god,

That soldier'st close impossibilities,

And mak'st them kiss! that speak'st with every
 tongue,

To every purpose! O thou touch² of hearts!

Think, thy slave man rebels; and by thy virtue

Set them into confounding odds, that beasts

May have the world in empire.

Apem. 'Would 'twere so;—

But not till I am dead!—I'll say, thou hast gold:

Thou wilt be throng'd to shortly.

Tim. Throng'd to?

Apem. Ay.

Tim. Thy back, I pr'ythee.

Apem. Live, and love thy misery!

Tim. Long live so, and so die!—I am quit.—

[*Exit Apemantus.*]

More things like men!—Eat, Timon, and abhor
 them.

Enter Thieves.

1 *Thief.* Where should he have this gold? It
 is some poor fragment, some slender ort³ of his
 remainder: The mere want of gold, and the
 falling-from of his friends, drove him into this
 melancholy.

2 *Thief.* It is noised, he hath a mass of treasure.

3 *Thief.* Let us make the assay upon him; if
 he care not for't, he will supply us easily; if
 he covetously reserve it, how shall's get it?

2 *Thief.* True; for he bears it not about him,
 'tis hid.

1 *Thief.* Is not this he?

Thieves. Where?

1 The principal. 2 Touchstone. 3 Small coin.

2 *Thief.* 'Tis his description.

3 *Thief.* He; I know him.

Thieves. Save thee, Timon.

Tim. Now, thieves?

Thieves. Soldiers, not thieves.

Tim. Both too; and women's sons.

Thieves. We are not thieves, but men that
 much do want.

Tim. Your greatest want is, you want much
 of meat.

Why should you want? Behold the earth hath
 roots;

Within this mile break forth a hundred springs:

The oaks bear masts, the briars scarlet hips;

The bounteous housewife, nature, on each bush

Lays her full mess before you. Want? why want?

1 *T.* We cannot live on grass, on berries, water,
 As beasts, and birds, and fishes.

Tim. Nor on the beasts themselves, the birds,
 and fishes;

You must eat men. Yet thanks I must you con,¹

That you are thieves profess'd; that you work not

In holier shapes: for there is boundless theft

In limited² professions. Rascal thieves,

Here's gold; Go, suck the subtle blood of the
 grape,

Till the high fever seeth your blood to froth,

And so 'scape hanging: trust not the physician;

His antidotes are poison, and he slays

More than you rob: take wealth and lives
 together;

Do villainy, do, since you profess to do't,

Like workmen. I'll example you with thievery:

The sun's a thief, and with his great attraction

Robs the vast sea: the moon's an arrant thief,

And her pale fire she snatches from the sun:

The sea's a thief, whose liquid surge resolves

The moon into salt tears: each thing's a thief;

The laws, your curb and whip, in their rough
 power

Have uncheck'd theft. Love not yourselves;

Rob one another. There's more gold: Cut throats;

All that you meet are thieves: To Athens, go,

Break open shops; nothing can you steal,

But thieves do lose it; Steal not less, for this

I give you; and gold confound you howsoever!

[*Timon retires to his Cave.*]

3 *Thief.* He has almost charmed me from my
 profession, by persuading me to it.

1 *Thief.* 'Tis in the malice of mankind, that
 he thus advises us; not to have us thrive in our
 mystery.

2 *Thief.* I'll believe him as an enemy, and
 give over my trade.

1 *Thief.* Let us first see peace in Athens: There
 is no time so miserable, but a man may be true.

[*Exeunt Thieves.*]

Enter Flavius.

Flav. O you gods!

Is yon despis'd and ruinous man my lord?

Full of decay and failing? O monument

And wonder of good deeds evilly bestow'd!

What an alteration of honour has

Desperate want made!

What viler thing upon the earth, than friends,

Who can bring noblest minds to basest ends!

1 Convey.

2 Legal.

How rarely¹ does it meet with this time's guise,²
 When man was wish'd³ to love his enemies :
 Grant, I may ever love, and rather woo
 Those that would mischief me, than those that do !
 He has caught me in his eye : I will present
 My honest grief unto him ; and, as my lord,
 Still serve him with my life. — My dearest master !

Timon comes forward from his Cave.

Tim. Away ! what art thou ?

Flav. Have you forgot me, sir ?

Tim. Why dost ask that ? I have forgot all men ;
 Then if thou grant'st thou'rt man, I have
 forgot thee.

Flav. An honest poor servant of yours.

Tim. Then
 I know thee not : I ne'er had honest man
 About me, I ; all that I kept were knaves,
 To serve in meat to villains.

Flav. The gods are witness,
 Ne'er did poor steward wear a truer grief
 For his undone lord, than mine eyes for you.

Tim. What, dost thou weep ? — Come nearer ;
 — then I love thee,

Because thou art a woman, and disclaim'st
 Flinty mankind ; whose eyes do never give,
 But thorough lust and laughter. Pity's sleeping ;
 Strange times, that weep with laughing, not
 with weeping !

Flav. I beg of you to know me, good my lord,
 To accept my grief, and whilst this poor wealth
 lasts,

To entertain me as your steward still.

Tim. Had I a steward so true, so just, and now
 So comfortable ? It almost turns
 My dangerous nature wild. Let me behold
 Thy face. — Surely, this man was born of woman. —
 Forgive my general and exceptless rashness,
 Perpetual-sober gods ! I do proclaim
 One honest man, — mistake me not, — but one ;
 No more, I pray, — and he is a steward, —
 How fain would I have hated all mankind,
 And thou redeem'st thyself : But all, save thee,
 I fell with curses.

Methinks, thou art more honest now, than wise ;
 For, by oppressing and betraying me,
 Thou might'st have sooner got another service :
 For many so arrive at second masters,
 Upon their first lord's neck. But tell me true,
 (For I must ever doubt, though ne'er so sure,)
 Is not thy kindness subtle, covetous,
 For a usurious kindness : and as rich men deal
 Expecting in return twenty for one ? [gifts.
F. No, my most worthy master, in whose breast
 Doubt and suspect, alas, are plac'd too late :
 You should have fear'd false times, when you
 did feast :

Suspect still comes where an estate is least.
 That which I show, heaven knows, is merely love,
 Duty and zeal to your unmatched mind,
 Care of your food and living : and, believe it,
 My most honour'd lord,
 For any benefit that points to me,
 Either in hope, or present, I'd exchange
 For this one wish, That you had power and wealth
 To requite me, by making rich yourself.

T. Look thee, 'tis so ! — Thou singly honest man,

1 Admirably. 2 Circumstances. 3 Needed.

Here take : — the gods out of my misery
 Have sent thee treasure. Go, live rich, and happy ;
 But thus conditioned ; Thou shalt build from
 Hate all, curse all : show charity to none ; [men !
 But let the famish'd flesh slide from the bone,
 Ere thou relieve the beggar : give to dogs
 What thou deny'st to men ; let prisons swallow
 them,

Debts wither them : Be men like blasted woods,
 And may diseases lick up their false bloods !
 And so farewell, and thrive.

Flav. O, let me stay,
 And comfort you, my master.

Tim. If thou hat'st
 Curses, stay not ; fly, whilst thou'rt bless'd
 and free :

Ne'er see thou man, and let me ne'er see thee.
 [Exeunt severally.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I. — BEFORE TIMON'S CAVE.

Enter Poet and Painter ; Timon behind, unseen.

Pain. As I took note of the place, it cannot
 be far where he abides.

Poet. What's to be thought of him ? Does the
 rumour hold for true, that he is so full of gold ?

Pain. Certain : Alcibiades reports it ; and he
 enriched poor straggling soldiers with great
 quantity : 'Tis said, he gave unto his steward a
 mighty sum.

Poet. Then this breaking of his has been but
 a try for his friends.

Pain. Nothing else ; you shall see him a palm
 in Athens again, and flourish with the highest.
 Therefore, 'tis not amiss, we tender our loves to
 him, in this supposed distress of his : it will
 show honestly in us ; and is very likely to load
 our purposes with what they travel for, if it be
 a just and true report that goes of his having.

Poet. What have you now to present unto him ?

Pain. Nothing at this time but my visitation :
 only I will promise him an excellent piece.

Poet. I must serve him so too ; tell him of an
 intent² that's coming toward him.

Pain. Good as the best. Promising is the
 very air o' the time : it opens the eyes of expect-
 ation : performance is ever the duller for his
 act ; and, but in the plainer and simpler kind of
 people, the deed³ of saying is quite out of use.
 To promise is most courtly and fashionable :
 performance is a kind of will or testament, which
 argues a great sickness in his judgment that
 makes it.

Tim. Excellent workman ! Thou canst not
 paint a man so bad as is thyself.

Poet. I am thinking, what I shall say I have
 provided for him : It must be a personating of
 himself : a satire against the softness of pros-
 perity ; with a discovery of the infinite flatteries,
 that follow youth and opulency.

Tim. Must thou needs stand for a villain in
 thine own work ? Wilt thou whip thine own faults
 in other men ? Do so, I have gold for thee.

1 (Away from.)

2 Something designed.

3 The doing what is promised.

Poet. Nay, let's seek him :
Then do we sin against our own estate,
When we may profit meet, and come too late.
Pain. True; [night,
When the day serves, before black-corner'd
Find what thou want'st, by free and offer'd light.
Come.

T. I'll meet you at the turn. What a god's gold,
That he is worshipp'd in a baser temple,
Than where swine feed !
'Tis thou that rigg'st the bark, and plough'st the
Settled admired reverence in a slave: [foam;
To thee be worship ! and thy saints for aye
Be crown'd with plagues, that thee alone obey !
'Fit I do meet them. [*Advancing.*

Poet. Hail, worthy Timon !

Pain. Our late noble master.

Tim. Have I once liv'd to see two honest men?

Poet. Sir,

Having often of your open bounty tasted,
Hearing you were retired, your friends fall'n off,
Whose thankless natures—O abhorred spirits !
Not all the whips of heaven are large enough—
What ! to you !

Whose star-like nobleness gave life and influence
To their whole being ! I'm rapt, and cannot cover
The monstrous bulk of this ingratitude
With any size of words.

Tim. Let it go naked, men may see't the better:
You, that are honest, by being what you are,
Make them best seen, and known.

Pain. He, and myself,
Have travell'd in the great shower of your gifts,
And sweetly felt it.

Tim. Ay, you are honest men.

Pa. We are hither come to offer you our service.

Tim. Most honest men ! Why, how shall I re-
quite you ?

Can you eat roots, and drink cold water ? no.

Both. What we can do, we'll do, to do you service.

Tim. You are honest men : You have heard
that I have gold: [men.

I am sure you have: speak truth: you are honest

Pain. So it is said, my noble lord: but therefore
Came not my friend, nor I.

T. Good honest men:—Thou draw'st a counter-
feit !

Best in all Athens : thou art, indeed, the best ;
Thou counterfeist'st most lively.

Pain. So, so, my lord.

Tim. Even so, sir, as I say:—[*To the Poet*]
And, for thy fiction,

Whythverse swells with stuff so fine and smooth
That thou art even natural in thine art.—
But, for all this, my honest-natur'd friends,
I must needs say, you have a little fault:
Marry, 'tis not monstrous in you; neither wish I,
You take much pains to mend.

Both. Beseech your honour,
To make it known to us.

Tim. You'll take it ill.

Both. Most thankfully, my lord.

Tim. Will you, indeed ?

Both. Doubt it not, worthy lord.

T. There's ne'er a one of you but trusts a knave,
That mightily deceives you.

Both. Do we, my lord ?

1 A portrait.

Tim. Ay, and you hear him cog,¹ see him
dissemble,

Know his gross patchery,² love him, feed him,
Keep in your bosom : yet remain assur'd,
That he's a made-up³ villain.

Pain. I know none such, my lord.

Poet. Nor I.

Tim. Look you, I love you well; I'll give you
gold,

Rid me these villains from your companies:
Hang them, or stab them, drown them in a
draught,

Confound them by some course, and come to me,
I'll give you gold enough.

Both. Name them, my lord, let's know them.

Tim. You that way, and you this, but two in
company:—

Each man apart, all single and alone,

Yet an arch-villain keeps him company.

[*To the Painter.*] If, where thou art, two villains
shall not be,

Come not near him.—[*To the Poet.*]—If thou
wouldst not reside

But where one villain is, then him abandon.—
Hence ! pack ! there's gold, ye came for gold,

ye slaves:
You have done work for me, there's payment:

hence !
You are an alchemist, make gold of that :

Out, rascal dogs !

[*Exit, beating and driving them out.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter Flavius, and two Senators.

Flav. It is in vain that you would speak with
For he is set so only to himself, [Timon ;

That nothing but himself, which looks like man,
Is friendly with him.

1 Sen. Bring us to his cave:

It is our part, and promise to the Athenians,
To speak with Timon.

2 Sen. At all times alike [griefs.
Men are not still the same: 'Twas time, and

That fram'd him thus: time, with his fairer hand,
Offering the fortunes of his former days,

The former man may make him: Bring us to him,
And chance it as it may.

Flav. Here is his cave.—
Peace and content be here ! Lord Timon ! Timon !

Look out, and speak to friends: The Athenians,
By two of their most reverend senate, greet thee:
Speak to them, noble Timon.

Enter Timon.

Tim. Thou sun, that comfort'st, burn !—
Speak, and be hang'd:

For each true word, a blister ! and each false
Be as a caut'ring to the root o' the tongue,

Consuming it with speaking !
1 Sen. Worthy Timon—

T. Of none but such as you, and you of Timon.

2 S. The Senators of Athens greet thee, Timon.

Tim. I thank them; and would send them back
the plague,

Could I but catch it for them.

1 Sen.

O, forget

1 Cheat.

2 Trickery.

3 Perfect.

What we are sorry for ourselves in thee.
The senators, with one consent of love,
Entreat thee back to Athens; who have thought
On special dignities, which vacant lie
For thy best use and wearing.

2 Sen. They confess,
Toward thee, forgetfulness too general, gross:
Which now the publick body,—which doth
Play the recanter,—feeling in itself [seldom
A lack of Timon's aid, hath sense withal
Of its own fall, restraining aid to Timon:
And sentforth us, to make their sorrow'd render,¹
Together with a recompense more fruitful
Than their offence can weigh down by the dram²;
Ay, even such heaps and sums of love and wealth,
As shall to thee blot out what wrongs were theirs,
And write in thee the figures of their love,
Ever to read them thine.

Tim. You witch me in it;
Surprise me to the very brink of tears:
Lend me a fool's heart, and a woman's eyes,
And I'll bewEEP these comforts, worthy senators.

1 S. Therefore, so please thee to return with us,
And of our Athens (thine, and ours,) to take
The captainship, thou shalt be met with thanks,
Allow'd³ with absolute power, and thy good name
Live with authority:—so soon we shall drive
Of Alcibiades the approaches wild; [back
Who, like a boar too savage, doth root up
His country's peace.

2 Sen. And shakes his threat'ning sword
Against the walls of Athens.

1 Sen. Therefore, Timon,—
T. Well, sir, I will; therefore, I will, sir; Thus,—
If Alcibiades kill my countrymen,
Let Alcibiades know this of Timon, [Athens,
That—Timon cares not. But if he sack fair
And take our goodly aged men by the beards,
Giving our holy virgins to the stain
Of contumelious, beastly, mad-brain'd war;
Then, let him know,—and tell him, Timon
In pity of our aged, and our youth, [speaks it,
I cannot choose but tell him, that—I care not,
And let him take't at worst; for their knives
care not

While you have throats to answer: for myself,
There's not a whittle⁴ in the unruly camp,
But I do prize it at my love, before [you
The reverend'st throat in Athens. So I leave
To the protection of the prosperous⁵ gods,
As thieves to keepers.

Flav. Stay not, all's in vain.

Tim. Why, I was writing of my epitaph,
It will be seen to-morrow; My long sickness
Of health, and living, now begins to mend,
And nothing brings me all things. Go, live still;
Be Alcibiades your plague, you his,
And last so long enough!

1 Sen. We speak in vain.

Tim. But yet I love my country; and am not
One that rejoices in the common wreck,
As common bruit⁶ doth put it.

1 Sen. That's well spoke.

Tim. Commend me to my loving countrymen,—

1 Sen. These words become your lips as they
pass through them.

1 Confession. 2 Licensed. 3 Propitious.

2 A small weight. 4 A clasp-knife. 6 Report.

2 S. And enter in our ears like great triumphers
In their applauding gates.

Tim. Commend me to them;
And tell them, that to ease them of their griefs,
Their fears of hostile strokes, their aches, losses,
Their pangs of love, with other incident throes
That nature's fragile vessel doth sustain
In life's uncertain voyage, I will some kindness
do them:

I'll teach them to prevent wild Alcibiades'
wrath.

2 Sen. I like this well, he will return again.

T. I have a tree, which grows here in my close,
That mine own use invites me to cut down,
And shortly must I fell it: Tell my friends,
Tell Athens in the sequence of degree,
From high to low throughout, that whose please
To stop affliction, let him take his haste,
Come hither, ere my tree hath felt the axe,
And hang himself:—I pray you, do my greeting.

Fl. Trouble him no further, thus you still
shall find him.

Tim. Come not to me again: but say to Athens,
Timon hath made his everlasting mansion
Upon the beached verge of the salt flood;
Which once a day with his embossed froth
The turbulent surge shall cover; thither come,
And let my grave-stone be your oracle.—
Lips, let sour words go by, and language end:
What is amiss, plague and infection mend!
Graves only be men's works; and death, their
gain!

Sun, hide thy beams! Timon hath done his reign.

[Exit Timon.]

1 Sen. His discontents are unremoveably
Coupled to nature.

2 Sen. Our hope in him is dead: let us return,
And strain what other means is left unto us
In our dear¹ peril.

1 Sen. It requires swift foot. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—THE WALLS OF ATHENS.

Enter two Senators, and a Messenger.

1 Sen. Thou hast painfully discovered; are his
As full as thy report? [files²

Mess. I have spoke the least:
Besides, his expedition promises
Present approach.

2 Sen. We stand much hazard, if they bring
not Timon.

Mess. I met a courier, one mine ancient friend;—
Whom, though in general part we were oppos'd,
Yet our old love made a particular force,
And made us speak like friends:—this man was
From Alcibiades to Timon's cave, [riding
With letters of entreaty, which imported
His fellowship i' the cause against your city,
In part for his sake mov'd.

Enter Senators from Timon.

1 Sen. Here come our brothers.

2 S. No talk of Timon, nothing of him expect.—
The enemies' drum is heard, and fearful scouring
Doth choke the air with dust: in and prepare;
Ours is the fall, I fear; our foes, the snare.

[Exeunt.]

1 Dreadful.

2 (Of soldiers.)

2 T

SCENE IV.—THE WOODS. TIMON'S CAVE
AND A TOMB-STONE SEEN.

Enter a Soldier, seeking Timon.

Sol. By all description this should be the place.
Who's here? speak, ho!—No answer?—What
is this?

Timon is dead, who hath outstretched his span:
Some beast reared this; there does not live a man.
Dead, sure; and this his grave.—
What's on this tomb I cannot read; the character
I'll take with wax.

Our captain hath in every figure skill;
An ag'd interpreter, though young in days:
Before proud Athens he's set down by this,
Whose fall the mark of his ambition is. [*Exit.*]

SCENE V.—BEFORE THE WALLS OF ATHENS.

Trumpets sound. Enter Alcibiades, and Forces.

Alc. Sound to this coward and lascivious town
Our terrible approach. [*A Parley sounded.*]

Enter Senators on the Walls.

Till now you have gone on, and fill'd the time
With all licentious measure, making your wills
The scope of justice; till now, myself, and such
As slept within the shadow of your power,
Have wander'd with our travers'd¹ arms, and
breath'd

Our sufferance vainly; Now the time is flush,²
When crouching marrow, in the bearer strong,
Cries, of itself, *No more*; now breathless wrong
Shall sit and pant in your great chairs of ease;
And pury insolence shall break his wind,
With fear and horrid flight.

1 Sen. Noble and young,
When thy first griefs were but a mere conceit,
Ere thou hadst power, or we had cause of fear,
We sent to thee; to give thy rages balm,
To wipe out our ingratitude with loves
Above their quantity.

2 Sen. So did we woo
Transform'd Timon to our city's love,
By humble message, and by promis'd means;
We were not all unkind, nor all deserve
The common stroke of war.

1 Sen. These walls of ours
Were not erected by their hands, from whom
You have receiv'd your griefs: nor are they such,
That these great towers, trophies, and schools
should fall

For private faults in them.

2 Sen. Nor are they living
Who were the motives that you first went out;
Shame, that they wanted cunning, in excess
Hath broke their hearts. March, noble lord,
Into our city with thy banners spread:
By decimation, and a tithed death,
(If thy revenges hunger for that food,
Which nature loathes,) take thou the destin'd
And by the hazard of the spotted die, [tenth;
Let die the spotted.

1 Sen. All have not offended;
For those that were, it is not square³ to take,

¹ Crossed. ² Mature. ³ Equitable.

On those that are, revenges: crimes, like lands,
Are not inherited. Then, dear countryman,
Bring in thy ranks, but leave without thy rage:
Spare thy Athenian cradle, and those kin,
Which, in the bluster of thy wrath, must fall
With those that have offended: like a shepherd,
Approach the fold, and cull the infected forth,
But kill not altogether.

2 Sen. What thou wilt,
Thou rather shalt enforce it with thy smile,
Than hew to't with thy sword.

1 Sen. Set but thy foot
Against our rampir'd⁴ gates, and they shall open;
So thou wilt send thy gentle heart before,
To say, thou'lt enter friendly.

2 Sen. Throw thy glove;
Or any token of thine honour else,
That thou wilt use the wars as thy redress,
And not as our confusion, all thy powers
Shall make their harbour in our town, till we
Have seal'd thy full desire.

Alcib. Then there's my glove;
Descend, and open your uncharged² ports;
Those enemies of Timon's, and mine own,
Whom you yourselves shall set out for reproof,
Fall, and no more: and,—to atone³ your fears
With my more noble meaning,—not a man
Shall pass his quarter, or offend the stream
Of regular justice in your city's bounds,
But shall be remedied, to your publick laws
At heaviest answer.

Both. 'Tis most nobly spoken.

Alcib. Descend, and keep your words.

The Senators descend, and open the Gates.

Enter a Soldier.

Sol. My noble general, Timon is dead;
Entomb'd upon the very hem o' the sea;
And on his gravestone, this insculpture; which
With wax I brought away, whose soft impression
Interprets for my poor ignorance.

Alcib. [Reads.] *Here lies a wretched corse, of
wretched soul bereft:*

*Seek not my name: A plague consume you
wicked caitiffs left!*

*Here lie I, Timon; who, alive, all living men
did hate:*

*Pass by, and curse thy fill; but pass, and stay
not here thy gait.*

These well express in thee thy latter spirits:
Though thou abhorr'dst in us our human griefs,
Scorn'dst our brain's flow, and those our drop-
lets⁴ which

From niggard nature fall, yet rich conceit
Taught thee to make vast Neptune weep for aye
On thy low grave, on faults forgiven. Dead
Is noble Timon; of whose memory
Hereafter more.—Bring me into your city,
And I will use the olive with my sword:
Make war breed peace; make peace stint⁵ war;
make each

Prescribe to other, as each other's leech.⁶

Let our drums strike. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ Fortified. ² Unattacked. ³ Reconcile.
⁴ Little drops. ⁵ Stop. ⁶ Physician.

Coriolanus.

Persons Represented.

CAIUS MARCIUS CORIOLANUS, a noble Roman.
 TITUS LARTIUS, } *Generals against the Vol-*
 COMINIUS, } *scians.*
 MENENIUS AGRIPPA, *Friend to Coriolanus.*
 SICINIUS VELUTUS, } *Tribunes of the People.*
 JUNIUS BRUTUS, }
 Young MARCIUS, *Son to Coriolanus.*
A Roman Herald.
 TULLUS AUFIDIUS, *General of the Volscians.*
Lieutenant to Aufidius.
Conspirators with Aufidius.

A Citizen of Antium.
Two Volscian Guards.

VOLUMNIA, *Mother to Coriolanus.*
 VIRGILIA, *Wife to Coriolanus.*
 VALERIA, *Friend to Virgilia.*
Gentlewoman attending Virgilia.

Roman and Volscian Senators, Patricians,
Ediles, Lictors, Soldiers, Citizens, Messengers,
Servants to Aufidius, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Partly in Rome, and partly in the Territories of the Volscians and Antiates.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—ROME. A STREET.

Enter a Company of mutinous Citizens, with Staves, Clubs, and other Weapons.

1 *Cit.* Before we proceed any further, hear me speak.

Cit. Speak, speak. [*Several speaking at once.*]

1 *Cit.* You are all resolv'd rather to die, than to famish.

Cit. Resolved, resolved.

1 *Cit.* First, you know, Caius Marcius is chief enemy to the people.

Cit. We know't, we know't.

1 *Cit.* Let us kill him, and we'll have corn at our own price. Is't a verdict?

Cit. No more talking on't; let it be done; away, away.

2 *Cit.* One word, good citizens.

1 *Cit.* We are accounted poor citizens; the patricians, good¹: What authority surfeits on, would relieve us; If they would yield us but the superfluity, while it were wholesome, we might guess, they relieved us humanely! but they think, we are too dear: the leanness that afflicts us, the object of our misery, is an inventory to particularize their abundance; our sufferance is a gain to them.—Let us revenge this with our pikes, ere we become rakes²: for the gods know, I speak this in hunger for bread, not in thirst for revenge.

2 *Cit.* Would you proceed especially against Caius Marcius?

Cit. Against him first; he's a very dog to the commonalty.

2 *Cit.* Consider you what services he has done for his country?

1 *Cit.* Very well; and could be content to give him good report for't, but that he pays himself with being proud.

2 *Cit.* Nay, but speak not maliciously.

1 *Cit.* I say unto you, what he hath done famously, he did it to that end: though soft con-

1 Rich.

2 [*Thin as rakes.*]

scienc'd men can be content to say it was for his country, he did it to please his mother, and to be partly proud; which he is, even to the altitude of his virtue.

2 *Cit.* What he cannot help in his nature, you account a vice in him: You must in no way say, he is covetous.

1 *Cit.* If I must not, I need not be barren of accusations; he hath faults, with surplus, to tire in repetition. [*Shouts within.*] What shouts are these? The other side o' the city is risen: Why stay we prating here? to the Capitol.

Cit. Come, come.

1 *Cit.* Soft; who comes here?

Enter Menenius Agrippa.

2 *Cit.* Worthy Menenius Agrippa; one that hath always loved the people.

1 *Cit.* He's one honest enough; 'Would all the rest were so!

Men. What works, my countrymen, in hand?

Where go you, *citizens*?

With bats and clubs? The matter speak, I pray

1 *Cit.* Our business is not unknown to the senate; they have had inkling this fortnight, what we intend to do, which now we'll show 'em in deeds. They say, poor suitors have strong breaths; they shall know we have strong arms too.

Men. Why, masters, my good friends, mine honest neighbours,

Will you undo yourselves?

1 *Cit.* We cannot, sir, we are undone already.

Men. I tell you, friends, most charitable care Have the patricians of you. For your wants, Your suffering in this dearth, you may as well Strike at the heaven with your staves, as lift them Against the Roman state; whose course will on The way it takes, cracking ten thousand curbs Of more strong link asunder, than can ever Appear in your impediment: For the dearth, The gods, not the patricians, make it; and Your knees to them, not arms, must help. Alack, You are transported by calamity Thither where more attends you; and you slander

The helms o' the state, who care for you like
When you curse them as enemies. [fathers,

1 *Cit.* Care for us!—True, indeed!—They ne'er
cared for us yet. Suffer us to famish, and their
storehouses crammed with grain; make edicts
for usury, to support usurers: repeal daily any
wholesome act established against the rich;
and provide more piercing statutes daily, to
chain up and restrain the poor. If the wars
eat us not up, they will; and there's all the
love they bear us.

Men. Either you must
Confess yourselves wondrous malicious,
Or be accus'd of folly. I shall tell you
A pretty tale; it may be, you have heard it;
But, since it serves my purpose, I will venture
To scale¹ a little more.

1 *Cit.* Well, I'll hear it, sir: yet you must
not think to fob² off our disgrace³ with a tale:
but, an't please you, deliver.

Men. There was a time, when all the body's
members
Rebell'd against the belly; thus accus'd it:—
That only like a gulf it did remain
I⁴ the midst o' the body, idle and inactive,
Still cupboarding the viand, never bearing
Like labour with the rest; where⁴ the other
instruments

Did see, and hear, devise, instruct, walk, feel,
And, mutually participate, did minister
Unto the appetite and affection common
Of the whole body. The belly answered,—

1 *Cit.* Well, sir, what answer made the belly?

Men. Sir, I shall tell you.—With a kind of smile,
Which ne'er came from the lungs, but even thus,
(For, look you, I may make the belly smile,
As well as speak,) it tauntingly replied
To the discontented members, the mutinous parts
That envied his receipt; even so most fitly⁵
As you malign our senators, for that
They are not such as you.

1 *Cit.* Your belly's answer: What
The kingly-crowned head, the vigilant eye,
The counsellor heart, the arm our soldier,
Our steed the leg, the tongue our trumpeter,
With other muniments⁶ and petty helps
In this our fabrick, if that they—

Men. What then?—
Fore me, this fellow speaks?—What then? what
then?

1 *Cit.* Should by the cormorant belly be re-
Who is the sink o' the body,— [strain'd,

Men. Well, what then?

1 *Cit.* The former agents, if they did complain,
What could the belly answer?

Men. I will tell you;
If you'll bestow a small (of what you have little,)
Patience, a while, you'll hear the belly's answer.

1 *Cit.* You are long about it.

Men. Note me this, good friend;
Your most grave belly was deliberate,
Not rash like his accusers, and thus answer'd:
*True is it, my incorporate friends, quoth he,
That I receive the general food at first,
Which you do live upon: and fit it is;*

*Because I am the storehouse, and the shop
Of the whole body: But if you do remember,
I send it through the rivers of your blood,
Even to the court, the heart,—to the seat o' the brain;
And, through the cranks¹ and offices of man,
The strongest nerves, and small inferior veins,
From me receive that natural competency
Whereby they live: and though that all at once,
You, my good friends, (this says the belly,)*

1 *Cit.* Ay, sir, well, well. [mark me,—

Men. Though all at once cannot
See what I do deliver out to each;
Yet I can make my audit up, that all
From me do back receive the flour of all,
And leave me but the bran. What say you to't?

1 *Cit.* It was an answer: How apply you this?
Men. The senators of Rome are this good belly,
And you the mutinous members: For examine
Their counsels, and their cares; digest things
rightly,

Touching the weal o' the common; you shall
No publick benefit which you receive,
But it proceeds, or comes, from them to you,
And no way from yourselves—What do you think?
You the great toe of this assembly?—

1 *Cit.* I the great toe? Why the great toe?

Men. For that being one o' the lowest, basest,
poorest,

Of this most wise rebellion, thou go'st foremost:
Thou rascal, that art worst in blood to run,
Lead'st first to win some vantage.—

But make you ready your stiff bats and clubs;
Rome and her rats are at the point of battle,
The one side must have bale.² Hail, noble
Marcius!

Enter Caius Marcius.

Mar. Thanks.—What's the matter, you dis-
sententious rogues?

That rubbing the poor itch of your opinion,
Make yourselves scabs?

1 *Cit.* We have ever your good word.

Mar. He that will give good words to thee,
will flatter [curs,

Beneath abhorring.—What would you have, you
That like nor peace, nor war? the one affrights you,
The other makes you proud. He that trusts you,
Where he should find you lions, finds you hares;
Where foxes, geese: You are no surer, no,
Than is the coal of fire upon the ice,
Or hailstone in the sun. Your virtue is,
To make him worthy, whose offence subdues him,
And curse that justice did it. Who deserves
greatness,

Deserves your hate: and your affections are
A sick man's appetite, who desires most that
Which would increase his evil. He that depends
Upon your favours, swims with fins of lead,
And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang ye!

Trust ye!

With every minute you do change a mind;
And call him noble, that was now your hate,
Him vile, that was your garland. What's the
That in these several places of the city [matter,
You cry against the noble senate, who,
Under the gods, keep you in awe, which else
Would feed on one another?—What's their
seeking?

1 Windings,

2 Ruin.

1 Spread, i.e. make known.

2 Shift off.

3 Injuries.

4 Whereas.

5 Exactly.

6 Supports.

Men. For corn at their own rates; whereof
The city is well stor'd. [*they say,*

Mar. Hang 'em! They say?
They'll sit by the fire, and presume to know
What's done i' the Capitol: who's like to rise,
Who thrives, and who declines: side factions,
and give out

Conjectural marriages; making parties strong,
And feeling such as stand not in their liking,
Below their cobbled shoes. They say there's
grain enough?

Would the nobility lay aside their ruth,¹
And let me use my sword, I'd make a quarry²
With thousands of these quarter'd slaves, as high
As I could pick³ my lance. [*they are*] swayed;

Men. Nay, these are almost thoroughly per-
form'd though abundantly they lack discretion,
Yet are they passing cowardly. But I beseech
What says the other troop? [*you,*

Mar. They are dissolv'd: Hang 'em!
They said they were an hungry; sigh'd forth
proverbs; -- [*eat;*
That, hunger broke stone walls; that, dogs must
That, meat was made for mouths; that, the gods
sent not

Corn for the rich men only:—With these shreds
They vented their complainings; which being
answer'd,

And a petition granted them, a strange one,
(To break the heart of generosity, [*caps*
And make bold power look pale,) they threw their
As they would hang them on the horns o' the
Shouting their emulation.⁴ [*moon,*

Men. What is granted them?
Mar. Five tribunes to defend their vulgar
wisdoms,

Of their own choice: One's Junius Brutus,
Sicinius Velutus, and I know not—'Sdeath!
The rabble should have first unroof'd the city,
Ere so prevail'd with me: it will in time
Win upon power, and throw forth greater themes
For insurrection's arguing.

Men. This is strange.
Mar. Go, get you home, you fragments!

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Where's Caius Marcius?

Mar. Here, what's the matter?

Mess. The news is, sir, the Volces are in arms.

Mar. I am glad on't, then we shall have means
to vent

Our musty superfluity:—See, our best elders.

*Enter Cominius, Titus Lartius, and other Sena-
tors; Junius Brutus, and Sicinius Velutus.*

1 Sen. Marcius, 'tis true, that you have lately
told us;

The Volces are in arms.

Mar. They have a leader,
Tullus Aufidius, that will put you to't.

I sin in envying his nobility:

And were I anything but what I am,
I would wish me only he.

Com. You have fought together.

Mar. Were half to half the world by the ears,
and he

Upon my party, I'd revolt to make
Only my wars with him: he is a lion
That I am proud to hunt.

1 Sen. Then, worthy Marcius,
Attend upon Cominius to these wars.

Com. It is your former promise.

Mar. Sir, it is;
And I am constant.—Titus Lartius, thou
Shalt see me once more strike at Tullus' face:
What, art thou stiff? stand'st out?

Tit. No, Caius Marcius,
I'll lean upon one crutch, and fight with the
Ere stay behind this business. [*other,*

Men. O, true bred!

1 Sen. Your company to the Capitol: where,
Our greatest friends attend us. [*I know,*

Tit. Lead you on:

Follow, Cominius; we must follow you;
Right worthy your priority.

Com. Noble Lartius!

1 Sen. [*To the Citizens.*] Hence! To your
homes, be gone.

Mar. Nay, let them follow:
The Volces have much corn; take these rats
thither,

To gnaw their garners!—Worshipful mutineers,
Your valour puts well forth: pray, follow.

[*Exeunt Senators, Com., Mar., Tit., and
Menen. Citizens steal away.*

S. V. Was ever man so proud as this Marcius?
Bru. He has no equal.

Sic. V. When we were chosen tribunes for the
people,—

Bru. Mark'd you his lip, and eyes?

Sic. V. Nay, but his taunts.

Bru. Being mov'd, he will not spare to gird²

Sic. V. Bemock the modest moon. [*the gods.*

Bru. The present wars devour him: he is grown
Too proud to be so valiant.

Sic. V. Such a nature,
Tickled with good success, disdains the shadow
Which he treads on at noon: But I do wonder,
His insolence can brook to be commanded
Under Cominius.

Bru. Fame, at the which he aims,—
In whom already he is well grac'd,—cannot
Better be held, nor more attain'd than by
A place below the first: for what miscarries
Shall be the general's fault, though he perform
To the utmost of a man; and giddy censure
Will then cry out of Marcius, *O, if he
Had borne the business!*

Sic. V. Besides, if things go well,
Opinion, that so sticks on Marcius, shall
Of his demerits³ rob Cominius.

Bru. Come:
Half all Cominius' honours are to Marcius,
Though Marcius earn'd them not; and all his
faults

To Marcius shall be honours, though, indeed,
In aught he merit not.

Sic. V. Let's hence, and hear
How the despatch is made; and in what fashion,
More than in singularity, he goes
Upon his present action.

Bru. Let's along. [*Exeunt.*

1 Compassion.
2 Heap of dead.

3 Pitch.
4 Triumph.

1 Granaries. 3 Demerits and merits had anciently
2 Gibe. the same meaning.

SCENE II.—CORIOLI. THE SENATE-HOUSE.

Enter Tullus Aufidius, and certain Senators.

1 Sen. So, your opinion is, Aufidius, That they of Rome are enter'd in our counsels, And know how we proceed.

Auf. Is it not yours? What ever hath been thought on in this state, That could be brought to bodily act, ere Rome Had circumvention? 'Tis not four days gone, Since I heard thence; these are the words: I think, I have the letter here; yes, here it is: [*Reads.* *They have press'd a power, but it is not known Whether for east or west: The dearth is great; The people mutinous: and it is rumour'd, Cominius, Marcus, your old enemy, (Who is of Rome worse hated than of you,) And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman, These three lead on this preparation Whither 'tis bent; most likely, 'tis for you: Consider of it.*]

1 Sen. Our army's in the field: We never yet made doubt but Rome was ready To answer us.

Auf. Nor did you think it folly, To keep your great pretences veil'd, till when They needs must show themselves; which in the hatching,

It seem'd, appear'd to Rome. By the discovery, We shall be shorten'd in our aim; which was, To take in¹ many towns, ere, almost, Rome Should know we were afoot.

2 Sen. Noble Aufidius, Take your commission; hie you to your bands: Let us alone to guard Corioli: If they set down before us, for the remove Bring up your army; but, I think, you'll find They have not prepar'd for us.

Auf. O, doubt not that: I speak from certainties. Nay, more, Some parcels of their powers are forth already, And only hitherward, I leave your honours. If we and Caius Marcius chance to meet, 'Tis sworn between us, we shall never strike Till one can do no more.

All. The gods assist you!

Auf. And keep your honours safe!

1 Sen. Farewell.

2 Sen. Farewell.

All. Farewell. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

ROME. AN APARTMENT IN MARCIUS' HOUSE.

Enter Volumentia and Virgilia: They sit down on two low Stools, and sew.

Vol. I pray you, daughter, sing; or express yourself in a more comfortable sort: If my son were my husband, I should freelier rejoice in that absence wherein he won honour, than in the embracements where he would show most love. When yet he was but tender-bodied, and was my only son; when youth with comeliness plucked all gaze his way; when for a day of king's entreaties, a mother should not sell him an hour from her beholding; I,—considering how honour

1 Subdue.

would become such a person; that it was no better than picture-like to hang by the wall, if renown made it hot stir,—was pleased to let him seek danger where he was like to find fame: To a cruel war I sent him; from whence he returned, his brows bound with oak. I tell thee, daughter,—I sprang not more in joy at first hearing he was a man-child, than now, in first seeing he had proved himself a man.

Vir. But had he died in the business, madam? how then?

Vol. Then his good report should have been my son; I therein would have found issue. Hear me profess sincerely: Had I a dozen sons, each in my love alike, and none less dear than thine and my good Marcus,—I had rather had eleven die nobly for their country, than one voluptuously surfeit out of action.

Enter a Gentlewoman.

Gent. Madam, the lady Valeria is come to visit you.

Vir. Beseech you, give me leave to retire

Vol. Indeed, you shall not. [*Exit Gent.*]

Metthink, I hear hither your husband's drum; See him pluck Aufidius down by the hair;

As children from a bear, the Volces shunning him: Metthink, I see him stamp thus, and call thus,—

Come on, you cowards, you were born in fear, Though you were born in Rome: His bloody brow

With his mail'd hand then wiping, forth he goes;

Like to a harvest-man, that's task'd to mow Or all, or lose his hire.

Vir. His bloody brow! O, Jupiter, no blood!

Vol. Away, you fool! it more becomes a man, Than gilt¹ his trophy: The breasts of Hecuba,

When she did suckle Hector, look'd not lovelier Than Hector's forehead, when it spit forth blood

At Grecian swords' contending.—Tell Valeria, We are fit to bid her welcome. [*Exit Gent.*]

Vir. Heavens bless my lord from fell Aufidius!

Vol. He'll beat Aufidius' head below his knee, And tread upon his neck.

Re-enter Gentlewoman, with Valeria and her Usher.

Val. My ladies both, good day to you.

Vol. Sweet madam,

Vir. I am glad to see your ladyship.

Val. How do you do both? you are manifest housekeepers. What are you sewing here? A fine spot, in good faith.—How does your little son?

Vir. I thank your ladyship: well, good madam.

Vol. He had rather see the swords, and hear a drum, than look upon his schoolmaster.

Val. O' my word, the father's son: I'll swear, 'tis a very pretty boy. I looked upon him o'

Wednesday half an hour together: he has such a confirmed countenance. I saw him run after a gilded butterfly; and when he caught it, he let it go again; and after it again; and over and over he comes, and up again; caught it again;

or whether his fall enraged him, or how 'twas, he did so set his teeth, and tear it? O, I warrant, how he mammocked² it!

Vol. One of his father's moods.

Val. Indeed, 'tis a noble child.

1 Gilding.

2 Tore.

Vir. A crack,¹ madam.

Val. Come, lay aside your stitchery ; I must have you play the idle huswife with me this afternoon.

Vir. No, good madam: I will not out of doors.

Val. Not out of doors !

Vol. She shall, she shall.

Vir. Indeed, no, by your patience: I will not over the threshold, till my lord return from the wars.

[sonably ;

Val. Fie, you confine yourself most unreasonably, you must go visit the good lady that lies in.

Vir. I will wish her speedy strength, and visit her with my prayers; but I cannot go thither.

Vol. Why, I pray you.

Vir. 'Tis not to save labour, nor that I want

Val. You would be another Penelope: yet, they say, all the yarn she spun, in Ulysses' absence, did but fill Ithaca full of moths. Come; I would, your cambrick were sensible as your finger, that you might leave pricking it for pity. Come, you shall go with us.

Vir. No, good madam, pardon me; indeed, I will not forth.

Val. In truth, go with me; and I'll tell you excellent news of your husband.

Vir. O, good madam, there can be none yet.

Val. Verily, I do not jest with you; there came news from him last night.

Vir. Indeed, madam?

Val. In earnest, it's true; I heard a senator speak it. Thus it is:—The Volces have an army forth; against whom Cominius the general is gone, with one part of our Roman power: your lord, and Titus Lartius, are set down before their city, Corioli; they nothing doubt prevailing, and to make it brief wars. This is true, on mine honour: and so, I pray, go with us.

Vir. Give me excuse, good madam; I will obey you in everything hereafter.

Vol. Let her alone, lady; as she is now, she will but disease our better mirth.

Val. In troth, I think, she would:—Fare you well, then.—Come, good sweet lady.—Pr'ythee, Virgilia, turn thy solemnness out o' door, and go along with us.

Vir. No; at a word, madam; indeed, I must not. I wish you much mirth.

Val. Well, then, farewell.

[Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—BEFORE CORIOLI.

Enter, with Drum and Colours, Marcius, Titus Lartius, Officers and Soldiers. To them a Messenger.

Mar. Yonder comes news:—A wager, they

Lart. My horse to yours, no! [have met.

Mar. 'Tis done.

Lart. Agreed.

Mar. Say, has our general met the enemy?

Mess. They lie in view; but have not spoke

Lart. So the good horse is mine. [as yet.

Mar. I'll buy him of you.

Lart. No, I'll nor sell nor give him: lend

you him, I will,

For half a hundred years.—Summon the town.

Mar. How far off lie these armies?

1 Boy.

Mess. Within this mile and half.

Mar. Then shall we hear their 'larum, and they ours.

Now, Mars, I pr'ythee make us quick in work; That we with smoking swords may march from hence,

[blast.

To help our fielded friends!—Come, blow thy

They sound a Parley. Enter, on the Walls, some Senators and others.

Tullus Aufidius, is he within your walls?

1 *Sen.* No, nor a man that fears you less than he, That's lesser than a little. Hark, our drums

[*Alarums afar off.*

Are bringing forth our youth: We'll break our walls,

Rather than they shall pound us up: our gates, Which yet seem shut, we have but pinn'd with rushes;

They'll open of themselves. Hark, you, far off; [Other *Alarums.*

There is Aufidius; list what work he makes Amongst your cloven army.

Mar. O, they are at it!

L. Their noise be our instruction.—Ladders, ho!

The Volces enter, and pass over the Stage.

Mar. They fear us not, but issue forth their city. Now put your shields before your hearts, and fight With hearts more proof than shields.—Advance, brave Titus:

They do disdain us much beyond our thoughts. Which makes me sweat with wrath.—Come on, my He that retires, I'll take him for a Volce, [fellows; And he shall feel mine edge.

Alarum, and exeunt Romans and Volces, fighting. The Romans are beaten back to their Trenches. Re-enter Marcius.

Mar. All the contagion of the south light on you, You shames of Rome! you herd of,—Boils and plagues

Plaster you o'er; that you may be abhorr'd Further than seen, and one infect another Against the wind a mile! You souls of geese, That bear the shapes of men, how have you run From slaves that apes would beat? Pluto and hell! All hurt behind; backs red, and faces pale With flight and ag'd fear! Mend, and charge Or, by the fires of heaven I'll leave the foe [home, And make my wars on you: look to't: Come on, If you'll stand fast, we'll beat them to their wives, As they us to our trenches followed.

Another *Alarum. The Volces and Romans re-enter, and the fight is renewed. The Volces retire into Corioli, and Marcius follows them to the Gates.*

So, now the gates are ope:—Now prove good 'Tis for the followers fortune widens them [conds: Not for the fliers: mark me, and do the like.

[*He enters the Gates, and is shut in.*

1 *Sol.* Fool-hardiness; not I.

2 *Sol.* Nor I.

3 *Sol.* See, they Have shut him in. [*Alarum continues.*

All. To the pot, I warrant him.

Enter Titus Lartius.

Lart. What is become of Marcius?

All. Slain, sir, doubtless.

1 *Sol.* Following the fliers at the very heels,
With them he enters: who, upon the sudden,
Clapp'd to their gates; he is himself alone,
To answer all the city.

Lart. O noble fellow!
Who, sensibly,¹ outdares his senseless sword,
And, when it bows, stands up! Thou art left,
Marcius:

A carbuncle entire, as big as thou art,
Were not so rich a jewel. Thou wast a soldier
Even to Cato's wish, not fierce and terrible
Only in strokes; but, with thy grim looks, and
The thunder-like percussion of thy sounds,
Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the world
Were feverous and did tremble.

Re-enter Marcius, bleeding, assaulted by the Enemy.

1 *Sol.* Look, sir.

Lart. 'Tis Marcius;
Let's fetch him off, or make remain alike.
[*They fight, and all enter the City.*]

SCENE V.—WITHIN THE TOWN. A STREET.

Enter certain Romans, with Spoils.

1 *Rom.* This will I carry to Rome.

2 *Rom.* And I this.

3 *Rom.* A murrain on't! I took this for silver.
[*Alarum continues still afar off.*]

Enter Marcius, and Titus Lartius, with a Trumpet.

Mar. See here these movers, that do prize
their hours

At a crack'd drachm²! Cushions, leaden spoons,
Irons of a doir,³ doublets that hangmen would
Bury with those that wore them, these base
slaves, [them.—

Ere yet the fight be done, pack up:—Down with
And hark, what noise the general makes!—To
him:—

There is the man of my soul's hate, Aufidius,
Piercing our Romans: Then, valiant Titus, take
Convenient numbers to make good the city;
Whilst I, with those that have the spirit, will
To help Cominius. [haste

Lart. Worthy sir, thou bleed'st;
Thy exercise hath been too violent for
A second course of fight.

Mar. Sir, praise me not:
My work hath not yet warm'd me: Fare you
The blood I drop is rather physical [well.
Than dangerous to me: To Aufidius thus
I will appear, and fight.

Lart. Now the fair goddess, Fortune,
Fall deep in love with thee; and her great charms
Misguide thy opposers' swords! Bold gentleman,
Prosperity be thy page!

Mar. Thy friend no less
Than those she placeth highest! So farewell.

Lart. Thou worthiest Marcius!—
[*Exit Marcius.*]

Go, sound thy trumpet in the market place;
Call thither all the officers of the town,
Where they shall know our mind: Away.

[*Exeunt.*]

1 Consciously. 2 A Roman coin. 3 Trifling.

SCENE VI.—NEAR THE CAMP OF COMINIUS.

Enter Cominius and Forces, retreating.

Com. Breathe you, my friends; well fought, we
are come off

Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands,
Nor cowardly in retire: believe me, sirs,
We shall be charged again. Whiles we have
struck,

By interims, and conveying gusts, we have heard
The charges of our friends:—The Roman gods,
Lead their successes as we wish our own;
That both our powers, with smiling fronts en-
countering,

Enter a Messenger.

May give you thankful sacrifice!—Thy news?

Mess. The citizens of Corioli have issued,
And given to Lartius and to Martius battle:
I saw our party to their trenches driven,
And then I came away.

Com. Though thou speak'st truth,
Methinks, thou speak'st not well. How long is't
Mess. Above an hour, my lord. [since?

Com. 'Tis not a mile; briefly we heard their
drums;

How couldst thou in a mile confound¹ an hour,
And bring thy news so late?

Mess. Spies of the Volces
Held me in chase, that I was forc'd to wheel
Three or four miles about; else had I, sir,
Half an hour since brought my report.

Enter Marcius.

Com. Who's yonder,
That does appear as he were slay'd? O gods!
He has the stamp of Marcius; and I have
Before-time seen him thus.

Mar. Come I too late?

Com. The shepherd knows not thunder from a
tabor,
More than I know the sound of Marcius' tongue
From every meaner man's.

Mar. Come I too late?

Com. Ay, if you come not in the blood of others,
But mantled in your own.

Mar. O! let me clip you;
In arms as sound, as when I woo'd; in heart
As merry, as on our nuptial day.

Com. Flower of warriors,
How is't with Titus Lartius?

Mar. As with a man busied about decrees:
Condemning some to death, and some to exile;
Ransoming him, or pitying, threat'ning the
Holding Corioli in the name of Rome, [other;
Even like a fawning greyhound in the leash,
To let him slip at will.

Com. Where is that slave,
Which told me they had beat you to your
Where is he? Call him hither. [trenches?

Mar. Let him alone,
He did inform the truth: But for our gentlemen,
The common file, (A plague!—Tribunes for them!)
The mouse ne'er shunn'd the cat, as they did
From rascals worse than they. [budge

Com. But how prevail'd you?

M. Will the time serve to tell? I do not think—

1 Expend.

Where is the enemy? Are you lords o' the field?
If not, why cease you till you are so?

Com. Marcus,
We have at disadvantage fought, and did
Retire to win our purpose.

Mar. How lies their battle? Know you on which
They have plac'd their men of trust? [*side*

Com. As I guess, Marcus,
Their hands in the vaward¹ are the Antiates,²
Of their best trust: o'er them Aufidius,
Their very heart of hope.

Mar. I do beseech you,
By all the battles wherein we have fought,
By the blood we have shed together, by the
vows [*directly*

We have made to endure friends, that you
Set me against Aufidius, and his Antiates:
And that you not delay³ the present; but,
Filling the air with swords advanc'd, and darts,
We prove this very hour.

Com. Though I could wish
You were conducted to a gentle bath,
And balms applied to you, yet dare I never
Deny your asking; take your choice of those
The best can aid your action.

Mar. Those are they
That most are willing:—If any such be here,
(As it were sin to doubt,) that love this painting
Wherein you see me smear'd: if any fear
Lesser his person than an ill report;
If any think, brave death outweighs bad life,
And that his country's dearer than himself;
Let him, alone, or so many, so minded,
Wave thus [*Waving his hand.*] to express his
disposition,
And follow Marcus.

[*They all shout and wave their swords: take
him up in their Arms, and cast up their
Caps.*

O me, alone!—Make you a sword of me?
If these shows be not outward, which of you
But is four Volces? None of you but is
Able to bear against the great Aufidius
A shield as hard as his. A certain number,
Though thanks to all, must I select: the rest
Shall bear the business in some other fight,
As cause will be obey'd. Please you to march;—
And four shall quickly draw out my command,
Which men are best inclin'd.

Com. March on, my fellows:
Make good this ostentation, and you shall
Divide in all with us. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VII.—THE GATES OF CORIOLI.

*Titus Lartius, having set a guard upon Corioli,
going with a Drum and Trumpet towards
Cominius and Caius Marcius, enters with a
Lieutenant, a party of Soldiers, and a Scout.*

Lart. So let the ports⁴ be guarded: keep
your duties,
As I have set them down. If I do send, despatch
Those centuries⁵ to our aid: the rest will serve
For a short holding: if we lose the field,
We cannot keep the town.

Lieu. Fear not our care, sir.

1 Front. 3 Let slip. 5 Companies of a hundred
2 Of Antium. 4 Gates. men.

Lart. Hence, and shut your gates upon us.—
Our guider, come; to the Roman camp con-
duct us. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VIII.

A FIELD OF BATTLE BETWEEN THE ROMAN AND
THE VOLSCIAN CAMPS.

Alarum. Enter Marcius and Aufidius.

Mar. I'll fight with none but thee; for I do
hate thee

Worse than a promise-breaker.

Auf. We hate alike;
Not Afric owns a serpent, I abhor
More than thy fame and envy: Fix thy foot.

Mar. Let the first budger die the other's slave,
And the gods doom him after!

Auf. If I fly, Marcius,
Hallo me like a hare.

Mar. Within these three hours, Tullus,
Alone I fought in your Corioli walls,
And made what work I pleas'd; 'Tis not my
blood

Wherein thou seest me mask'd: for thy revenge
Wrench up thy power to the highest.

Auf. Wert thou the Hector,
That was the whip of your bragg'd progeny,
Thou shouldst not scape me here.—

[*They fight, and certain Volces come to the
aid of Aufidius.*

Officious, and not valiant—you have shamed me
In your condemned seconds.¹

[*Exeunt fighting, driven in by Marcius.*

SCENE IX.—THE ROMAN CAMP.

Alarum. A Retreat is sounded. Flourish.
*Enter, at one side, Cominius, and Romans;
at the other side, Marcius, with his arm in a
Scarf, and other Romans.*

Com. If I should tell thee o'er this thy day's
work,

Thou'lt not believe thy deeds: but I'll report it,
Where senators shall mingle tears with smiles;
Where great patricians shall attend, and shrug,
I'll the end, admire; where ladies shall be frighted,
And, gladly quak'd,² hear more; where the dull
tribunes,

That, with the fusty plebians, hate thine honours,
Shall say against their hearts—*We thank the gods
Our Rome hath such a soldier!*—
Yet can'st thou to a morsel of this feast,
Having fully dined before.

*Enter Titus Lartius, with his Power, from the
Pursuit.*

Lart. O general,
Here is the steed, we the caparison:
Hadst thou beheld—

Mar. Pray now, no more: my mother,
Who has a charter to extol her blood,
When she does praise me, grieves me. I have
done,

As you have done; that's what I can; induc'd
As you have been; that's for my country:
He, that has but effected his good will,
Hath overta'en mine act.

1 Intrusive help. 2 Pleasedly trembling.

Com. You shall not be
The grave of your deserving; Rome must know
The value of her own: 'Twere a concealment
Worse than a theft, no less than a traducement,
To hide your doings; and to silence that,
Which to the spire and top of praises vouch'd,
Would seem but modest: Therefore, I beseech
(In sign of what you are, not to reward [you,
What you have done,) before our army hear me.

Mar. I have some wounds upon me, and they
smart

To hear themselves remember'd.

Com. Should they not,
Well might they fester 'gainst ingratitude,
And tent themselves with death. Of all the horses
(Whereof we have ta'en good, and good store,)
of all

The treasure, in this field achiev'd, and city,
We render you the tenth; to be ta'en forth,
Before the common distribution, at
Your only choice.

Mar. I thank you, general;
But cannot make my heart consent to take
A bribe to pay my sword: I do refuse it;
And stand upon my common part with those
That have beheld the doing.

[A long Flourish. They all cry *Marcus!*

*Marcus! cast up their Caps and Lances:
Cominius and Lartius stand bare.*

Mar. May these same instruments, which you
profane, [shall
Never sound more! When drums and trumpet
In the field prove flatterers, let courts and cities be
Made all of false-fac'd soothing: When steel grows
Soft as the parasite's silk, let him be made
An overture for the wars! No more, I say;
For that I have not wash'd my nose that bled,
Or foil'd some debile¹ wretch,—which, without
note,

Here's many else have done,—you shout me forth
In acclamations hyperbolical;
As if I loved my little should be dieted
In praises sauc'd with lies.

Com. Too modest are you;
More cruel to your good report than grateful
To us that give you truly: by your patience,
If 'gainst yourself you be incens'd, we'll put you
(Like one that means his proper² harm,) in
manacles, [known,
Then reason safely with you.—Therefore, be it
As to us, to all the world, that Caius Marcus
Wears this war's garland: in token of the which
My noble steed, known to the camp, I give him,
With all his trim belonging; and, from this time,
For what he did before Corioli, call him,
With all the applause and clamour of the host,
CAIUS MARCIUS CORIOLANUS.—
Bear the addition nobly ever!

[Flourish. Trumpets sound, and Drums.

All. Caius Marcus Coriolanus!

Cor. I will go wash;

And when my face is fair, you shall perceive
Whether I blush, or no: Howbeit, I thank you.
I mean to stride your steed; and, at all times,
To undercrest³ your good addition,
To the fairness of my power.⁴

Com. So, to our tent:

1 Feeble. 2 Own. 3 Wear. 4 As fairly as I can.

Where, ere we do repose us, we will write
To Rome of our success.—You, Titus Lartius;
Must to Corioli back: send us to Rome
The best,¹ with whom we may articulate,²
For their own good, and ours.

Lart. I shall, my lord.

Cor. The gods begin to mock me: I that now
Refus'd most princely gifts, am bound to beg
Of my lord general.

Com. Take it: 'Tis yours.—What is't?

Cor. I sometime lay, here in Corioli,
At a poor man's house; he us'd me kindly:
He cried to me; I saw him prisoner;
But then Aufidius was within my view,
And wrath o'erwhelm'd my pity: I request you
To give my poor host freedom.

Com. O, well begg'd;

Were he the butcher of my son, he should
Be free, as is the wind. Deliver him, Titus.

Lart. Marcus, his name?

Cor. By Jupiter, forgot:—
I am weary; yea, my memory is tir'd.—
Have we no wine here?

Com. Go we to our tent:
The blood upon your visage dries: 'tis time
It should be look'd to: come. [Exeunt.

SCENE X.—THE CAMP OF THE VOLCES.

A Flourish. Cornets. Enter Tullus Aufidius,
bloody, with two or three Soldiers.

Auf. The town is ta'en!

1 Sol. 'Twill be deliver'd back on good con-
Auf. Condition!— [dition.

I would, I were a Roman; for I cannot,
Being a Volce, be that I am.—Condition!
What good condition can a treaty find
I' the part that is at mercy? Five times, Marcus,
I have fought with thee; so often hast thou
beat me;

And wouldst do so, I think, should we encounter
As often as we eat.—By the elements,
If e'er again I meet him beard to beard,
He is mine, or I am his: Mine emulation
Hath not that honour in't, it had; for where³
I thought to crush, him in an equal force [way;
(True sword to sword,) I'll potch⁴ at him some
Or wrath, or craft, may get him.

1 Sol. He's the devil.

Auf. Bolder, though not so subtle: My valour's
poison'd,

With only suffering stain by him; for him
Shall fly out of itself: nor sleep, nor sanctuary,
Being naked, sick: nor fane, nor Capitol,
The prayers of priests, nor times of sacrifice,
Embarquements all of fury, shall lift up
Their rotten privilege and custom 'gainst
My hate to Marcus: where I find him, were it
At home, upon my brother's guard, even there
Against the hospitable canon, would I [city;
Wash my fierce hand in his heart. Go you to the
Learn, how 'tis held; and what they are, that
Be hostages for Rome. [must

1 Sol. Will not you go?

Auf. I am attended⁵ at the cypress grove:
I pray you,
(Tis south the city mills,) bring me word thither

1 Chief men. 3 Whereas. 5 Waited for.

2 Make terms. 4 Thrust.

How the world goes; that to the pace of it
I may spur on my journey.

I Sol. I shall, sir. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—ROME. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Menenius, Sicinius, and Brutus.

Men. The augurer tells me, we shall have news to-night.

Bru. Good, or bad?

Men. Not according to the prayer of the people, for they love not Marcius.

S. Nature teaches beasts to know their friends.

Men. Pray you, who does the wolf love?

Sic. The lamb.

Men. Ay, to devour him; as the hungry plebeians would the noble Marcius.

Bru. He's a lamb indeed, that baes¹ like a bear.

Men. He's a bear indeed, that lives like a lamb. You two are old men; tell me one thing that I shall ask you.

Both Trib. Well, sir.

Men. In what enormity is Marcius poor, that you two have not in abundance?

Bru. He's poor in no one fault, but stored with all.

Sic. Especially in pride.

Bru. And topping all others in boasting.

Men. This is strange now; Do you two know how you are censured here in the city, I mean of us o' the right hand file? Do you?

Both Trib. Why, how are we censured?

Men. Because you talk of pride now,—Will you not be angry?

Both Trib. Well, well, sir, well.

Men. Why 'tis no great matter; for a very little thief of occasion will rob you of a great deal of patience; give your disposition the reins, and be angry at your pleasures; at the least, if you take it as a pleasure to you, in being so. You blame Marcius for being proud?

Bru. We do it not alone, sir.

Men. I know, you can do very little alone; for your helps are many; or else your actions would grow wonderous single: your abilities are too infant-like, for doing much alone. You talk of pride: O, that you could turn your eyes towards the napes of your necks, and make but an interior survey of your good selves! O, that you could!

Bru. What then, sir?

Men. Why, then you should discover a brace of unmeriting, proud, violent, testy magistrates, (alias fools,) as any in Rome.

Sic. Menenius, you are known well enough too.

Men. I am known to be a humorous patrician, and one that loves a cup of hot wine with not a drop of allaying Tyber in't; said to be something imperfect, in favouring the first complaint: hasty, and tinder-like, upon too trivial motion: one that converses more with the buttock of the night, than with the forehead of the morning. What I think, I utter; and spend my malice in my breath: Meeting two such weals-men² as you are

1 Bleats. 2 Politicians.

(I cannot call you Lycurguses), if the drink you gave me, touch my palate adversely, I make a crooked face at it: I cannot say, your worships have delivered the matter well, when I find the ass in compound with the major part of your syllables: and though I must be content to bear with those that say you are reverend grave men; yet they lie dead, that tell, you have good faces. If you see this in the map of my microcosm,¹ follows it, that I am known well enough too? What harm can your bisson conspectivities² glean out of this character, if I be known well enough too?

Bru. Come, sir, come; we know you well enough.

Men. You know neither me, yourselves, nor any thing. You are ambitious for poor knaves' caps and legs³; you wear out a good wholesome forenoon, in hearing a cause between an orange-wife and a fosset-seller⁴; and then rejoin the controversy of three-pence to a second day of audience.—When you are hearing a matter between party and party, you dismiss the controversy bleeding, the more entangled by your hearing: all the peace you make in their cause, is, calling both the parties knaves: You are a pair of strange ones.

Bru. Come, come, you are well understood to be a perfecter giber for the table, than a necessary benchman in the Capitol.

Men. Our very priests must become mockers, if they shall encounter such ridiculous subjects as you are. When you speak best unto the purpose, it is not worth the wagging of your beards; and your beards deserve not so honourable a grave; as to stuff a butcher's cushion, or to be entombed in an ass's pack-saddle.—Yet you must be saying, Marcius is proud; who, in a cheap estimation, is worth all your predecessors, since Deucalion; though, peradventure, some of the best of them were hereditary hangmen. Good e'en to your worships: more of your conversation would infect my brain, being the herdsmen of the beastly plebians: I will be bold to take my leave of you.

[*Bru. and Sic. retire to the back of the Scene.*]

Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Valeria, &c.

How now, my as fair as noble ladies, (and the moon were she earthly, no nobler,) whither do you follow your eyes so fast?

Vol. Honourable Menenius; my boy Marcius approaches: for the love of Juno, let's go.

Men. Ha! Marcius coming home?

Vol. Ay, worthy Menenius; and with most prosperous approbation.

Men. Take my cap, Jupiter, and I thank thee:

—Hoo! Marcius coming home?

Two Ladies. Nay, 'tis true.

Vol. Look, here's a letter from him: the state hath another, his wife another; and, I think, there's one at home for you!

Men. I will make my very house reel to-night:—A letter for me?

Vir. Yes; certain, there's a letter for you; I saw it.

Men. A letter for me? It gives me an estate

1 Little world. 2 Obeisances.

2 Blear-eyed sight. 4 Seller of rush mats.

of seven years' health; in which time I will make a lip at the physician: the most sovereign prescription in Galen is but empiricuteick,¹ and, to this preservative, of no better report than a horse-drench. Is he not wounded? he was wont to come home wounded.

Vir. O, no, no, no.

Vol. O, he is wounded, I thank the gods for't.

Men. So do I too, if it be not too much:—Brings 'a victory in his pocket?—The wounds become him.

Vol. On's brows, Menenius: he comes the third time home with the oaken garland.

Men. Has he disciplined Aufidius soundly?

Vol. Titus Lartius writes,—they fought together, but Aufidius got off.

Men. And 'twas time for him too, I'll warrant him that: an he had staid by him, I would not have been so fiduised² for all the chests in Corioli, and the gold that's in them. Is the senate possessed of this?

Vol. Good ladies, let's go:—Yes, yes, yes: the senate has letters from the general, wherein he gives my son the whole name of the war: he hath in this action outdone his former deeds doubly.

Val. In troth, there's wondrous things spoke of him.

Men. Wondrous? ay, I warrant you, and not without his true purchasing.

Vir. The gods grant them true!

Vol. True? pow, wov.

Men. True! I'll be sworn they are true:—Where is he wounded?—[*To the Tribunes, who come forward.*] Jove save your good worships! Marcius is coming home: he has more cause to be proud,—Where is he wounded?

Vol. I' the shoulder, and i' the left arm: There will be large cicatrices to show the people, when he shall stand for his place. He received in the repulse of Tarquin, seven hurts i' the body.

Men. One in the neck, and two in the thigh,—there's nine that I know.

Vol. He had, before this last expedition, twenty-five wounds upon him.

Men. Now it's twenty-seven: every gash was an enemy's grave: [*A Shout, and Flourish.*] Hark! the trumpets.

Vol. These are the ushers of Marcius: before He carries noise, and behind him he leaves tears; Death, that dark spirit, in's nerry arm doth lie; Which being advanc'd, declines³; and then men die.

A Sennet.⁴ Trumpets sound. Enter Cominius and Titus Lartius; between them, Coriolanus, crowned with an oaken Garland; with Captains, Soldiers, and a Herald.

Her. Know, Rome, that all alone Marcius did fight

With Corioli' gates: where he hath won,
With fame, a name to Caius Marcius: these
In honour follows, Coriolanus:

Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus!

[*Flourish.*]

All. Welcome to Rome, renowned Coriolanus!

Cor. No more of this, it does offend my heart;
Pray now, no more.

Com. Look, sir, your mother.—

Cor. O!

You have, I know, petition'd all the gods
For my prosperity. [*Kneels.*]

Vol. Nay, my good soldier, up

My gentle Marcius, worthy Caius, and
By deed achieving honour newly nam'd,
What is it? Coriolanus, must I call thee?

But O, thy wife—

Cor. My gracious¹ silence, hail!
Wouldst thou have laugh'd, had I come coffin'd
home,

That weep'st to see me triumph? Ah, my dear,
Such eyes the widows in Corioli wear,
And mothers that lack sons.

Men. Now the gods crown thee!

Cor. And live you yet?—[*To Valeria.*] O my
sweet lady, pardon.

Vol. I know not where to turn:—O welcome
home;

And welcome, general;—and you are welcome all.

Men. A hundred thousand welcomes: I could
weep,

And I could laugh; I am light and heavy:
Welcome:

A curse begin at very root of his heart,
That is not glad to see thee!—You are three,
That Rome should dote on: yet, by the faith
of men,

We have some old crab-trees here at home, that
will not

Begrafted to your relish. Yet welcome, warriors:
We call a nettle, but a nettle; and
The faults of fools, but folly.

Com. Ever right.

Cor. Menenius, ever, ever.

Her. Give way there, and go on.

Cor. [*To his Wife and Mother.*] Your hand,
and yours:

Ere in our own house I do shade my head,
The good patricians must be visited;
From whom I have receiv'd not only greetings,
But with them change of honours.

Vol. I have lived

To see inherited my very wishes,
And the buildings of my fancy: only there
Is one thing wanting, which I doubt not, but
Our Rome will cast upon thee.

Cor. Know, good mother,
I had rather be their servant in my way,
Than sway with them in theirs.

Com. On, to the Capitol.

[*Flourish.* Cornets. *Eeunt in state, as before. The Tribunes remain.*]

Br. All tongues speak of him, and the bleared
sights

Are spectacl'd to see him: Your prattling nurse
In her rapture let's her baby cry,

While she chats him: the kitchen malkin² pins
Her richest lockram³ 'bout her reechy⁴ neck,
Clambering the walls to eye him: stalls, bulks,
windows,

Are smother'd up, leads fill'd and ridges hors'd
With variable complexions: all agreeing
In earnestness to see him; seld⁵-shown flamens⁶
Do press among the popular throngs, and puff

1 Quackery.

2 Confident.

3 Is let fall.

4 Flourish on cornets.

1 Graceful.

2 Scullion.

3 Linen.

4 Greasy.

5 Seldom.

6 Priests.

To win a vulgar station: our veil'd dames
Commit the war of white and damask, in
Their nicely-gawdied¹ cheeks, to the wanton spoil
Of Phœbus' burning kisses: such a pother,
As if that whatsoever god, who leads him,
Were sliily crept into his human powers,
And gave him graceful posture.

Sic. On the sudden,
I warrant him consul.

Bru. Then our office may,
During his power, go sleep. [honours

Sic. He cannot temperately transport his
From where he should begin, and end; but will
Lose those that he hath won.

Bru. In that there's comfort.

Sic. Doubt not, the commoners, for whom
we stand,

But they, upon their ancient malice, will
Forget, with the least cause, these his new
honours; [tion

Which that he'll give them, make as little ques-
As he is proud to do't.

Bru. I heard him swear,
Were he to stand for consul, never would he
Appear i' the market-place, nor on him put
The napless² vesture of humility;

Nor, showing (as the manner is) his wounds
To the people, beg their stinking breaths.

Sic. 'Tis right.

B. It was his word: O, he would miss it, rather
Than carry it, but by the suit of the gentry to him,
And the desires of the nobles.

Sic. I wish no better,
Than have him hold that purpose, and put it
In execution.

Bru. 'Tis most like, he will.

Sic. It shall be to him then, as our good will;
A sure destruction.

Bru. So it must fall out
To him, or our authorities. For an end,
We must suggest³ the people in what hatred
He still hath held them; that, to his power he
would [and

Have made them mules, silenc'd their pleaders,
Disproportioned their freedoms: holding them,
In human action and capacity,
Of no more soul nor fitness for the world,
Than camels in their war; who have their pro-
Only for bearing burdens, and sore blows [vand⁴
For sinking under them.

Sic. This, as you say, suggested
At some time when his soaring insolence
Shall teach the people, (which time shall not
If he be put upon't; and that's as easy, [want,
As to set dogs on sheep,) will be his fire
To kindle their dry stubble; and their blaze
Shall darken him for ever.

Enter a Messenger.

Bru. What's the matter?

M. You are sent for to the Capitol. 'Tis thought
That Marcus should be consul: I have seen
The dumb men throng to see him, and the blind
To hear him speak: The matrons flung their
gloves,

Ladies and maids their scarfs and handkerchiefs,
Upon him as he pass'd: the nobles bended,

¹ Adorned.

² Threadbare.

³ Prompt.

⁴ Provender.

As to Jove's statue; and the commons made
A shower, and thunder, with their caps, and
I never saw the like. [shouts:

Bru. Let's to the Capitol;
And carry with us ears and eyes for the time,
But hearts for the event.

Sic. Have with you. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—THE CAPITOL.

Enter two Officers, to lay Cushions.

1 Off. Come, come, they are almost here:
How many stand for consulships?

2 Off. Three, they say: but 'tis thought of
every one, Coriolanus will carry it.

1 Off. That's a brave fellow; but he's vengeance
proud, and loves not the common people.

2 Off. There have been many great men that
have flatter'd the people, who ne'er loved them;
and there be many that they have loved, they
know not wherefore: so that, if they love they
know not why, they hate upon no better a
ground: Therefore, for Coriolanus neither to
care whether they love or hate him, manifests
the true knowledge he has in their disposition;
and, out of his noble carelessness, lets them
plainly see't.

1 Off. If he did not care whether he had their
love, or no, he waded indifferently 'twixt doing
them neither good nor harm; but he seeks their
hate with greater devotion than they can ren-
der it him: and leaves nothing undone, that
may fully discover him their opposite. Now,
to seem to affect the malice and displeasure of
the people, is as bad as that which he dislikes,
to flatter them for their love.

2 Off. He hath deserved worthily of his coun-
try: And his ascent is not by such easy degrees
as those, who, having been supple and courteous
to the people, bonneted¹ without any further
deed to leave them at all into their estimation
and report: but he hath so planted his honours
in their eyes, and his actions in their hearts,
that for their tongues to be silent, and not con-
fess so much, were a kind of ingrateful injury;
to report otherwise were a malice, that, giving
itself the lie, would pluck reproof and rebuke
from every ear that heard it.

1 Off. No more of him; he is a worthy man:
Make way, they are coming.

*A Sennet. Enter, with Lictors, before them,
Cominius, the Consul, Menenius, Coriolanus,
many other Senators, Sicinius, and Brutus.
The Senators take their Places; the Tribunes
take theirs also by themselves.*

Men. Having determin'd of the Volces, and
To send for Titus Lartius, it remains,
As the main point of this our after-meeting,
To gratify his noble service, that
Hath thus stood for his country: Therefore please
Most reverend and grave elders, to desire [you,
The present consul, and last general
In our well-found successes, to report
A little of that worthy work perform'd
By Caius Marcus Coriolanus: whom

¹ Took off caps.

We meet here, both to thank and to remember
With honours like himself.

1 Sen. Speak, good Cominius:
Leave nothing out for length, and make us think,
Rather our state's defective for requital,
Than we to stretch it out. Masters o' the people,
We do request your kindest ears: and, after,
Your loving motion toward the common body,
To yield what passes here.

Sic. We are convented
Upon a pleasing treaty; and have hearts
Inclinable to honour and advance
The theme of our assembly.

Bru. Which the rather
We shall be bless'd to do, if he remember
A kinder value of the people, than
He hath hereto priz'd them at.

Men. That's off, that's off!
I would you rather had been silent: please you
To hear Cominius speak?

Bru. Most willingly:
But yet my caution was more pertinent,
Than the rebuke you gave it.

Men. He loves your people;
But tie him not to be their bedfellow.—
Worthy Cominius, speak.—Nay, keep your place.

[*Coriolanus rises, and offers to go away.*]

1 Sen. Sit, Coriolanus: never shame to hear
What you have nobly done.

Cor. Your honours' pardon;
I had rather have my wounds to heal again,
Than hear say how I got them.

Bru. Sir, I hope,
My words disbench'd you not.

Cor. No, sir; yet oft
When blows have made me stay, I fled from words.
You sooth'd not, therefore, hurt not: But, your
I love them as they weigh.

Men. Pray now, sit down.
Cor. I had rather have one scratch my head! the
When the alarm were struck, than idly sit [sun,
To hear my nothings monster'd.

[*Exit Coriolanus.*]

Men. Masters o' the people,
Your multiplying spawn how can he flatter, [see,
(That's thousand to one good one,) when you now
He had rather venture all his limbs for honour,
Than one of his ears to hear it?—Proceed,
Cominius.

Com. I shall lack voice: the deeds of Coriolanus
Should not be utter'd feebly.—It is held,
That valour is the chiefest virtue, and
Most dignifies the haver: if it be,
The man I speak of cannot in the world
Be singly counterpois'd. At sixteen years,
When Tarquin made a head for Rome, he fought
Beyond the mark of others: our then dictator,
Whom with all praise I point at, saw him fight,
When with his Amazonian² chin he drove
The bristled lips before him: he bestrid
An o'er-press'd Roman, and i' the consul's view
Slew three opposers: Tarquin's self he met,
And struck him on his knee: in that day's feats,
When he might act the woman in the scene,
He prov'd best man i' the field, and for his meed³
Was brow-bound with the oak. His pupil age
Man-enter'd thus, he waxed like a sea;

1 (The purpose.) 2 Beardless. 3 Reward.

And, in the brunt of seventeen battles since,
He lurch'd all swords o' the garland. For this
Before and in Corioli, let me say, [last,
I cannot speak him home: He stopp'd the fliers;
And, by his rare example, made the coward
Turn terror into sport: as waves before
A vessel under sail, so men obey'd, [stamp)
And fell below his stem: his sword (death)
Where it did mark it took; from face to foot
He was a thing of blood, whose every motion
Was timed with dying cries: alone he enter'd
The mortal gate o' the city, which he painted
With shunless destiny, aidless came off,
And with a sudden re-enforcement struck
Corioli, like a planet: now all's his:
When by and by the din of war gan pierce
His ready sense: then straight his doubled spirit
Re-quicken'd what in flesh was fatigued,²
And to the battle came he; where he did
Run reeking o'er the lives of men, as if
'Twere a perpetual spoil; and, till we call'd
Both field and city ours, he never stood
To ease his breast with panting.

Men. Worthy man!

1 Sen. He cannot but with measure fit the
Which we devise him.

Com. Our spoils he kick'd at;
And look'd upon things precious, as they were
The common muck o' the world: he covets less
Than misery² itself would give; rewards
His deeds with doing them; and is content
To spend the time to end it.

Men. He's right noble;
Let him be call'd for.

1 Sen. Call for Coriolanus.
Off. He doth appear.

Re-enter Coriolanus.

Men. The senate, Coriolanus, are well pleas'd
To make thee consul.

Cor. I do owe them still
My life, and services.

Men. It then remains,
That you do speak to the people.

Cor. I do beseech you,
Let me o'erleap that custom; for I cannot
Put on the gown, stand naked, and entreat them;
For my wounds' sake, to give their suffrage:

please you,
That I may pass this doing.

Sic. Sir, the people
Must have their voices; neither will they bate
One jot of ceremony.

Men. Put them not to't:—
Pray you, go fit you to the custom; and
Take to you, as your predecessors have,
Your honour with your form.

Cor. It is a part
That I shall blush in acting, and might well
Be taken from the people.

Bru. Mark you that?

Cor. To brag unto them,—thus I did, and thus:—
Show them the unaching scars which I should
As if I had receiv'd them for the hire [hide,
Of their breath only:—

Men. Do not stand upon't. →
We recommend to you, tribunes of the people,

1 Disappointed. 2 Fatigued. 3 Avarice.

Our purpose to them;—and to our noble consul Wish we all joy and honour.

Sen. To Coriolanus come all joy and honour!

[*Flourish. Then exeunt Senators.*]

Bru. You see how he intends to use the people.

Sic. May they perceive his intent! He that will require them,

As if he did contemn what he requested Should be in them to give.

Bru. Come, we'll inform them Of our proceedings here: on the market-place, I know they do attend us. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE FORUM.

Enter several Citizens.

1 Cit. Once, if he do require our voices, we ought not to deny him.

2 Cit. We may, sir, if we will.

3 Cit. We have power in ourselves to do it, but it is a power that we have no power to do: for if he show us his wounds, and tell us his deeds, we are to put our tongues into those wounds, and speak for them; so, if he tell us his noble deeds, we must also tell him our noble acceptance of them. Ingratitude is monstrous: and for the multitude to be ingrateful, were to make a monster of the multitude; of the which, we being members, should bring ourselves to be monstrous members.

1 Cit. And to make us no better thought of, a little help will serve: for once, when we stood up about the corn, he himself stuck not to call us the many-headed multitude.

3 Cit. We have been called so of many; not that our heads are some brown, some black, some auburn, some bald, but that our wits are so diversely coloured: and truly I think, if all our wits were to issue out of one skull, they would fly east, west, north, south; and their consent of one direct way should be at once to all the points of the compass.

2 Cit. Think you so? Which way, do you judge, my wit would fly?

3 Cit. Nay, your wit will not so soon out as another man's will, 'tis strongly wedged up in a blockhead: but if it were at liberty, 'twould, sure, southward.

2 Cit. Why that way?

3 Cit. To lose itself in a fog; where being three parts melted away with rotten dews, the fourth would return to help to get thee a wife.

2 Cit. You are never without your tricks:—You may, you may.

3 Cit. Are you all resolved to give your voices? But that's no matter, the greater part carries it. I say, if he would incline to the people, there was never a worthier man.

Enter Coriolanus and Menenius.

Here he comes, and in the gown of humility; mark his behaviour. We are not to say all together, but to come by him where he stands, by ones, by twos, and by threes. He's to make his requests by particulars: wherein every one of us has a single honour, in giving him our own voices with our own tongues: therefore, follow me, and I'll direct you how you shall go by him.

All. Content, content.

M. O sir, you are not right; have you not known The worthiest men have done it?

Cor. What must I say?—

I pray, sir,—Plague upon't! I cannot bring My tongue to such a pace:—Look, sir;—my wounds;—

I got them in my country's service, when Some certain of your brethren roar'd, and ran From the noise of our own drums.

Men. O me, the gods!

You must not speak of that: you must desire To think upon you.

Cor. Think upon me? Hang 'em! I would they would forget me.

Men. You'll mar all; [you, I'll leave you: Pray you, speak to them, I pray In wholesome manner. [*Exit.*]

Enter two Citizens.

Cor. Bid them wash their faces, And keep their teeth clean.—So, here comes a brace.—

You know the cause, sir, of my standing here.

1 Cit. We do, sir; tell us what hath brought

Cor. Mine own desert. [you to't.

2 Cit. Your own desert?

Cor. Ay, not

Mine own desire.

1 Cit. How! not your own desire?

Cor. No, sir:

'Twas never my desire yet, To trouble the poor with begging.

1 Cit. You must think, if we give you any thing, We hope to gain by you. [salshup?

Cor. Well, then, I pray, your price o' the con-

1 Cit. The price is, sir, to ask it kindly.

Cor. Kindly?

Sir, I pray, let me ha't: I have wounds to show you, Which shall be yours in private.—Your good What say you? [voice, sir;

2 Cit. You shall have it, worthy sir.

Cor. A match, sir:—

There is in all two worthy voices begg'd:— I have your alms; adieu.

1 Cit. But this is something odd.

2 Cit. An 'twere to give again,—But 'tis no matter. [*Exeunt two Citizens.*]

Enter two other Citizens.

Cor. Pray you now, if I may stand with the tune of your voices, that I may be consul, I have here the customary gown.

3 Cit. You have deserved nobly of your country, and you have not deserved nobly.

Cor. Your enigma?

3 Cit. You have been a scourge to her enemies, you have been a rod to her friends; you have not, indeed, loved the common people.

Cor. You should account me the more virtuous, that I have not been common in my love. I will, sir, flatter my sworn brother the people, to earn a dearer estimation of them; 'tis a condition they account gentle: and since the wisdom of their choice is rather to have my hat than my heart, I will practise the insinuating nod, and be off to them most counterfeitedly; that is, sir, I will counterfeit the bewitchment of some popular man, and give it bountifully to the desirers. Therefore, beseech you, I may be consul.

4 *Cit.* We hope to find you our friend; and therefore give you our voices heartily.

3 *Cit.* You have received many wounds for your country.

Cor. I will not seal your knowledge with showing them. I will make much of your voices, and so trouble you no further.

Both *Cit.* The gods give you joy, sir, heartily!

[*Exeunt.*]

Cor. Most sweet voices!—

Better it is to die, better to starve,
Than crave the hire which first we do deserve.
Why in this wolvisish gown should I stand here,
To beg of Hob and Dick that do appear,
Their needless vouchers! Custom calls me to't:—
What custom wills, in all things should we do't,
The dust on antique time would lie unswept,
And mountainous error be too highly heap'd
For truth to over-peer.¹—Rather than fool it so,
Let the high office and the honour go
To one that would do thus.—I am half through;
The one part suffer'd, the other will I do.

Enter three other Citizens.

Here come more voices,—
Your voices: for your voices I have fought;
Watch'd for your voices; for your voices, bear
Of wounds two dozen odd; battles thrice six
I have seen and heard of; for your voices have
Done many things, some less, some more; your
Indeed, I would be consul. [voices:]

5 *Cit.* He has done nobly, and cannot go without any honest man's voice.

6 *Cit.* Therefore let him be consul: The gods give him joy, and make him good friend to the people!

All. Amen, amen.—

Jove save thee, noble consul! [*Exeunt Citizens.*]

Cor. Worthy voices!

Re-enter Menenius, with Brutus, and Sicinius.

Men. You have stood your limitation; and the tribunes

Endue you with the people's voice: Remains, That, in the official marks invested, you Anon do meet the senate.

Cor. Is this done?

Sic. The custom of request you have discharg'd: The people do admit you; and are summon'd To meet anon, upon your approbation.

Cor. Where? at the senate-house?

Sic. There, Coriolanus.

Cor. May I then change these garments?

Sic. You may, sir.

Cor. That I'll straight do; and, knowing myself Repair to the senate-house. [again,]

M. I'll keep you company.—Will you go along?

Bru. We stay here for the people.

Sic. Fare you well.

[*Exeunt Coriol. and Men.*]

He has it now; and by his looks, methinks, 'Tis warm at his heart.

Bru. With a proud heart he wore His humble weeds: Will you dismiss the people?

Re-enter Citizens.

Sic. How now, my masters? have you chose this

1 *Cit.* He has our voices, sir. [man?]

1 Over-top.

B. We pray the gods, he may deserve your loves.

2 *Cit.* Amen, sir: To my poor unworthy notice, He mock'd us, when he begg'd our voices.

3 *Cit.* Certainly,

He flouted us down-right.

1 *Cit.* No, 'tis his kind of speech, he did not mock us.

2 *C.* Not one amongst us save yourself, but says, He us'd us scornfully: he should have show'd us His marks of merit, wounds receiv'd for his

Sic. Why, so he did, I am sure. [country.

Cit. [Several speak.] No; no man saw 'em.

3 *Cit.* He said, he had wounds, which he could show in private:

And with his hat, thus waving it in scorn,
I would be consul, says he: aged custom,
But by your voices, will not so permit me;
Your voices therefore: When we granted that,
Here was,—I thank you for your voices,—
thank you,—

Your most sweet voices:—now you have left your voices,

I have no further with you:—Was not this mockery?

Sic. Why, either, were you ignorant to see't? Or, seeing it, of such childish friendliness To yield your voices?

Bru. Could you not have told him,

As you were lesson'd,—When he had no power, But was a petty servant to the state,

He was your enemy; ever spake against

Your liberties, and the charters that you bear I' the body of the weal; and now, arriving

A place of potency, and sway o' the state,

If he should still malignantly remain Fast foe to the plebeii,¹ your voices might

Be curses to yourselves? You should have said,

That as his worthy deeds did claim no less Than what he stood for; so his gracious nature

Would think upon you for your voices, and

Translate his malice towards you into love, Standing your friendly lord.

Sic. Thus to have said,

As you were fore-advis'd, had touch'd his spirit, And try'd his inclination: from him pluck'd

Either his gracious promise, which you might,

As cause had call'd you up, have held him to; Or else it would have gall'd his surly nature,

Which easily endures not article

Tying him to aught; so putting him to rage, You should have ta'en the advantage of his

And pass'd him unselected. [choler,

Bru. Did you perceive,

He did solicit you in free contempt, When he did need your loves; and do you think,

That his contempt shall not be bruising to you,

When he hath power to crush? Why, had your bodies

No heart among you? Or had you tongues, to cry Against the rectorship of judgment?

Sic. Have you,

Ere now, deny'd the asker? and, now again, On him, that did not ask, but mock, bestow

Your su'd-for tongues?

3 *Cit.* He's not confirm'd, we may deny him yet.

2 *Cit.* And will deny him:

I'll have five hundred voices of that sound.

1 Plebeians.

1 *Cit.* I twice five hundred, and their friends to piece 'em.

Bru. Get you hence instantly: and tell those friends,— [take

They have chose a consul, that will from them Their liberties; make them of no more voice Than dogs, that are as often beat for barking, As therefore kept to do so.

Sic. Let them assemble; And, on a safer judgment, all revoke Your ignorant election: Enforce his pride, And his old hate unto you: besides, forget not With what contempt he wore the humble weed; How in his suit he scorn'd you: but your loves, Thinking upon his services, took from you The apprehension of his present portance,¹ Which gibingly, ungravely he did fashion After the inveterate hate he bears you.

Bru. Lay A fault on us, your tribunes; that we labour'd (No impediment between) but that you must Cast your election on him.

Sic. Say, you chose him More after our commandment, than as guided By your own true affections: and that, your minds

Pre-occupy'd with what you rather must do Than what you should, made you against the grain

To voice him consul: Lay the fault on us.

Bru. Ay, spare us not. Say, we read lectures to you,

How youngly he began to serve his country, [of. How long continued: and what stock he springs The noble house o' the Marcians; from whence came

That Ancus Marcius, Numa's daughter's son, Who, after great Hostilius, here was king: Of the same house Publius and Quintus were, That our best water brought by conduits hither: And Censorinus, darling of the people, And nobly nam'd so, being censor twice, Was his great ancestor.

Sic. One thus descended, That hath beside well in his person wrought To be set high in place, we did commend To your remembrances: but you have found Scaling² his present bearing with his past, That he's your fixed enemy, and revoke Your sudden approbation.

Bru. Say, you ne'er had don't, (Harp on that still,) but by our putting on: And presently, when you have drawn your num- Repair to the Capitol. [ber,

Cit. [Several speak.] We will so; almost all Repair in their election. [Exeunt Citizens.

Bru. Let them go on;

This mutiny were better put in hazard, Than stay, past doubt, for greater: If, as his nature is, he fall in rage With their refusal, both observe and answer The vantage of his anger.

Sic. To the Capitol: Come; we'll be there before the stream o' the people;

And this shall seem, as partly 'tis, their own, Which we have goaded onward. [Exeunt.

1 Bearing

2 Weighing.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A STREET.

Cornets. Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius, Titus Lartius, Senators, and Patricians.

Cor. Tullus Aufidius then had made new head?

Lart. He had, my lord; and that it was which caus'd

Our swifter composition.

Cor. So then the Voices stand but as at first; Ready, when time shall prompt them, to make Upon us again. [road

Com. They are worn, lord consul, so, That we shall hardly in our ages see Their banners wave again.

Cor. Saw you Aufidius?

Lart. On safe-guard he came to me; and did curse

Against the Voices, for they had so vilely Yielded the town: he is retir'd to Antium.

Cor. Spoke he of me?

Lart. He did, my lord.

Cor. How? what?

Lart. How often he had met you, sword to sword;

That, of all things upon the earth, he hated Your person most: that he would pawn his for- To hopeless restitution, so he might [tunes Be call'd your vanquisher.

Cor. At Antium lives he?

Lart. At Antium.

Cor. I wish I had a cause to seek him there, To oppose his hatred fully.—Welcome home.

[To Lartius.

Enter Sicinius and Brutus.

Behold! these are the tribunes of the people, The tongues o' the common mouth. I do despise them:

For they do prank them in authority, Against all noble sufferance.

Sic. Pass no further.

Cor. Ha! what is that?

Bru. It will be dangerous to Go on; no further.

Cor. What makes this change?

Men. The matter?

Com. Hath he not pass'd the nobles, and the commons?

Bru. Cominius, no.

Cor. Have I had children's voices?

1 *Sen.* Tribunes, give way: he shall to the market-place.

Bru. The people are incensed against him.

Sic. Stop, Or all will fall in broil.

Cor. Are these your herd?— Must these have voices, that can yield them now, And straight disclaim their tongues?—What are your offices?

You being their mouths, why rule you not their teeth?

Have you not set them on?

Men. Be calm, be calm.

Cor. It is a purpos'd thing, and grows by plot, To curb the will of the nobility:—

Suffer it, and live with such as cannot rule,
Nor ever will be rul'd.

Bru. Call't not a plot:
The people cry, you mock'd them; and, of late,
When corn was given them gratis, you repin'd;
Scandal'd the suppliants for the people; call'd
Time-pleasers, flatterers, foes to nobleness. [them
Cor. Why, this was known before.

Bru. Not to them all.
Cor. Have you inform'd them since?

Bru. How! I inform them!
Cor. You are like to do such business.

Bru. Not unlike,
Each way to better yours.

Cor. Why then should I be consul? By yon
clouds,

Let me deserve so ill as you, and make me
Your fellow-tribune.

Sic. You show too much of that,
For which the people stir: If you will pass
To where you are bound, you must inquire your
way,

Which you are out of, with a gentler spirit;
Or never be so noble as a consul,
Nor yoke with him for tribune.

Men. Let's be calm.

Com. The people are abus'd:—Set on.—This
palt'ring

Becomes not Rome: nor has Coriolanus
Deserv'd this so dishonour'd rub, laid falsely
I' the plain way of his merit.

Cor. Tell me of corn!
This was my speech, and I will speak't again;—

Men. Not now, not now.

1 Sen. Not in this heat, sir, now.
Cor. Now, as I live, I will.—My nobler friends,
I crave their pardons:—

For the mutable, rank-scented many, let them
Regard me as I do not flatter, and
Therein behold themselves: I say again,
In soothing them, we nourish 'gainst our senate
The cockle of rebellion, insolence, sedition,
Which we ourselves have plough'd for, sow'd
and scatter'd,

By mingling them with us, the honour'd number;
Who lack not virtue, no, nor power, but that
Which they have given to beggars.

Men. Well, no more.

1 Sen. No more words, we beseech you.

Cor. How! no more.
As for my country I have shed my blood,
Not fearing outward force, so shall my lungs
Coin words till their decay, against those meazels¹
Which we disdain should tetter² us, yet sought
The very way to catch them.

Bru. You speak o' the people,
As if you were a god to punish, not
A man of their infirmity.

Sic. 'Twere well,
We let the people know't.

Men. What, what? his choler?
Cor. Choler!

Were I as patient as the midnight sleep,
By Jove, 'twould be my mind.

Sic. It is a mind,
That shall remain a poison where it is,
Not poison any further.

¹ Lepers. ² Scab.

Cor. Shall remain!—
Hear you this Triton of the minnows? mark you
His absolute shall?

Com. 'Twas from the canon.¹

Cor. Shall!

O good, but most unwise patricians, why,
You grave, but reckless senators, have you thus
Given Hydra here to choose an officer,
That with his peremptory shall, being but
The horn and noise o' the monsters, wants not
To say, he'll turn your current in a ditch, [spirit
And make your channel his? If he have power,
Then vail your ignorance: if none, awake
Your dangerous lenity: If you are learned,
Be not as common fools; if you are not,
Let them have cushions by you. You are plebe-
If they be senators: and they are no less, [ana
When both your voices blended, the greatest taste
Most palates theirs. They choose their magistrate;
And such a one as he, who puts his shall,
His popular shall, against a graver bench
Than ever frown'd in Greece! By Jove himself,
It makes the consuls base: and my soul aches,
To know, when two authorities are up,
Neither supreme, how soon confusion
May enter 'twixt the gap of both, and take
The one by the other.

Com. Well—on to the market-place.

Cor. Whoever gave that counsel, to give forth
The corn o' the store-house gratis, as 'twas us'd
Sometime in Greece,—

Men. Well, well, no more of that.

Cor. (Though there the people had more abso-
lute power,)

I say, they nourish'd disobedience, fed
The ruin of the state.

Bru. Why, shall the people give
One, that speaks thus, their voice?

Cor. I'll give my reasons,
More worthy than their voices. They know,
the corn

Was not our recompence: resting well assur'd
They ne'er did service for't: Being press'd to
the war,

Even when the vitals of the state were touch'd,
They would not thread the gates: this kind of
service

Did not deserve corn gratis: being i' the war,
Their mutinies and revolts, wherein they show'd
Most valour, spoke not for them: The accusation
Which they have often made against the senate,
All cause unborn, could never be the native²
Of our so frank donation. Well, what then?
How shall this bosom multiplied,³ digest
The senate's courtesies? Let deeds express
What's like to be their words:—*We did request it;*
We are the greater poll,⁴ and in true fear
They gave us our demands:—Thus we debase
The nature of our seats, and make the rabble
Call our cares, fears: which will in time break open
The locks o' the senate, and bring in the crows
To peck the eagles.—

Men. Come, enough.

Bru. Enough, with over-measure.

Cor. No, take more:
What may be sworn by, both divine and human,

¹ Canon law. ² Multitudinous, i.e. the people.
³ (Cause.) ⁴ Number.

Seal what I end withal!—This double worship,—
Where one part does disdain with cause, the other
Insult without all reason; where gentry, title, wis-
dom Cannot conclude, but by the yea and no [dom
Of general ignorance,—it must omit
Real necessities, and give way the while flows,
To unstable slightness: purpose so barr'd, it fol-
lows,—
Nothing is done to purpose: Therefore, beseech
you,—

You that will be less fearful than discreet;
That love the fundamental part of state,
More than you doubt¹ the change of 't; that pre-
fer A noble life before a long, and wish [fer
To jump² a body with a dangerous physic
That's sure of death without it,—at once pluck out
The multitudinous tongue, let them not lick
The sweet which is their poison: your dishonour
Mangles true judgment, and bereaves the state
Of that integrity which should become it;
Not having the power to do the good it would
For the ill which doth control it.

Bru. He has said enough.
Sic. He has spoken like a traitor, and shall
As traitors do. [answer

C. Thou wretch! despite o'erwhelm thee!—
What should the people do with these bald tri-
on whom depending, their obedience fails [bunes?
To the greater bench: In a rebellion,
When what's not meet, but what must be, was law,
Then were they chosen; in a better hour,
Let what is meet, be said it must be meet,
And throw their power i' the dust.

Bru. Manifest treason.
Sic. This a consul? no.
Bru. The ædiles, ho!—Let him be apprehended.
Sic. Go, call the people; [*Exit Brutus.*] in
whose name, myself

Attach thee, as a traitorous innovator,
A foe to the publick weal: Obey, I charge thee,
And follow to thine answer.

Cor. Hence, old goat!
Sen. & Pat. We'll surely him.
Com. Aged sir, hands off.
Cor. Hence, rotten thing, or I shall shake thy
Out of thy garments. [bones

Sic. Help, ye citizens.
*Re-enter Brutus, with the Ædiles, and a Rabble
of Citizens.*

Men. On both sides more respect.
Sic. Here's he, that would
Take from you all your power.

Bru. Seize him, ædiles.
Cit. Down with him, down with him!

[*Several speak.*
2 Sen. Weapons, weapons, weapons!
[*They all bustle about Coriolanus.*
Tribunes, patricians, citizens!—what, ho!—
Sicinius, Brutus, Coriolanus, citizens!

Cit. Peace, peace, peace; stay, hold, peace!
Men. What is about to be?—I am out of breath;
Confusion's near: I cannot speak:—You, tribunes
To the people,—Coriolanus patience:—
Speak, good Sicinius.

Sic. Hear me, people;—Peace.
Cit. Let's hear our tribune;—Peace, speak,
speak, speak.

Sic. You are at point to lose your liberties:
1 Fear. *2 Risk,*

Marcus would have all from you; Marcus,
Whom late you have named for consul.

Men. Fie, fie, fie!
This is the way to kindle, not to quench.

1 Sen. To unbuild the city, and to lay all flat.

Sic. What is the city, but the people?

Cit. True,

The people are the city.

Bru. By the consent of all we were established
The people's magistrates.

Cit. You so remain.

Men. And so are like to do.

Cor. That is the way to lay the city flat;

To bring the roof to the foundation;

And bury all, which yet distinctly ranges,
In heaps and piles of ruin.

Sic. This deserves death.

Bru. Or let us stand to our authority,
Or let us lose it:—We do here pronounce,
Upon the part o' the people, in whose power
We were elected theirs, Marcus is worthy
Of present death.

Sic. Therefore, lay hold of him:
Bear him to the rock Tarpeian, and from thence
Into destruction cast him.

Bru. Ædiles, seize him.

Cit. Yield, Marcus, yield.

Men. Hear me one word.

Beseech you, tribunes, hear me, but a word.

Ædi. Peace, peace, [friend,

Men. Be that you seem, truly your country's
And temperately proceed to what you would
Thus violently redress.

Bru. Sir, those cold ways,
That seem like prudent helps, are very poisonous
Where the disease is violent:—Lay hands upon
And bear him to the rock. [him,

Cor. No; I'll die here.

[*Drawing his sword.*

There's some among you have beheld me fighting;
Come, try upon yourselves what you have seen me.

Men. Down with that sword;—Tribunes, with-
draw a while.

Bru. Lay hands upon him.

Men. Help, Marcus! help,

You that be noble; help him, young and old!

Cit. Down with him, down with him!

[*In this Mutiny, the Tribunes, the Ædiles,
and the People, are all beat in.*

Men. Go, get you to your house; begone, away,
All will be naught else.

2 Sen. Get you gone.

Cor. Stand fast;

We have as many friends as enemies.

Men. Shall it be put to that?

1 Sen. The gods forbid!

I pry'thee, noble friend, home to thy house;
Leave us to cure this cause.

Men. For 'tis a sore upon us,
You cannot tent yourself: begone, beseech you,
Com. Come, sir, along with us,

Cor. I would they were barbarians, (as they are,
Though in Rome litter'd,) not Romans, (as they
are not,

Though calv'd i' the porch o' the Capitol,)—

Men. Begone;

Put not your worthy rage into your tongue;

One time will owe another.

Cor. On fair ground,
I could beat forty of them.

Men. I could myself
Take up a brace of the best of them; yea, the
two tribunes.

Com. But now 'tis odds beyond arithmetick;
And manhood is call'd foolery, when it stands
Against a falling fabrick.—Will you hence,
Before the tag¹ return? whose rage doth rend
Like interrupted waters, and o'erbear
What they are us'd to bear.

Men. Pray you begone:
I'll try whether my old wit be in request
With those that have but little; this must be
With cloth of any colour. [*patch'd*]

Com. Nay, come away.
[*Exeunt Cor., Com., and others.*]

1 Pat. This man has marr'd his fortune.
Men. His nature is too noble for the world;
He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His heart's
his mouth: [*vent;*]

What his breast forges, that his tongue must
And, being angry, does forget that ever
He heard the name of death. [*A noise within.*]
Here's goodly work!

2 Pat. I would they were a-bed!
Men. I would they were in Tyber!—What,
the vengeance,

Could he not speak them fair?

Re-enter Brutus and Sicinius, with the Rabble.

Sic. Where is this viper,
That would depopulate the city, and
Be every man himself?

Men. You worthy tribunes,—
Sic. He shall be thrown down the Tarpeian rock
With rigorous hands; he hath resisted law,
And therefore law shall scorn him further trial
Than the severity of the publick power,
Which he so sets at nought.

1 Cit. He shall well know,
The noble tribunes are the people's mouths,
And we their hands.

Cit. [*Several speak together.*] He shall, sure on't.

Men. Sir,—

Sic. Peace.

Men. Do not cry, havock, where you should but
With modest warrant. [*hunt*]

Sic. Sir, how comes it, that you
Have help to make this rescue?

Men. Hear me speak:—
As I do know the consul's worthiness,
So can I name his faults;—

Sic. Consul?—What consul?

Men. The consul Coriolanus.

Bru. He a consul!

Cit. No, no, no, no.

Men. If, by the tribune's leave, and yours,
good people,

I may be heard, I'd crave a word or two;
The which shall turn you to no further harm,
Than so much loss of time.

Sic. Speak briefly then;
For we are peremptory, to despatch
This viperous traitor: to eject him hence,
Were but one danger; and, to keep him here,

¹ The lowest of the populace,

Our certain death; therefore it is decreed,
He dies to-night.

Men. Now the good gods forbid,
That our renowned Rome, whose gratitude
Towards her deserved¹ children is enroll'd
In Jove's own book, like an unnatural dam
Should now eat up her own!

Sic. He's a disease, that must be cut away.

Men. O, he's a limb, that has but a disease;
Mortal, to cut it off; to cure it, easy.
What has he done to Rome, that's worthy death?
Killing our enemies? The blood he hath lost,
(Which, I dare vouch, is more than that he hath,
By many an ounce,) he dropp'd it for his country:
And, what is left, to lose it by his country,
Were to us all, that do't, and suffer it,
A brand to the end of the world.

Sic. This is clean kam.²

B. Merely³ awry; when he did love his country,
It honour'd him.

Men. The service of the foot
Being once gangren'd, is not then respected
For what before it was?

Bru. We'll hear no more:—
Pursue him to his house, and pluck him thence;
Lest his infection, being of catching nature,
Spread further.

Men. One word more, one word.
This tiger-footed rage, when it shall find
The harm of unscann'd⁴ swiftness, will, too late,
Tie leaden pounds to his heels. Proceed by pro-
lest parties (as he is belov'd) break out, [*cess;*]
And sack great Rome with Romans.

Bru. If it were so,—

Sic. What do ye talk?

Have we not had a taste of his obedience? Our
aediles smote? ourselves resisted? Come:—

M. Consider this;—He has been bred i' the wars
Since he could draw a sword, and is ill school'd
In bould⁵ language; meal and bran together
He throws without distinction. Give me leave,
I'll go to him, and undertake to bring him
Where he shall answer by a lawful form,
(In peace) to his utmost peril.

1 Sen. Noble tribunes,
It is the humane way: the other course
Will prove too bloody; and the end of it
Unknown to the beginning.

Sic. Noble Menenius,
Be you then as the people's officer:
Masters, lay down your weapons.

Bru. Go not home.

Sic. Meet on the market-place:—We'll attend
you there:

Where, if you bring not Marcius, we'll proceed
In our first way.

Men. I'll bring him to you:—

[*To the Senators.*] Let me desire your company.

He must come,
Or what is worst will follow.

1 Sen. Pray you, let's to him. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN CORIOLANUS' HOUSE.

Enter Coriolanus, and Patricians.
C. Let them pull all about mine ears; present me
Death on the wheel, or at wild horses' heels;

¹ Deserving. ³ Absolutely. ⁵ Finely sifted.
² Quite awry. ⁴ Inconsiderate.

Or pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down stretch
Below the beam of sight, yet will I still
Be thus to them.

Enter Volumnia.

1 Pat. You do the nobler.

Cor. I muse, my mother

Does not approve me further, who was wont
To call them wooden vassals, things created
To buy and sell with groats; to show bare heads
In congregations, to yawn, be still, and wonder,
When one but of my ordinance¹ stood up
To speak of peace or war. [To Volumnia.] I
talk of you; [one]

Why did you wish me milder? Would you have
False to my nature? Rather say, I play
The man I am.

Vol. O, sir, sir, sir,

I would have had you put your power well on,
Before you had worn it out.

Cor. Let go.

Vol. You might have been enough the man
you are,

With striving less to be so: Lesser had been
The thwartings of your dispositions, if
You had not show'd them how you were dispos'd,
Ere they lack'd power to cross you.

Cor. Let them hang.

Vol. Ay, and burn too.

Enter Menenius, and Senators.

Men. Come, come, you have been too rough,
something too rough;

You must return, and mend it.

1 Sen. There's no remedy;

Unless, by not so doing, our good city
Cleave in the midst and perish.

Vol. Pray, be counsell'd:

I have a heart as little apt as yours,
But yet a brain, that leads my use of anger,
To better vantage.

Men. Well said, noble woman:

Before he should thus stoop to the herd, but that
The violent fit o' the time craves it as physick
For the wholestate, I would put mine armour on,
Which I can scarcely bear.

Cor. What must I do?

Men. Return to the tribunes.

Cor. Well,

What then? what then?

Men. Repent what you have spoke.

Cor. For them?—I cannot do it to the gods;
Must I then do't to them?

Vol. You are too absolute;

Though therein you can never be too noble,
But when extremities speak. I have heard you
Honour and policy, like unsever'd friends, [say,
I'the war do grow together: Grant that, and tell
In peace, what each of them by th' other lose, [me,
That they combine not there.

Cor. Tush, tush!

Men. A good demand.

Vol. If it be honour in your wars, to seem
The same you are not, (which, for your best ends,
You adopt your policy,) how is it less or worse,
That it shall hold companionship in peace

1 Roman.

With honour as in war; since that to both
It stands in like request!

Cor. Why force you this?

Vol. Because that now it lies you on to speak
To the people; not by your own instruction,
Nor by the matter which your heart prompts you
But with such words that are but roted in [to,
Your tongue, though but bastards, and syllables,
Of no allowance, to your bosom's truth.
Now, this no more dishonours you at all,
Than to take in¹ a town with gentle words,
Which else would put you to your fortune, and
The hazard of much blood.—

I would dissemble with my nature, where
My fortunes, and my friends, at stake, requir'd
I should do so in honour: I am in this,
Your wife, your son, these senators, the nobles;
And you will rather show our general lowts²
How you can frown, than spend a fawn upon
them,

For the inheritance of their loves, and safeguard
Of what that want might ruin.

Men. Noble lady!—

Come, go with us; speak fair: you may salve so,
Not what is dangerous present, but the loss
Of what is past.

Vol. I pr'ythee, now, my son,
Go to them, with this bonnet in thy hand;
And thus far having stretch'd it, (here be with
them,)

Thy knee bussing the stones, (for in such business
Action is eloquence, and the eyes of the ignorant
More learned than the ears,) waving thy head,
Which often thus correcting thy stout heart,
That humble, as the ripest mulberry,
Now will not hold the handling: Or, say to them,
Thou art their soldier, and being bred in broils,
Hast not the soft way, which, thou dost confess,
Were fit for thee to use, as they to claim,
In asking their good loves; but thou wilt frame
Thyself, forsooth, hereafter theirs, so far
As thou hast power, and person.

Men. This but done,
Even as she speaks, why, all their hearts were
For they have pardons, being ask'd, as free of yours:
As words to little purpose.

Vol. Pr'ythee now,
Go, and be rul'd: although, I know, thou had'st
Follow thine enemy in a fiery gulf, [rather
Than flatter him in a bower. Here is Cominius.

Enter Cominius.

Com. I have been i' the market-place; and, sir, 'tis
You make strong party, or defend yourself [fit
By calmness, or by absence, all's in anger.

Men. Only fair speech.

Com. I think, 'twill serve, if he
Can thereto frame his spirit.

Vol. He must, and will:—
Pr'ythee now, say, you will, and go about it.

Cor. Must I go show them my unbarb'd
sconce³? Must I,

With my base tongue, give to my noble heart
A lie, that it must bear? Well, I will do't:
Yet were there but this single plot to lose,
This mould of Marcus, they to dust should
grind it,

And throw it against the wind.—To the market-

1 Subdue. 2 Common clowns. 3 Unshaven head.

You have put me now to such a part, which never I shall discharge to the life.

Com. Come, come, we'll prompt you.

Vol. I pr'ythee now, sweet son; as thou hast said, My praises made thee first a soldier, so, To have my praise for this, perform a part Thou hast not done before.

Cor. Well, I must do't: Away, my disposition, and possess me Somewanton's spirit! My throat of war be turn'd, Which quired with my drum, into a pipe Small as an eunuch, or the virgin voice That babies lulls asleep! The smiles of knaves Tent¹ in my cheeks; and school-boys' tears take up The glasses of my sight! A beggar's tongue Make motion through my lips; and my arm'd knees,

Who bow'd but in my stirrup, bend like his That hath receiv'd an alms!—I will not do't: Lest I surcease to honour mine own truth, And by my body's action, teach my mind A most inherent baseness.

Vol. At thy choice then: To beg of thee, it is my more dishonour, Than thou of them. Come all to ruin; let Thy mother rather feel thy pride, than fear Thy dangerous stoutness; for I mock at death With as big heart as thou. Do as thou list.² Thy valiantness was mine, thou suck'st it from But owe³ thy pride thyself.

Cor. Pray, be content; Mother, I am going to the market-place; Chide me no more. I'll mountebank their loves, Cog⁴ their hearts from them, and come home belov'd

Of all the trades in Rome. Look, I am going: Commend me to my wife. I'll return consul; Or never trust to what my tongue can do I' the way of flattery, further.

Vol. Do your will. [*Exit.*]
Com. Away, the tribunes do attend you: arm yourself

To answer mildly; for they are prepar'd With accusations, as I hear, more strong Than are upon you yet.

Cor. The word is, mildly:—Pray you, let us go; Let them accuse me by invention, I Will answer in mine honour.

Men. Ay, but mildly.

Cor. Well, mildly be it then; mildly. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—THE FORUM.

Enter Sicinius and Brutus.

Bru. In this point charge him home that he affects

Tyrannical power: If he evade us there, Enforce him with his envy to the people; And that the spoil, got on the Antiates, Was ne'er distributed.—

Enter an Ædile.

What, will he come?

Æd. He's coming.

Bru. How accompanied?

Æd. With old Menenius, and those senators That always favour'd him.

Sic. Have you a catalogue

1 Dwall. 2 Will. 3 Pleasures. 4 Trick.

Of all the voices that we have procur'd, Set down by the poll?

Æd. I have; 'tis ready, here.

Sic. Have you collected them by tribes?

Æd. I have.

Sic. Assemble presently the people hither: And when they hear me say, *It shall be so I' the right and strength of the commons*, be it either

For death, for fine, or banishment, then let them, If I say, fine, cry *fine*; if death, cry *death*; Insisting on the old prerogative And power i' the truth o' the cause.

Æd. I shall inform them.

Bru. And when such time they have begun to cry,

Let them not cease, but with a dim confus'd

Enforce the present execution

Of what we chance to sentence.

Æd. Very well.

Sic. Make them be strong, and ready for this When we shall hap to give't them. [*Hint,*

Bru. Go about it.—

[*Exit Ædile.*]

Put him to choler straight: He hath been us'd Ever to conquer, and to have his worth

Of contradiction: Being once chaf'd, he cannot Be reign'd again to temperance; then he speaks What's in his heart; and that is there, which looks With us to break his neck.

Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius, Senators, and Patricians.

Sic. Well, here he comes.

Men. Calmly, I do beseech you.

Cor. Ay, as an ostler, that for the poorest piece Will bear the knave¹ by the volume.—The honour'd gods

Keep Rome in safety, and the chairs of justice Supplied with worthy men! plant love among us! Throng our large temples with the shows of peace, And not our streets with war!

1 *Sen.* Amen, amen!

Men. A noble wish.

Re-enter Ædile, with Citizens.

Sic. Draw near, ye people.

Æd. List to your tribunes; audience: peace, I say.

Cor. First, hear me speak.

Both Tri. Well, say.—Peace, ho.

Cor. Shall I be charg'd no further than this Must all determine here? [*Present?*]

Sic. I do demand, If you submit you to the people's voices, Allow their officers, and are content To suffer lawful censure for such faults As shall be prov'd upon you?

Cor. I am content.

Men. Lo, citizens, he says, he is content: The warlike service he has done, consider; Think on the wounds his body bears, which show Like graves i' the holy churchyard.

Cor. Scratches with briars, Scars to move laughter only.

Men. Consider further, That when he speaks not like a citizen,

1 (Being called a knave.)

You find him like a soldier: Do not take
His rougher accents for malicious sounds,
But, as I say, such as become a soldier,
Rather than envy you.¹

Com. Well, well, no more.

Cor. What is the matter,
That being pass'd for consul with full voice,
I am so dishonour'd, that the very hour
You take it off again?

Sic. Answer to us.

Cor. Say then: 'tis true, I ought so.

Sic. We charge you, that you have contriv'd
to take

From Rome all season'd² office, and to wind
Yourself into a power tyrannical;

For which, you are a traitor to the people.

Cor. How! Traitor?

Men. Nay; temperately: Your promise.

Cor. The fires i' the lowest hell fold in the
people!

Call me their traitor!—Thou injurious tribune!
Within thine eyes sat twenty thousand deaths,
In thy hands clutch'd as many millions, in
Thy lying tongue both numbers, I would say,
Thou liest, unto thee, with a voice as free
As I do pray the gods.

Sic. Mark you this, people?

Cit. To the rock with him; to the rock with him!

Sic. Peace.

We need not put new matter to his charge:
What you have seen him do, and heard him speak,
Beating your officers, cursing yourselves,
Opposing laws with strokes, and here defying
Those whose great power must try him: even this,
So criminal, and in such capital kind,
Deserves the extremest death.

Bru. But since he hath
Serv'd well for Rome,—

Cor. What do you prate of service?

Bru. I talk of that, that know it.

Cor. You?

Men. Is this

The promise that you made your mother?

Com. Know

I pray you,—

Cor. I'll know no further:

Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,
Vagabond exile, flaying; Pent to linger
But with a grain a day, I would not buy
Their mercy at the price of one fair word;
Nor check my courage for what they can give,
To have't with saying, good morrow.

Sic. For that he has

(As much as in him lies) from time to time
Envied³ against the people, seeking means
To pluck away their power; as now at last
Given hostile strokes, and that not⁴ in the pre-
Of dreaded justice, but on the ministers [sense
That do distribute it; In the name o' the people,
And in the power of us the tribunes, we,
Even from this instant, banish him our city;
In peril of precipitation
From off the rock Tarpeian, never more
To enter our Rome's gates: I' the people's name,
I say, it shall be so.

Cit. It shall be so,

1 Malice to you.

2 Established.

3 (Showed hatred.)

4 (Not only.)

It shall be so; let him away: he's banish'd,
And so it shall be.

Com. Hear me, my masters, and my common
friends;—

Sic. He's senten'd: no more hearing.

Com. Let me speak:
I have been consul, and can show from¹ Rome,
Her enemies' marks upon me. I do love
My country's good, with a respect more tender,
More holy, and profound, than mine own life,
My dear wife's estimate,² than if I would
Speak that—

Sic. We know your drift: Speak what?

B. There's no more to be said, but he is banish'd,
As enemy to the people, and his country:
It shall be so.

Cit. It shall be so, it shall be so.

Cor. You common cry³ of curs! whose breath
I hate

As reek⁴ o' the rotten fens, whose loves I prize
As the dead carcases of unburied men
That do corrupt my air, I banish you;
And here remain with your uncertainty!
Let every feeble rumour shake your hearts!
Your enemies with nodding of their plumes,
Fan you into despair! have the power still
To banish your defenders; till, at length,
Your ignorance, (which finds not, till it feels,)
Making not reservation of yourselves,
(Still your own foes,) deliver you, as most
Abated⁵ captives to some nation
That won you without blows! despising,
For you, the city, thus I turn my back:
There is a world elsewhere.

[*Exeunt Coriolanus, Cominius, Menenius,
Senators, and Patricians.*]

Ed. The people's enemy is gone, is gone!

Cit. Our enemy's banish'd! he is gone! Hoo!
hoo!

[*The people shout and throw up their Caps.*
Sic. Go, see him out at gates, and follow him,
As he hath follow'd you, with all despite;
Give him deserv'd vexation. Let a guard
Attend us through the city.

Cit. Come, come, let us see him out at gates;
come:—

The gods preserve our noble tribunes!—Come.
[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE A GATE OF THE CITY.

*Enter Coriolanus, Volumnia, Virgilia, Mene-
nius, Cominius, and several young Patricians.*

Cor. Come leave your tears; a brief fare-
well:—the beast

With many heads butts me away.—Nay, mother,
Where is your ancient courage? you were us'd
To say, extremity was the trier of spirits;
That common chances common men could bear;
That, when the sea was calm, all boats alike
Show'd mastership in floating: fortune's blows,
When most struck home, being gentle wounded,
craves

1 (For.)

2 Value.

3 Pack.

4 Vapour.

5 Subdued.

A noble cunning: you were us'd to load me
With precepts, that would make invincible
The heart that couldn't them.

Vir. O heavens! O heavens!

Cor. Nay, I pry'thee, woman,—

Vol. Now the red pestilence strike all trades in
And occupations perish!

Cor. [Rome, What, what, what!

I shall be lov'd when I am lack'd! Nay, mother,
Resume that spirit, when you were wont to say,
If you had been the wife of Hercules,
Six of his labours you'd have done and sav'd
Your husband so much sweat. Cominius,
Droop not; adieu:—Farewell, my wife! my mother!
I'll do well yet.—Thou old and true Menenius,
Thy tears are saltier than a younger man's,
And venomous to thine eyes.—My sometime
general

I have seen thee stern, and thou hast oft beheld
Heart-hard'nings spectacles; tell these sad women,
'Tis fond¹ to wail inevitable strokes. [well,
As 'tis to laugh at them.—My mother, you wot
My hazards still have been your solace: and
Believe 't not lightly, (though I go alone
Like to a lonely dragon, that his fen
Makes fear'd, and talk'd of more than seen,) your
Will, or exceed the common, or be caught [son
With cautelous² baits and practice.

Vol. My first³ son,
Whither wilt thou go? Take good Cominius
With thee a while: Determine on some course,
More than a wild exposure⁴ to each chance
That starts i' the way before thee.

Cor. O the gods!

Com. I'll follow thee a month, devise with thee
Where thou shalt rest, that thou mayst hear of us,
And we of thee: so if the time thrust forth
A cause for thy repeal, we shall not send
O'er the vast world, to seek a single man
And lose advantage, which doth ever cool
I' the absence of the needer.

Cor. Fare ye well:—

Thou hast years upon thee: and thou art too full
Of the war's surfeits, to go rove with one
That's yet unbruise'd: bring me but out at gate.—
Come, my sweet wife, my dearest mother, and
My friends of noble touch,⁵ when I am forth,
Bid me farewell, and smile. I pray you, come.
While I remain above the ground, you shall
Hear from me still; and never of me aught
But what is like me formerly.

Men. That's worthily

As any ear can hear.—Come, let's not weep.—
If I could shake off but one seven years
From these old arms and legs, by the good gods,
I'd with thee every foot.

Cor. Give me thy hand;—

Come. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A STREET NEAR THE GATE.

Enter Sicinius, Brutus, and an Ædile.

Sic. Bid them all home; he's gone, and we'll
no further.—

The nobility are vex'd, who, we see, have sided
In his behalf.

Br. Now we have shown our power,
Let us seem humbler after it is done,
Than when it was a doing.

Sic. Bid them home:
Say, their great enemy is gone, and they
Stand in their ancient strength.

Br. Dismiss them home.
[Exit Ædile.

Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Menenius.

Here comes his mother.

Sic. Let's not meet her.

Br. Why?

Sic. They say, she's mad.

Br. They have ta'en note of us:
Keep on your way.

Vol. O, you're well met: The hoarded plague
o' the gods

Requite your love!

Men. Peace, peace; be not so loud.

Vol. If that I could for weeping, you should
hear,—

Nay, and you shall hear some.—[To Brutus.] Will
you be gone?

Vir. [To Sicin.] You shall stay too: I would,
I had the power

To say so to my husband.

Sic. Are you mankind?

Vol. Ay, fool; is that a shame?—Note but this
fool.—

Was not a man my father? Hadst thou foxship
To banish him that struck more blows for Rome,
Than thou hast spoken words?

Sic. O blessed heavens!

Vol. More noble blows, than ever thou wise
words; [go:—

And for Rome's good.—I'll tell thee what;—Yet
Nay, but thou shalt stay too:—I would my son
Were in Arabia, and thy tribe before him,
His good sword in his hand.

Sic. What then?

Vir. What then?

He'd make an end of thy posterity.

Vol. Good man, the wounds that he does bear
for Rome!

Men. Come, come, peace.

Sic. I would he had continu'd to his country,
As he began; and not unknit himself

The noble knot he made.

Br. I would he had.

Vol. I would he had? 'Twas you incens'd the
rabble:

Cats, that can judge as fitly of his worth

As I can of those mysteries which heaven
Will not have earth to know.

Br. Pray, let us go.

Vol. Now, pray, sir, get you gone:

You have done a brave deed. Ere you go, hear
As far as doth the Capitol exceed [this:

The meanest house in Rome: so far, my son,
(This lady's husband here, this, do you see,)

Whom you have banish'd, does exceed you all.

Br. Well, well, we'll leave you.

Sic. Why stay we to be baited
With one that wants her wits?

Vol. Take my prayers with you.

I would the gods had nothing else to do,
[Exeunt Tribunes.

¹ Foolish. ³ Noblest. ⁵ (True metal.)

² Insidious. ⁴ Exposure.

But to confirm my curses ! Could I meet them
But once a day, it would unclog my heart
Of what lies heavy to't.

Men. You have told them home,
And, by my troth, you have cause. You'll sup
with me ?

Vol. Anger's my meat ; I sup upon myself,
And so shall starve with feeding.—Come, let's go:
Leave this faint puling, and lament as I do,
In anger, Juno-like. Come, come, come.

Men. Fie, fie, fie ! *[Exit.*

SCENE III.

A HIGHWAY BETWEEN ROME AND ANTIUM.

Enter a Roman and a Volce, meeting.

Rom. I know you well, sir, and you know me:
your name, I think, is Adrian.

Vol. It is so, sir : truly, I have forgot you.

Rom. I am a Roman ; and my services are,
as you are, against them : Know you me yet ?
Vol. Nicanor ? No.

Rom. The same, sir.

Vol. You had more beard, when I last saw
you ; but your favour¹ is well appeared by your
tongue. What's the news in Rome ? I have a
note from the Volscian state, to find you out
there : You have well saved me a day's journey.

Rom. There hath been in Rome strange in-
surrection : the people against the senators,
patricians, and nobles.

Vol. Hath been ! Is it ended then ? Our state
thinks not so ; they are in a most warlike pre-
paration, and hope to come upon them in the
heat of their division.

Rom. The main blaze of it is past, but a small
thing would make it flame again. For the nobles
receive so to heart the banishment of that worthy
Coriolanus, that they are in a ripe aptness, to
take all power from the people, and to pluck
from them their tribunes for ever. This lies
glowing, I can tell you, and is almost mature
for the violent breaking out.

Vol. Coriolanus banished ?

Rom. Banished, sir.

Vol. You will be welcome with this intelli-
gence, Nicanor.

Rom. The day serves well for them now. I
have heard it said, the fittest time to corrupt a
man's wife, is, when she's fallen out with her
husband. Your noble Tullus Aufidius will ap-
pear well in these wars, his great opposer, Corio-
lanus, being now in no request of his country.

Vol. He cannot choose. I am most fortunate,
thus accidentally to encounter you : You have
ended my business, and I will merrily accom-
pany you home.

Rom. I shall, between this and supper, tell
you most strange things from Rome ; all tend-
ing to the good of their adversaries. Have you
an army ready, say you ?

Vol. A most royal one : the centurions, and
their charges, distinctly billeted, already in the
entertainment,² and to be on foot at an hour's
warning.

Rom. I am joyful to hear of their readiness,
and am the man, I think, that shall set them

¹ Countenance.

² Taken into pay.

in present action. So, sir, heartily well met,
and most glad of your company.

Vol. You take my part from me, sir ; I have
the most cause to be glad of yours.

Rom. Well, let us go together. *[Exit.*

SCENE IV.

ANTIUM. BEFORE AUFIDIUS' HOUSE.

*Enter Coriolanus, in mean Apparel, disguised
and muffled.*

Cor. A goodly city is this Antium : City,
'Tis I that made thy widows ; many an heir
Of these fair edifices 'fore my wars *[not ;*
Have I heard groan, and drop : then know me
Lest that thy wives with spits, and boys with
stones,

Enter a Citizen.

In puny battle slay me.—Save you, sir.

Cit. And you.

Cor. Direct me, if it be your will,
Where great Aufidius lies : Is he in Antium ?

Cit. He is, and feasts the nobles of the state,
At his house this night.

Cor. Which is his house, 'beseech you ?

Cit. This, here, before you.

Cor. Thank you, sir ; farewell. *[Exit Citizen.*

O, world, thy slippery turns ! Friends now fast
sworn,

Whose double bosoms seem to wear one heart,
Whose hours, whose bed, whose meal, and ex-
ercise,

Are still together, who twin, as 'twere, in love
Unseparable, shall within this hour,
On a dissension of a doit,¹ break out

To bitterest enmity : So, fellest foes, *[sleep*
Whose passions and whose plots have broke their

To take the one the other, by some chance,
Some trick not worth an egg, shall grow dear
friends,

And interjoin their issues. So with me :—
My birth-place hate I, and my love's upon
This enemy town.—I'll enter : if he slay me,
He does fair justice : if he give me way,
I'll do his country service. *[Exit.*

SCENE V.—A HALL IN AUFIDIUS' HOUSE.

Musick within. Enter a Servant.

1 Ser. Wine, wine, wine ! What service is here !
I think our fellows are asleep. *[Exit.*

Enter another Servant.

2 Ser. Where's Cotus ? my master calls for him.
Cotus ! *[Exit.*

Enter Coriolanus.

Cor. A goodly house : The feast smells well :
Appear not like a guest. *[but I*

Re-enter the first Servant.

1 Ser. What would you have, friend ? Whence
are you ? Here's no place for you : Pray, go to
the door.

Cor. I have deserved no better entertainment,
In being Coriolanus.

Re-enter second Servant.

2 Ser. Whence are you, sir ? Has the porter

¹ A small coin.

his eyes in his head, that he gives entrance to such companions? Pray, get you out.

Cor. Away!

2 Serv. Away? Get you away.

Cor. Now thou art troublesome.

1 Serv. Are you so brave? I'll have you talked with anon.

Enter a third Servant. The first meets him.

3 Serv. What fellow's this?

1 Serv. A strange one as ever I looked on: I cannot get him out o' the house; Pr'ythee, call my master to him.

3 Serv. What have you to do here, fellow? Pray you, avoid the house.

Cor. Let me but stand; I will not hurt your

3 Serv. What are you? [hearth.

Cor. A gentleman.

3 Serv. A marvellous poor one.

Cor. True, so I am.

3 Serv. Pray you, poor gentleman, take up some other station; here's no place for you; pray you, avoid: come.

Cor. Follow your function, go!

And batten¹ on cold bits. [*Pushes him away.*

3 Serv. What, will you not? Pr'ythee, tell my master what a strange guest he has here.

2 Serv. And I shall. [*Exit.*

3 Serv. Where dwellest thou?

Cor. Under the canopy.

3 Serv. Under the canopy?

Cor. Ay.

3 Serv. Where's that?

Cor. I' the city of kites and crows.

3 Serv. I' the city of kites and crows?—What an ass it is!—Then thou dwellest with daws too?

Cor. No, I serve not thy master.

3 S. How, sir! Do you meddle with my master?

Cor. Thou prat'st, and prat'st; serve with thy trencher, hence! [*Beats him away.*

Enter Aufidius, and the second Servant.

Auf. Where is this fellow?

2 Serv. Here, sir; I'd have beaten him like a dog, but for disturbing the lords within.

Auf. Whence comest thou? what wouldst thou?

Thy name? [name?

Why speak'st not? Speak, man: What's thy

Cor. If, Tullus, [*Unmuffling.*

Not yet thou know'st me, and seeing me, dost not Think me for the man I am, necessity

Commands me name myself.

Auf. What is thy name? [*Servants retire.*

Cor. A name unmusical to the Volscians' ears, And harsh in sound to thine.

Auf. Say, what's thy name?

Thou hast a grim appearance, and thy face Bears a command in't; though thy tackle's torn, Thou show'st a noble vessel: What's thy name?

Cor. Prepare thy brow to frown: Know'st thou me yet?

Auf. I know thee not:—Thy name?

Cor. My name is Caius Marcius, who hath done To thee particularly, and to all the Volces, Great hurt and mischief; thereto witness may My surname, Coriolanus: The painful service, The extreme dangers, and the drops of blood

¹ Feed.

Shed for my thankless country, are required But with that surname; a good memory,¹ And witness of the malice and displeasure Which thou shouldst bear me; only that name remains;

The cruelty and envy of the people, Permitted by our dastard nobles, who Have all forsook me, hath devour'd the rest; And suffer'd me by the voice of slaves to be Whoop'd out of Rome. Now, this extremity Hath brought me to thy hearth; Not out of hope, Mistake me not, to save my life; for if I had fear'd death, of all the men i' the world I would have voided thee: but in mere spite, To be full quit of those my banishers, Stand I before thee here. Then if thou hast A heart of wreak² in thee, that will revenge Thine own particular wrongs, and stop those mains

Of shame send through thy country, speed thee straight,

And make my misery serve thy turn; so use it, That my revengeful services may prove As benefits to thee; for I will fight Against my canker'd country with the spleen Of all the under³ fiends. But if so be Thou dar'st not this, and that to prove more fortunes

Thou art tir'd, then, in a word, I also am Longer to live most weary, and present My throat to thee, and to thy ancient malice: Which not to cut, would show thee but a fool; Since I have ever follow'd thee with hate, Drawn tons of blood out of thy country's breast, And cannot live but to thy shame, unless It be to do thee service.

Auf. O Marcius, Marcius, Each word thou hast spoke hath weeded from my heart

A root of ancient envy. If Jupiter [say, Should from yon cloud speak divine things, and 'Tis true; I'd not believe them more than thee, All noble Marcius.—O let me twine

Mine arms about that body, where against My grained ash an hundred times hath broke, And scar'd the moon with splinters! Here I dip⁴ The anvil of my sword; and do contest As hotly and as nobly with thy love, As ever in ambitious strength I did Contend against thy valour. Know thou first, I love the maid I married; never man Sigh'd truer breath; but that I see thee here, Thou noble thing! more dances my rapt heart, Than when I first my wedded mistress saw Bestride my threshold. Why, thou Mars! I tell thee,

We have a pow'r on foot; and I had purpose Once more to hew thy target from thy brawn⁵ Or lose mine arm for't. Thou hast beat me out⁶ Twelve several times, and I have nightly since Dream'd of encounters 'twixt thyself and me; We have been down together in my sleep, Unbuckling helms, fisting each other's throat. And wak'd half dead with nothing. Worthy Marcius,

Had we no quarrel else to Rome, but that

¹ Memorial. ³ Infernal. ⁵ Arm.
² Resentment. ⁴ Embrace. ⁶ Completely.

Thou art hence banish'd, we would muster all From twelve to seventy; and, pouring war Into the bowels of ungrateful Rome, Like a bold flood o'er-beat. O, come, go in, And take our friendly senators by the hand; Who now are here, taking their leaves of me, Who am prepar'd against your territories, Though not for Rome itself.

Cor. You bless me, gods!

4. Therefore, most absolute sir, if thou wilt The leading of thine own revenges, take [have The one half of my commission; and set down,— As best thou art experienc'd, since thou know'st Thy country's strength and weakness,—thine own ways:

Whether to knock against the gates of Rome, Or rudely visit them in parts remote, To fright them, ere destroy. But come in: Let me commend thee first to those, that shall Say, yea, to thy desires. A thousand welcomes! And more a friend than e'er an enemy.

Yet, Marcius, that was much: Your hand! Most welcome!

[*Exeunt Coriolanus and Aufidius.*]

1 *Serv.* [*Advancing.*] Here's a strange alteration!

2 *Serv.* By my hand, I had thought to have stricken him with a cudgel; and yet my mind gave me, his clothes made a false report of him.

1 *Serv.* What an arm he has! He turned me about with his finger and his thumb, as one would set up a top.

2 *Serv.* Nay, I knew by his face that there was something in him: He had, sir, a kind of face, methought,—I cannot tell how to term it.

1 *Serv.* He had so: looking, as it were,— 'Would I were hanged, but I thought there was more in him than I could think.

2 *Serv.* So did I, I'll be sworn: He is simply the rarest man i' the world.

1 *Serv.* I think, he is: a greater soldier than he, you wot¹ one.

2 *Serv.* Who? my master?

1 *Serv.* Nay, it's no matter for that.

2 *Serv.* Worth six of him.

1 *Serv.* Nay, not so neither; but I take him to be the greater soldier.

2 *Serv.* Faith, look you, one cannot tell how to say that: for the defence of a town, our general is excellent.

1 *Serv.* Ay, and for an assault too.

Re-enter third Servant.

3 *Serv.* O, slaves, I can tell you news; news, you rascals.

1 & 2 *Serv.* What, what, what? let's partake.

3 *Serv.* I would not be a Roman, of all nations; I had as lieve² be a condemned man.

1 & 2 *Serv.* Wherefore? wherefore?

3 *Serv.* Why, here's he that was wont to thwack³ our general—Caius Marcius.

1 *Serv.* Why do you say, thwack our general?

3 *Serv.* I do not say, thwack our general; but he was always good enough for him.

2 *Serv.* Come, we are fellows and friends: he was ever too hard for him; I have heard him say so himself.

1 *Know.* 2 As willingly. 3 Thrash.

1 *Serv.* He was too hard for him directly, to say the truth on't: before Corioli, he scotched¹ him and notched² him like a carbonado.³

2 *Serv.* An he had been cannibally given, he might have broiled and eaten him too.

1 *Serv.* But, more of thy news?

3 *Serv.* Why, he is so made on here within, as if he were son and heir to Mars: set at upper end o' the table: no question asked him by any of the senators, but they stand bald before him: Our general himself makes a mistress of him; sanctifies himself with's hand, and turns up the white o' the eye to his discourse. But the bottom of the news is, our general is cut i' the middle, and but one half of what he was yesterday; for the other has half, by the entreaty and grant of the whole table. He'll go, he says, and sowle⁴ the porter of Rome gates by the ears: He will mow down all before him, and leave his passage polled.⁵

2 *Serv.* And he's as like to do't, as any man I can imagine.

3 *Serv.* Do't? he will do't: For, look you, sir, he has as many friends as enemies: which friends, sir, (as it were,) durst not (look you, sir,) show themselves (as we term it) his friends, whilst he's in directitude.

1 *Serv.* Directitude! what's that?

3 *Serv.* But when they shall see, sir, his crest up again, and the man in blood, they will out of their burrows, like rabbits after rain, and revel all with him.

1 *Serv.* But when goes this forward?

3 *Serv.* To-morrow; to-day; presently. You shall have the drum struck up this afternoon: 'tis, as it were, a parcel of their feast, and to be executed ere they wipe their lips.

2 *Serv.* Why then we shall have a stirring world again. This peace is nothing, but to rust iron, increase tailors, and breed ballad-makers.

1 *Serv.* Let me have war, say I; it exceeds peace, as far as day does night; it's sprightly, waking, audible, and full of vent.⁶ Peace is a very apoplexy, lethargy; mull'd,⁷ deaf, sleepy, insensible.

2 *Serv.* 'Tis so.

1 *Serv.* Ay, and it makes men hate one another.

3 *Serv.* Reason; because they then less need one another. The wars, for my money. I hope to see Romans as cheap as Volscians. They are rising, they are rising.

All. In, in, in, in. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Sicinius and Brutus.

Sic. We hear not of him, neither need we fear His remedies are tame i' the present peace [him: And quietness o' the people, which before Were in wild hurry. Here do we make his friends Blush, that the world goes well; who rather had, Though they themselves did suffer by't, behold Dissentious numbers pestering streets, than see Our tradesmen singing in their shops, and going About their functions friendly.

1 Crushed.

2 Cut.

3 Meat cut across to be broiled.

4 Pull.

5 Cut clear.

6 Sensation.

7 Soft.

Enter Menenius.

Bru. We stood to't in good time. Is this Menenius?

Sic. 'Tis he, 'tis he: O, he is grown most kind Of late.—Hail, sir!

Men. Hail to you both!

Sic. Your Coriolanus, sir, is not much miss'd, But with his friends: the commonwealth doth stand;

And so would do, were he more angry at it.

Men. All's well; and might have been much better, if

He could have temporiz'd.

Sic. Where is he, hear you?

M. Nay, I hear nothing; his mother and his wife Hear nothing from him.

Enter three or four Citizens.

Cit. The gods preserve you both!

Sic. Good e'en, our neighbours.

Bru. Good e'en to you all, good e'en to you all.

1 Cit. Ourselves, our wives, and children, on our Are bound to pray for you both. [knees,

Sic. Live and thrive!

Bru. Farewell, kind neighbours: we wish'd Had lov'd you as we did. [Coriolanus

Cit. Now the gods keep you.

Both Tr. Farewell, farewell. [Exeunt Citizens.

Sic. This is a happier and more comely time, Than when these fellows ran about the streets, Crying, Confusion.

Bru. Caius Marcius was A worthy officer i' the war; but insolent, O'ercome with pride, ambitious past all thinking, Self-loving,—

Sic. And affecting one sole throne, Without assistance.¹

Men. I think not so.

Sic. We should by this, to all our lamentation, If he had gone forth consul, found it so.

Bru. The gods have well prevented it, and Sits safe and still without him. [Rome

Enter Ædile.

Æd. Worthy tribunes,

There is a slave, whom we have put in prison, Reports,—the Volces with two several powers Are enter'd in the Roman territories; And with the deepest malice of the war Destroy what lies before them.

Men. 'Tis Aufidius,

Who, hearing of our Marcius' banishment, Thrusts forth his horns again into the world: Which were unshell'd, when Marcius stood for And durst not once peep out. [Rome,

Sic. Come, what talk you Of Marcius?

B. Go see this rumourer whipp'd.—It cannot be, The Volces dare break with us.

Men. Cannot be!

We have record, that very well it can; And three examples of the like have been Within my age. But reason with the fellow, Before you punish him, where he heard this: Lest you should chance to whip your informant And beat the messenger who bids beware [tion, Of what is to be dreaded.

¹ Suffrage.

Sic.

Tell not me:

I know this cannot be.

Bru.

Not possible.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The nobles, in great earnestness, are going All to the senate house: some news is come, That turns their countenances.

Sic. 'Tis this slave;— Go whip him 'fore the people's eyes:— his raising! Nothing but his report!

Mess. Yes, worthy sir, The slave's report is seconded; and more, More fearful is deliver'd.

Sic.

What more fearful?

Mess. It is spoke freely out of many mouths, (How probable, I do not know,) that Marcius, Join'd with Aufidius, leads a power 'gainst Rome; And vows revenge as spacious, as between The young'st and oldest thing.

Sic.

This is most likely!

B. Rais'd only, that the weaker sort may wish Good Marcius home again.

Sic.

The very trick on't.

Men. This is unlikely:

He and Aufidius can no more atone,¹ Than violentest contrariety.

Enter another Messenger.

Mess. You are sent for to the senate: A fearful army, led by Caius Marcius, Associated with Aufidius, rages Upon our territories; and have already, O'erborne their way, consum'd with fire, and took What lay before them.

Enter Cominius.

Com. O, you have made good work!

Men. What news? what news?

C. You have help to ravish your own daughters, and

To melt the city leads upon your pates;

To see your wives dishonour'd to your noses;—

Men. What's the news? what's the news?

Com. Your temples burn'd in their cement; and Your franchises, whereon you stood, confin'd Into an augre's bore.

Men.

Pray now, your news?—

You have made fair work, I fear me:—Pray, your news?

If Marcius should be join'd with Volscians,—

Com.

If!

He is their god; he leads them like a thing

Made by some other deity than nature,

That shapes man better; and they follow him, Against us brats, with no less confidence,

Than boys pursuing summer butterflies, Or butchers killing flies.

Men.

You have made good work,

You, and your apron men; you that stood so much Upon the voice of occupation,² and

The breath of garlick-eaters³!

Com.

He will shake

Your Rome about your ears.

Men.

As Hercules

Did shake down mellow fruit: You have made

Bru. But is this true, sir? [fair work!

¹ Be reconciled.

³ The lowest people.

² Opinions of Mechanics.

Com. Ay: and you'll look pale
Before you find it other. All the regions
Do smilingly revolt; and, who resist,
Are only mock'd for valiant ignorance, [him?]
And perish constant fools. Who is't can blame
Your enemies, and his, find something in him.

Men. We are all undone, unless
The noble man have mercy.

Com. Who shall ask it?
The tribunes cannot do't for shame: the people
Deserve such pity of him, as the wolf
Does of the shepherds: for his best friends, if they
Should say, *Be good to Rome*, they charg'd him
even

As those who should do that had deserv'd his hate,
And therein show'd like enemies.

Men. 'Tis true:
If he were putting to my house the brand
That should consume it, I have not the face
To say, *Beseech you cease*.—You have made fair
hands,

You and your crafts! you have crafted fair!

Com. You have brought
A trembling upon Rome, such as was never
So incapable of help.

Tri. Say not, we brought it.

Men. How! Was it we? We lov'd him; but,
like beasts,

And cowardly nobles, gave way to your clusters,
Who did hoot him out o' the city.

Com. But, I fear
They'll roar him in again. Tullus Aufidius,
The second name of men, obeys his points
As if he were his officer:—Desperation
Is all the policy, strength, and defence,
That Rome can make against them.

Enter a Troop of Citizens.

Men. Here come the cluster.—
And is Aufidius with him?—You are they
That made the air unwholesome, when you cast
Your old and greasy caps, in hooting at
Coriolanus's exile. Now he's coming;
And not a hair upon a soldier's head,
Which will not prove a whip; as many coxcombs,
As you threw caps up, will he tumble down,
And pay you for your voices. 'Tis no matter;
If he could burn us all into one coal,
We have deserv'd it.

Cit. 'Faith, we hear fearful news.

1 Cit. For mine own part,
When I said, banish him, I said, 'twas pity.

2 Cit. And so did I.

3 Cit. And so did I; and, to say the truth, so
did very many of us: That we did, we did for
the best: and though we willingly consented to
his banishment, yet it was against our will.

Com. You are goodly things, you voices!

Men. You have made
Good work, you and your cry!—Shall us to the
Capitol?

Com. O, ay; what else? [*Exeunt Com. and Men.*]

Sic. Go, masters, get you home, be not dismay'd;
These are a side, that would be glad to have
This true, which they so seem to fear. Go home,
And show no sign of fear.

1 Cit. The gods be good to us! Come, masters,

1 (Pack.)

let's home. I ever said, we were i' the wrong,
when we banished him.

2 Cit. So did we all. But come, let's home.
[*Exeunt Citizens.*]

Bru. I do not like this news.

Sic. Nor I.

B. Let's to the Capitol:—Would half my wealth
Would buy this for a lie.

Sic. Pray, let us go. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.

A CAMP; AT A SMALL DISTANCE FROM ROME.

Enter Aufidius and his Lieutenant.

Auf. Do they still fly to the Roman?

L. I do not know what witchcraft's in him; but
Your soldiers use him as the grace fore meat,
Their talk at table, and their thanks at end;
And you are darken'd in this action, sir,
Even by your own.

Auf. I cannot help it now;
Unless, by using means, I lame the foot
Of our design. He bears himself more proudlier,
Even to my person, than I thought he would,
When first I did embrace him: Yet his nature
In that's no changeling; and I must excuse
What cannot be amended.

Lieu. Yet I wish, sir,
(I mean for your particular,) you had not
Join'd in commission with him: but either
Had borne the action of yourself, or else
To him had left it solely.

Auf. I understand thee well; and be thou sure,
When he shall come to his account, he knows not
What I can urge against him. Although it seems,
And so he thinks, and is no less apparent
To the vulgar eye, that he bears all things fairly,
And shows good husbandry for the Volscian state;
Fights dragon-like, and does achieve as soon
As draw his sword: yet he hath left undone
That, which shall break his neck, or hazard mine,
Whene'er we come to our account. [Rome?]

Lieu. Sir, I beseech you, think you he'll carry

Auf. All places yield to him ere he sits down;
And the nobility of Rome are his:
The senators, and patricians, love him too.
The tribunes are no soldiers; and their people
Will be as rash in the repeal, as hasty
To expel him thence. I think, he'll be to Rome,
As is the osprey¹ to the fish, who takes it
By sovereignty of nature. First he was
A noble servant to them; but he could not
Carry his honours even: whether 'twas pride,
Which out of daily fortune ever taints
The happy man; whether defect of judgment,
To fail in the disposing of those chances
Which he was lord of; or whether nature,
Not to be other than one thing, not moving
From the casque² to the cushion,³ but command-
ing peace

Even with the same austerity and garb
As he controll'd the war; but, one of these,
(As he hath spices of them all, not all,⁴
For I dare so far free him,) made him fear'd,
So hated, and so banish'd: But he has a merit,
To choke it in the utterance. So our virtues

¹ Eagle.

² Helmet.

³ Civic chair.

⁴ Not all in their full extent.

Lie in the interpretation of the time;
And power, unto itself most commendable
Hath not a tomb so evident as a chair
To extol what it hath done.
One fire drives out one fire; one nail, one nail;
Rights by rights fouler, strengths by strengths
do fail.

Come, let's away. When Caius, Rome is thine,
Thou art poor'st of all; then shortly art thou
mine. [Exeunt.]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—ROME. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Menenius, Cominius, Sicinius, Brutus, and others.

M. No, I'll not go: you hear, what he hath said,
Which was sometime his general; who lov'd him
In a most dear particular. He call'd me father:
But what o' that? Go, you that banish'd him,
A mile before his tent fall down, and kneel
The way unto his mercy: Nay, if he coy'd¹
To hear Cominius speak, I'll keep at home.

Com. He would not seem to know me.

Men. Do you hear?

Com. Yet one time he did call me by my name:
I urg'd our old acquaintance, and the drops
That we have bled together. Coriolanus
He would not answer to: forbad all names;
He was a kind of nothing, titleless,
Till he had forg'd himself a name i' the fire
Of burning Rome.

Men. Why, so; you have made good work:
A pair of tribunes that have rack'd for Rome,
To make coals cheap:² A noble memory!

Com. I minded him, how royal 'twas to pardon
When it was less expected: He replied,
It was a bare petition of a state
To one whom they had punish'd.

Men. Very well:

Could he say less?

Com. I offer'd to awaken his regard
For his private friends: His answer to me was,
He could not stay to pick them in a pile
Of noisome, musty chaff: He said, 'twas folly,
For one poor grain or two, to leave unburnt,
And still to nose the offence.

Men. For one poor grain
Or two? I am one of those; his mother, wife,
His child, and this brave fellow too, we are the
grains:

You are the musty chaff; and you are smelt
Above the moon: We must be burnt for you.

Sic. Nay, pray, be patient: If you refuse your
In this so never-headed help, yet do not [aid
Upbraid us with our distress. But, sure, if you
Would be your country's pleader, your good
tongue

More than the instant army we can make,
Might stop our countryman.

Men. No, No; I'll not meddle.

Sic. I pray you, go to him.

Men. What should I do?

Br. Only make trial what your love can do
For Rome towards Marcius.

¹ Was unwilling. ² By getting Rome burnt.

Men. Well, and say that Marcius
Return me, as Cominius is return'd,
Unheard; what then?
But as a discontented friend, grief shot
With his unkindness? Say't be so?

Sic. Yet your good will
Must have that thanks from Rome, after the
As you intended well. [measure

Men. I'll undertake it:
I think, he'll hear me. Yet to bite his lip,
And hum at good Cominius, much unhearts me.
He was not taken well; he had not din'd:
The veins unfilled, our blood is cold, and then
We pout upon the morning, are unapt
To give or to forgive; but when we have stuff'd
These pipes and these conveyances of our blood
With wine and feeding, we have suppler souls
Than in our priest-like fasts: therefore I'll watch
Till he be dieted to my request, [him
And then I'll set upon him.

Br. You know the very road into his kindness,
And cannot lose your way.
Men. Good faith, I'll prove him,
Speed how it will. I shall ere long have knowledge
Of my success. [Exit.
Com. He'll never hear him.
Sic. Not?

Com. I tell you, he does sit in gold, his eye
Red as 'twould burn Rome: and his injury
The gaoler to his pity. I kneel'd before him;
'Twas very faintly he said, *Rise*; dismiss'd me
Thus, with his speechless hand: What he would
do,

He sent in writing after me; what he would not,
Bound with an oath to yield to his conditions:
So, that all hope is vain,
Unless his noble mother, and his wife;
Who, as I hear, mean to solicit him
For mercy to his country. Therefore, let's hence,
And with our fair entreaties haste them on. [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.

AN ADVANCED POST OF THE VOLSCIAN CAMP BEFORE ROME. THE GUARD AT THEIR STATIONS.

Enter to them Menenius.

1 G. Stay: Whence are you?

2 G. Stand, and go back.

Men. You guard like men; 'tis well: But, by
your leave,

I am an officer of state, and come
To speak with Coriolanus.

1 G. From whence?

Men. From Rome.

1 G. You may not pass, you must return: our
Will no more hear from thence. [general

2 G. You'll see your Rome embrac'd with fire,
You'll speak with Coriolanus. [before

Men. Good, my friends,
If you have heard your general talk of Rome,
And of his friends there, it is lots¹ to blanks,
My name hath touch'd your ears: it is Menenius.

1 G. Be it so; go back: the virtue of your name
Is not here passable.

Men. I tell thee, fellow,
Thy general is my lover²: I have been
The book of his good acts, whence men have read

¹ Prizes.

² Friend.

His fame unparallel'd, haply, amplified;
For I have ever verified my friends,
(Of whom he's chief,) with all the size that verity
Would without lapsing suffer: nay, sometimes,
Like to a bowl upon a subtle¹ ground,
I have tumbled past the throw; and in his praise
Have almost stamp'd the leasing²: Therefore,
I must have leave to pass.

1 G. Sir, if you had told as many lies in his
behalf, as you have uttered words in your own,
you should not pass here: no, though it were as
virtuous to lie, as to live chastely. Therefore,
go back.

Men. Pr'ythee, fellow, remember my name
is Menenius, always factious on the party of
your general.

2 G. Howsoever you have been his liar, (as
you say, you have,) I am one that, telling true
under him, must say, you cannot pass. There-
fore, go back.

Men. Has he dined, canst thou tell? for I
would not speak with him till after dinner.

1 G. You are a Roman, are you?

Men. I am as thy general is.

1 G. Then you should hate Rome, as he does.
Can you, when you have pushed out your gates
the very defender of them, and, in a violent
popular ignorance, given your enemy your shield,
think to front his revenges with the easy groans
of old women, the virginal palms of your daugh-
ters, or with the palsied intercession of such a
decayed dotant³ as you seem to be? Can you
think to blow out the intended fire your city is
ready to flame in, with such weak breath as this?
No, you are deceived; therefore, back to Rome,
and prepare for your execution; you are con-
demned, our general has sworn you out of re-
prieve and pardon.

Men. Sirrah, if thy captain knew I were here,
he would use me with estimation.

2 G. Come, my captain knows you not.

Men. I mean, thy general.

1 G. My general cares not for you. Back, I
say; go, lest I let forth your half pint of blood:—
back,—that's the utmost of your having:—back.

Men. Nay, but fellow, fellow,——

Enter Coriolanus and Aufidius.

Cor. What's the matter?

Men. Now, you companion,⁴ I'll say an errand
for you; you shall know now that I am in esti-
mation; you shall perceive that a Jack⁵ guardant
cannot office me from my son Coriolanus: guess,
but by my entertainment with him, if thou
stand'st not i' the state of hanging, or of some
death more long in spectatorship, and crueller in
suffering; behold now presently, and swoon for
what's to come upon thee.—The glorious gods
sit in hourly synd about thy particular prosper-
ity, and love thee no worse than thy old father
Menenius does! O, my son! my son! thou art
preparing fire for us; look thee, here's water to
quench it. I was hardly moved to come to thee;
but being assured, none but myself could move
thee, I have been blown out of your gates with
sighs; and conjure thee to pardon Rome, and

thy petitionary countrymen. The good gods
assuage thy wrath, and turn the dregs of it upon
this varlet here; this, who, like a block, hath
denied my access to them.

Cor. Away!

Men. How! away?

[*affairs*]

Cor. Wife, mother, child, I know not. My
Are servanted to others: Though I owe
My revenge properly, my remission lies
In Volsian breasts. That we have been familiar,
Ingrate forgetfulness shall poison, rather
Than pity note how much.—Therefore, begone,
Mine ears against your suits are stronger, than
Your gates against my force. Yet, for I lov'd
Take this along; I writ it for thy sake, [thee,
[*Gives a Letter*

And would have sent it. Another word, Menenius,
I will not hear thee speak.—This man, Aufidius,
Was my beloved in Rome: yet thou behold'st—
Auf. You keep a constant temper.

[*Exeunt Coriolanus and Aufidius.*

1 G. Now, sir, is your name Menenius?

2 G. 'Tis a spell, you see, of much power:
You know the way home again.

1 G. Do you hear how we are shent² for
keeping your greatness back?

2 G. What cause, do you think, I have to swoon?

Men. I neither care for the world, nor your
general: for such things as you, I can scarce
think there is any, you are so slight. He that
bath a will to die by himself, fears it not from
another. Let your general do his worst. For
you, be that you are, long; and your misery
increase with your age! I say to you, as I was
said to, Away! [thee and have good words] [Exit.

1 G. A noble fellow, I warrant him.

2 G. The worthy fellow is our general: He
is the rock, the oak not to be wind-shaken.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—THE TENT OF CORIOLANUS.

Enter Coriolanus, Aufidius, and others.

Cor. We will before the walls of Rome to-
morrow

Set down our host.—My partner in this action,
You must report to the Volsian lords, how
I have borne in this business, [as at plain] plainy³

Auf. [*aside*] ground off on. Only their ends
You have respected; stopp'd your ears against
The general suit of Rome; never admitted
A private whisper, no, not with such friends
That thought them sure of you.

Cor. [*aside*] you see how? This last old man,
Whom with a crack'd heart I have sent to Rome,
Loved me above the measure of a father;
Nay, godded me, indeed. Their latest refuge
Was to send him: for whose old love, I have
(Though I show'd sourly to him,) once more
offer'd

The first conditions, which they did refuse,
And cannot now accept, to grace him only,
That thought he could do more; a very little
I have yielded too: Fresh embassies, and suits,
Nor from the state, nor private friends, hereafter
Will I lend ear to.—Ha? what shout is this?

[*Shout within.*

1 Deceptive. 3 Dotard. 5 Jack in office.
2 Lie. 4 Fellow.

1 Because. 2 Reprimanded. 3 Openly.

Shall I be tempted to infringe my vow
In the same time 'tis made? I will not.—
*Enter in mourning Habits, Virgilia, Volumnia,
leading young Marcius, Valeria, and At-
tendants.*

My wife comes foremost; then the honour'd mould
Wherein this trunk was fram'd, and in her hand
The grandchild to her blood. But, out, affection!
All bond and privilege of nature, break!
Let it be virtuous, to be obstinate.—
What is that curst y worth? or those doves' eyes,
Which can make gods forsworn?—I melt, and
am not

Of stronger earth than others.—My mother bows;
As if Olympus to a molehill should
In supplication nod: and my young boy
Hath an aspect of intercession, which
Great nature cries, *Deny not*.—Let the Volces
Plough Rome, and harrow Italy; I'll never
Be such a gosling to obey instinct; but stand,
As if a man were author of himself,
And knew no other kin.

Vir. My lord and husband!

Cor. These eyes are not the same I wore in
Rome.

Vir. The sorrow that delivers us thus chang'd,
Makes you think so.

Cor. Like a dull actor now,
I have forgot my part, and I am out,
Even to a full disgrace. Best of my flesh,
Forgive my tyranny; but do not say,
For that, *Forgive our Romans*.—O, a kiss
Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge!
Now by the jealous queen¹ of heaven, that kiss
I carried from thee; and my true lip
Hath virgin'd it e'er since.—You gods! I prate
And the most noble mother of the world
Leave unsaluted: Sink, my knee i' the earth;
[*Kneels.*

Of thy deep duty more impression show
Than that of common sons.

Vol. O, stand up bless'd!
Whilst with no softer cushion than the flint,
I kneel before thee; and unproperly
Show duty, as mistaken all the while
Between the child and parent. [*Kneels.*

Cor. What is this?
Your knees to me? to your corrected son?
Then let the pebbles on the hungry beach
Fillip the stars; then let the mutinous winds
Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fiery sun;
Murdring impossibility, to make
What cannot be, slight work.

Vol. Thou art my warrior;
I help to frame thee. Do you know this lady?

Cor. The noble sister of Publicola,
The moon of Rome; chaste as the icicle,
That's curdled by the frost from purest snow,
And hangs on Dian's temple: Dear Valeria!

Vol. This is a poor epitome of yours,
Which by the interpretation of full time
May show like all yourself.

Cor. The god of soldiers,
With the consent of supreme Jove, inform
Thy thoughts with nobleness: that thou may'st
prove

To shame invulnerable, and stick i' the wars

1 Juno.

Like a great sea-mark, standing every flaw,¹
And saving those that eye thee!

Vol. Your knee, sirrah.

Cor. That's my brave boy.

Vol. Even he, your wife, this lady, and myself,
Are suitors to you.

Cor. I beseech you, peace:
Or, if you'd ask, remember this before;
The things, I have forsworn to grant, may never
Be held by your denials. Do not bid me
Dismiss my soldiers, or capitulate
Again with Rome's mechanicks:—Tell me not
Wherein I seem unnatural: Desire not
To allay my rages and revenges, with
Your colder reasons.

Vol. O, no more, no more!
You have said, you will not grant us any thing;
For we have nothing else to ask, but that
Which you deny already: Yet we will ask;
That, if you fail in our request, the blame
May hang upon your hardness: therefore hear us.

Cor. Aufidius, and you Volces, mark; for we'll
Hear nought from Rome in private.—Your re-
quest? [raiment,

Vol. Should we be silent and not speak, our
And state of bodies would bewray² what life
We have led since thy exile. Think with thyself,
How more unfortunate than all living women
Are we come hither: since that thy sight, which
should

Make our eyes flow with joy, hearts dance with
comforts,
Constrains them weep, and shake with fear and
sorrow;

Making the mother, wife, and child, to see
The son, the husband, and the father, tearing
His country's bowels out. And to poor we,
Thine enemy's most capital: thou barr'st us
Our prayers to the gods, which is a comfort
That all but we enjoy: For how can we,
Alas! how can we for our country pray,
Whereto we are bound; together with thy victory,
Whereto we are bound? Alack! or we must lose
The country, our dear nurse: or else thy person,
Our comfort in the country. We must find
An evident calamity, though we had
Our wish, which side should win: for either thou
Must, as a foreign recreant, be led
With manacles through our streets, or else
Triumphantly tread on thy country's ruin;
And bear the palm, for having bravely shed
Thy wife and children's blood. For myself, son,
I purpose not to wait on fortune, till
These wars determine: if I cannot persuade thee
Rather to show a noble grace to both parts,
Than seek the end of one, thou shalt no sooner
March to assault thy country, than to tread,
(Trust to't thou shalt not,) on thy mother's womb,
That brought thee to this world.

Vir. Ay, and on mine,
That brought you forth this boy, to keep your
Living to time. [name

Boy. He shall not tread on me;
I'll run away, till I am bigger, but then I'll fight.

Cor. Not of a woman's tenderness to be,
Requires nor child nor woman's face to see.
I have sat too long. [Rising.

1 Storm.

2 Betray.

Vol. Nay, go not from us thus.
 If it were so, that our request did tend
 To save the Romans, thereby to destroy
 The Voices whom you serve, you might condemn
 As poisonous of your honour: No; our suit [us,
 Is, that you reconcile them: while the Volces
 Maysay, *This mercy you have show'd*; the Romans,
This we receiv'd; and each in either side
 Give the all-hail to thee, and cry, *Be bless'd*
Formaking up this peace! Thou know'st, great son,
 The end of war's uncertain; but this certain,
 That, if thou conquer Rome, the benefit
 Which thou shalt thereby reap, is such a name,
 Whose repetition will be dogg'd with curses;
 Whose chronicle thus writ,—*The man was noble,*
But with his last attempt, he wip'd it out;
Destroy'd his country; and his name remains
To the ensuing age, abhorr'd. Speak to me, son:
 Thou hast affected the fine strains of honour,
 To imitate the graces of the gods;
 To tear with thunder the wide cheeks o' the air,
 And yet to charge thy sulphur with a bolt
 That should but rive an oak. Why dost not speak?
 Think'st thou it honourable for a noble man
 Still to remember wrongs?—Daughter, speak you:
 He cares not for your weeping.—Speak thou, boy:
 Perhaps, thy childishness will move him more
 Than can our reasons.—There is no man in the
 world [prate

More bound to his mother; yet here he lets me
 Like one i' the stocks. Thou hast never in thy life
 Show'd thy dear mother any courtesy;
 When she (poor hen!) fond of no second brood,
 Has cluck'd thee to the wars, and safely home,
 Loaden with honour. Say, my request's unjust,
 And spurn me back: But, if it be not so, [thee,
 Thou art not honest; and the gods will plague
 That thou restrain'st from me the duty, which
 To a mother's part belongs.—He turns away:
 Down, ladies; let us shame him with our knees.
 To his surname Coriolanus 'longs more pride,
 Than pity to our prayers. Down; an end:
 This is the last;—So we will home to Rome
 And die among our neighbours.—Nay, behold us:
 This boy, that cannot tell what he would have,
 But kneels, and holds up hands, for fellowship,
 Does reason our petition with more strength
 Than thou hast to deny't.—Come, let us go:
 This fellow had a Volscian to his mother;
 His wife is in Corioli, and his child
 Like him by chance:—Yet give us our despatch:
 I am hush'd until our city be afire,
 And then I'll speak a little.

Cor. [Holding Volumnia by the hands, silent.]

O mother, mother! [ope,
 What have you done? Behold, the heavens do
 The gods look down, and this unnatural scene
 They laugh at. O my mother, mother! O!
 You have won a happy victory to Rome:
 But, for your son,—Believe it, O, believe it,
 Most dangerously you have with him prevail'd,
 If not most mortal to him. But, let it come:
 Aufidius, though I cannot make true wars,
 I'll frame convenient peace. Now, good Aufidius,
 Were you in my stead, say, would you have heard
 A mother less? or granted less, Aufidius?

Auf. I was mov'd withal.

Cor. I dare be sworn, you were:

And, sir, it is no little thing, to make
 Mine eyes to sweat compassion. But, good sir,
 What peace you'll make, advise me: For my part,
 I'll not to Rome, I'll back with you; and pray you,
 Stand to me in this cause.—O mother! wife!

Auf. [Aside.] I am glad thou hast set thy
 mercy and thy honour,

At difference in thee: out of that I'll work
 Myself a former fortune.

[The Ladies make signs to Coriolanus.]

Cor. [To Volumnia, Virgilia, &c.] Ay, by and by;
 But we will drink together; and you shall bear
 A better witness back than words, which we,
 On like conditions, will have counter-seal'd.
 Come, enter with us. Ladies, you deserve
 To have a temple built you: all the swords
 In Italy, and her confederate arms,
 Could not have made this peace. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—ROME. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Menenius and Sicinius.

Men. See you yond' coign¹ o' the Capitol:
 yond' corner stone.

Sic. Why, what of that?

Men. If it be possible for you to displace it
 with your little finger, there is some hope the
 ladies of Rome, especially his mother, may pre-
 vail with him. But I say, there is no hope
 in't; our throats are sentenced, and stay upon
 execution.

Sic. Is't possible, that so short a time can alter
 the condition of a man?

Men. There is differency between a grub, and
 a butterfly; yet your butterfly was a grub. This
 Marcus is grown from man to dragon: he has
 wings; he's more than a creeping thing.

Sic. He loved his mother dearly.

Men. So did he me: and he no more remem-
 bers his mother now, than an eight year old horse.
 The tartness of his face sours ripe grapes. When
 he walks, he moves like an engine, and the ground
 shrinks before his treading. He is able to pierce
 a corset with his eye; talks like a knell, and his
 hum is a battery. He sits in his state, as a thing
 made for² Alexander. What he bids be done, is
 finished with his bidding. He wants nothing of
 a god but eternity, and a heaven to throne in.

Sic. Yes, mercy, if you report him truly.

Men. I paint him in the character. Mark
 what mercy his mother shall bring from him:
 There is no more mercy in him, than there is
 milk in a male tiger: that shall our poor city
 find: and all this is 'long of you.

Sic. The gods be good unto us!

Men. No, in such a case the gods will not be
 good unto us. When we banish'd him, we
 respected not them: and, he returning to break
 our necks, they respect not us.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Sir, if you'd save your life, fly to your
 house;

The plebeians have got your fellow-tribune,
 And hale him up and down; all swearing, if
 The Roman ladies bring not comfort home,
 They'll give him death by inches.

¹ Angle.

² (To resemble.)

Enter another Messenger.

Sic. What's the news?

Mess. Good news, good news;—The ladies have prevail'd,
The Volces are dislodg'd, and Marcius gone:
A merrier day did never yet greet Rome,
No, not the expulsion of the Tarquins.

Sic. Friend,
Art thou certain this is true? is it most certain?

Mess. As certain as I know the sun is fire:
Where have you lurk'd, that you make doubt
of it?

Ne'er through an arch so hurried the blown tide,
As the recomforted through the gates. Why,
hark you;

[*Trumpets and Hautboys sounded, and Drums
beaten, all together. Shouting also within.*
The trumpets, hautboys, psalteries, and fifes,
Tabors, and cymbals, and the shouting Romans,
Make the sun dance. Hark you!

[*Shouting again.*

Men. This is good news:
I will go meet the ladies. This Volumnia
Is worth of consuls, senators, patricians,
A city full; of tribunes, such as you, [day;
A sea and land full: You have prayed well to-
This morning, for ten thousand of your throats
I'd not have given a doit. Hark, how they joy!

[*Shouting and Musick.*

Sic. First, the gods bless you for their tidings;
Accept my thankfulness. [next,

Mess. Sir, we have all
Great cause to give great thanks.

Sic. They are near the city?

Mess. Almost at point to enter.

Sic. We will meet them,
And help the joy. [Going.

*Enter the Ladies, accompanied by Senators,
Patricians, and People. They pass over the
Stage.*

1 Sen. Behold our patroness, the life of Rome:
Call all your tribes together, praise the gods,
And make triumphant fires; strew flowers before
Unshout the noise that banished Marcius, [them,
Repeal¹ him with the welcome of his mother:
Cry,—Welcome, ladies, welcome!—

All. Welcome, ladies!
Welcome!

[*A Flourish with Drums and Trumpets.*
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—ANTIUM. A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Tullus Aufidius, with Attendants.

Auf. Go tell the lords of the city, I am here:
Deliver them this paper: having read it,
Bid them repair to the market-place; where I,
Even in theirs and in the commons' ears,
Will vouch the truth of it. Him I accuse,
The city ports² by this hath enter'd, and
Intends to appear before the people, hoping
To purge himself with words: Despatch.

[*Exeunt Attendants.*

*Enter three or four Conspirators of Aufidius'
Faction.*

Most welcome!

1 Con. How is it with our general?

1 Recall.

2 Gates.

Auf.

Even so,
As with a man by his own alms empoison'd,
And with his charity slain.

2 Con.

Most noble sir,
If you do hold the same intent wherein
You wish'd us parties, we'll deliver you
Of your great danger.

Auf.

Sir, I cannot tell;
We must proceed, as we do find the people.
3 Con. The people will remain uncertain, whilst
'Twixt you there's difference; but the fall of
Makes the survivor heir of all. [either

Auf.

I know it;
And my pretext to strike at him admits
A good construction. I rais'd him, and I pawn'd
Mine honour for his truth: Who being so
heighten'd,
He water'd his new plants with dews of flattery,
Seducing so my friends: and, to this end,
He bow'd his nature, never known before
But to be rough, unswayable, and free.

3 Con. Sir, his stoutness,

When he did stand for Consul, which he lost
By lack of stooping,—

Auf. That I would have spoke of:

Being banish'd for't, he came unto my hearth;
Presented to my knife his throat: I took him;
Made him joint servant with me; gave him way
In all his own desires; nay, let him choose
Out of my files, his projects to accomplish,
My best and freshest men; serv'd his designments
In mine own person; help to reap the fame,
Which he did end all his; and took some pride
To do myself this wrong: till, at the last,
I seem'd his follower, not partner; and
He wag'd me with his countenance,¹ as if
I had been mercenary.

1 Con.

So he did, my lord:
The army marvell'd at it. And, in the last,
When he had carried Rome; and that we look'd
For no less spoil, than glory,—

Auf.

There was it;—
For which my sinews shall be stretch'd upon him.
At a few drops of women's rheum,² which are
As cheap as lies, he sold the blood and labour
Of our great action; Therefore shall he die.
And I'll renew me in his fall. But, hark!

[*Drums and Trumpets sound, with great
Shouts of the people.*

1 C. Your native town, you enter'd like a post,
And had no welcomes home; but he returns,
Splitting the air with noise.

2 Con.

And patient fools,
Whose children he hath slain, their base throats
With giving him glory. [tear,

3 Con.

Therefore, at your 'vantage,
Ere he express himself, or move the people
With what he would say, let him feel your sword,
Which we will second. When he lies along,
After your way his tale pronounc'd shall bury
His reasons with his body.

Auf.

Say no more;
Here come the lords.

Enter the Lords of the City.

Lords. You are most welcome home.

Auf.

I have not deserv'd it,
1 Rewarded me only with kind looks. *2* Tears.

But, worthy lords, have you with heed perus'd
What I have written to you?

Lords. We have.

1 Lord. And grieve to hear it.
What faults he made before the last, I think,
Might have found easy fines: but there to end,
Where he was to begin: and give away
The benefit of our levies, answering us
With our own charge¹; making a treaty, where
There was a yielding; This admits no excuse.
Auf. He approaches, you shall hear him.

*Enter Coriolanus, with Drums and Colours;
a Crowd of Citizens with him.*

Cor. Hail, lords! I am return'd your soldier;
No more infected with my country's love,
Than when I parted hence, but still subsisting
Under your great command. You are to know,
That prosperously I have attempted, and
With bloody passage, led your wars, even to
The gates of Rome. Our spoils we have brought
home,

Do more than counterpoise, a full third part,
The charges of the action. We have made peace,
With no less honour to the Antiates,
Than shame to the Romans: And we here deliver,
Subscrib'd by the consuls and patricians,
Together with the seal o' the senate, what
We have compounded on.

Auf. Read it not, noble lords;
But tell the traitor, in the highest degree
He hath abus'd your powers.

Cor. Traitor!—How now?

Auf. Ay, traitor Marcius.

Cor. Marcius!

A. Ay, Marcius, Caius Marcius; Dost thou
think

I'll grace thee with that robbery, thy stol'n name
Coriolanus, in Corioli?—

You lords and heads of the state, perfidiously
He has betray'd your business, and given up,
For certain drops of salt, your city Rome,
(I say, your city,) to his wife and mother:
Breaking his oath and resolution, like
A twist of rotten silk; never admitting
Counsel o' the war; but at his nurse's tears
He whin'd and roar'd away your victory;
That pages blush'd at him, and men of heart
Look'd wondering each at other.

Cor. Hear'st thou, Mars?

Auf. Name not the god, thou boy of tears,—

Cor. Ha!

Auf. No more.

Cor. Measureless liar, thou hast made my
heart

Too great for what contains it. Boy! O slave!—
Pardon me, lords, 'tis the first time that ever
I was forc'd to scold. Your judgments, my
grave lords,

Must give this cur the lie: and his own notion
(Who wears my stripes impress'd on him; that
must bear

My beating to his grave;) shall join to thrust
The lie unto him.

¹ Rewarding us with our own expenses.

1 Lord. Peace, both, and hear me speak.

Cor. Cut me to pieces, Volces; men and lads,
Stain all your edges on me.—Boy! False hound!
If you have writ your annals true, 'tis there,
That like an eagle in a dove-cote, I
Flutter'd your Volces in Corioli:
Alone I did it.—Boy!

Auf. Why, noble lords,
Will you be put in mind of his blind fortune,
Which was your shame, by this unholy brag-
gart,
'Fore your own eyes and ears?

Consp. [Several speak at once.] Let him die
for't.

Cit. [Speaking promiscuously.] Tear him to
pieces, do it presently. He killed my son;—my
daughter;—He killed my cousin Marcus;—He
killed my father.—

2 Lord. Peace, ho;—no outrage;—peace.
The man is noble, and his fame folds in
This orb o' the earth. His last offence to us
Shall have judicious¹ hearing.—Stand, Aufidius,
And trouble not the peace.

Cor. O, that I had him,
With six Aufidiuses, or more, his tribe,
To use my lawful sword!

Auf. Insolent villain!

Consp. Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill him.

*Aufidius and the Conspirators draw, and
kill Coriolanus, who falls, and Aufidius
stands on him.*

Lords. Hold, hold, hold, hold.

Auf. My noble masters, hear me speak.

1 Lord. O Tullius,—

2 Lord. Thou hast done a deed whereat valour
will weep.

3 Lord. Tread not upon him.—Masters all, be
quiet;

Put up your swords.

Auf. My lords, when you shall know (as in this
rage,

Provok'd by him, you cannot,) the great danger
Which this man's life did owe you, you'll rejoice
That he is thus cut off. Please it your honours
To call me to your senate, I'll deliver
Myself your loyal servant, or endure
Your heaviest censure.

1 Lord. Bear from hence his body,
And mourn you for him: let him be regarded
As the most noble corse that ever herald
Did follow to his urn.

2 Lord. His own impatience
Takes from Aufidius a great part of blame.
Let's make the best of it.

Auf. My rage is gone,
And I am struck with sorrow.—Take him up:
Help, three o' the chiefest soldiers: I'll be one,—
Beat thou the drum, that it speak mournfully:
Trail your steel pikes.—Though in this city he
Hath widow'd and unchilded many a one,
Which to this hour bewail the injury,
Yet he shall have a noble memory.—

Assist. [Exeunt, bearing the body of Coriolanus.

A dead March sounded.

¹ Judicial.

Julius Cæsar.

Persons Represented.

JULIUS CÆSAR.

OCTAVIUS CÆSAR,
MARCUS ANTONIUS,
M. ÆMIL. LEPIDUS,

*Triumvirs after the
Death of Julius Cæsar.*

CICERO, PUBLIUS, POPILIUS LENA; Senators.

MARCUS BRUTUS,

CASSIUS,

CASCA,

TREBONIUS,

LIGARIUS,

DECIUS BRUTUS,

METELLUS CIMBER,

CINNA,

FLAVIUS and MARULLUS, Tribunes.

*Conspirators against
Julius Cæsar.*

ARTEMIDORUS, a *Sophist of Cnidos.*

A *Soothsayer.*

CINNA, a *Poet.*

Another *Poet.*

LUCILIUS, TITINIUS, MESSALA, young CATO, and

VOLUMNIUS; *Friends to Brutus and Cassius.*

VARRO, CLITUS, CLAUDIUS, STRATO, LUCIUS,

DARDANIUS; *Servants to Brutus.*

PINDARUS, *Servant to Cassius.*

CALPHURNIA, *Wife to Cæsar.*

PORTIA, *Wife to Brutus.*

Senators, Citizens, Guards, Attendants, &c.

SCENE.—*During a great Part of the Play, at Rome; afterwards at Sardis; and near Philippi.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—ROME. A STREET.

*Enter Flavius, Marullus, and a Rabble of
Citizens.*

Flav. Hence; home, you idle creatures, get you
Is this a holiday? What! know you not, [home;
Being mechanical, you ought not walk,
Upon a labouring day, without the sign
Of your profession?—Speak, what trade art thou?

1 *Cit.* Why, sir, a carpenter.

Mar. Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?
What dost thou with thy best apparel on?—
You, sir: what trade are you?

2 *Cit.* Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman,
I am but, as you would say, a cobbler.

Mar. But what trade art thou? Answer me
directly.

2 *Cit.* A trade, sir, that, I hope, I may use
with a safe conscience; which is, indeed, sir,
a mender of bad soles.

Mar. What trade, thou knave; thou naughty
knave, what trade?

2 *Cit.* Nay, I beseech you, sir, be not out with
me: yet, if you be out, sir, I can mend you.

Mar. What meanest thou by that? Mend me,
thou saucy fellow!

2 *Cit.* Why, sir, cobble you.

Flav. Thou art a cobbler, art thou?

2 *Cit.* Truly, sir, all that I live by is, with the
awl: I meddle with no tradesman's matters, but
with awl. I am, indeed, sir, a surgeon to old
shoes; when they are in great danger, I recover
them. As proper men as ever trod upon neat's
leather, have gone upon my handy-work.

Flav. But wherefore art not in thy shop to-day?
Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?

2 *Cit.* Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes, to
get myself into more work. But, indeed, sir,
we make holiday, to see Cæsar, and to rejoice
in his triumph.

M. Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he
What tributaries follow him to Rome, [home?
To grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels?
You blocks, you stones, you worse than sense-
less things!

O, you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,
Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft
Have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat
The live-long day, with patient expectation,
To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome:
And when you saw his chariot but appear,
Have you not made an universal shout,
That Tyber trembled underneath her banks,
To hear the replication of your sounds,
Made in her concave shores?

And do you now put on your best attire?

And do you now cull out a holiday?

And do you now strew flowers in his way,
That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?
Begone;

Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,
Pray to the gods to intermit the plague
That needs must light on this ingratitude.

F. Go, go, good countrymen, and for this fault,
Assemble all the poor men of your sort¹;
Draw them to Tyber banks, and weep your tears
Into the channel, till the lowest stream
Do kiss the most exalted shores of all.

[*Exeunt Citizens.*

See, wher their basest metal be not mov'd;
They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.
Go you down that way towards the Capitol;
This way will I: Disrobe the images,
If you do find them deck'd with ceremonies.

Mar. May we do so?

You know, it is the feast of Lupercal.

Flav. It is no matter; let no images
Be hung with Cæsar's trophies. I'll about.

And drive away the vulgar from the streets:
So do you too, where you perceive them thick.
These growing feathers pluck'd from Cæsar's
Will make him fly an ordinary pitch; [wing,
Who else would soar above the view of men,
And keep us all in servile fearfulness. *Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

*Enter, in Procession, with Musick, Cæsar;
Antony, for the Course; Calphurnia, Portia,
Decius, Cicero, Brutus, Cassius, and Casca;
a great Crowd following, among them a Sooth-
sayer.*

Cæs. Calphurnia,—

Cæs. Peace, ho! Cæsar speaks. [Musick ceases.

Cæs. Calphurnia,—

Cal. Here, my lord.

*Cæs. Stand you directly in Antonius' way,
When he doth run his course.¹—Antonius.*

Ant. Cæsar, my lord.

*Cæs. Forget not, in your speed, Antonius,
To touch Calphurnia: for our elders say,
The barren, touched in this holy chaise,
Shake off their sterile curse.*

Ant. I shall remember:

When Cæsar says, Do this, it is perform'd.

Cæs. Set on; and leave no ceremony out.

Sooth. Cæsar. [Musick.

Cæs. Ha! who calls?

Casca. Bid every noise be still:—Peace yet again.

[Musick ceases.

Cæs. Who is it in the press,² that calls on me?

I hear a tongue shriller than all the musick,

Cry, Cæsar: Speak; Cæsar is turn'd to hear.

Sooth. Beware the ides³ of March.

Cæs. What man is that?

*Bru. A soothsayer, bids you beware the ides
of March.*

Cæs. Set him before me, let me see his face.

*Cæs. Fellow, come from the throng: Look
upon Cæsar.*

*Cæs. What say'st thou to me now? Speak
once again.*

Sooth. Beware the ides of March.

Cæs. He is a dreamer; let us leave him;—pass.

[Sennet.⁴ Exeunt all but Bru. and Cas.

Cæs. Will you go see the order of the course?

Bru. Not I.

Cæs. I pray you do.

*Bru. I am not gamesome: I do lack some part
Of that quick spirit that is in Antony.*

*Let me not hinder, Cassius, your desires:
I'll leave you.*

Cæs. Brutus, I do observe you now of late:

I have not from your eyes that gentleness,

And show of love, as I was wont to have:

*You bear too stubborn and too strange a hand
Over your friend that loves you.*

Bru. Cassius,

Be not deceiv'd: if I have veil'd my look,

I turn the trouble of my countenance

Merely upon myself. Vexed I am,

Of late, with passions of some difference,⁵

Conceptions only proper to myself,

1 At the feast of Lupercalia.

2 Crowd.

3 Eight days in each month—

in March from 15th to 23rd.

*4 Flourish of instru-
ments.*

*5 Opposing feelings
or desires.*

Which gives some soil, perhaps, to my behaviours:
But let not therefore my good friends be grieved;
(Among which number, Cassius, be you one:)
Nor construe any further my neglect,
Than that poor Brutus, with himself at war,
Forgets the shows of love to other men.

*Cæs. Then, Brutus, I have much mistook
your passion, [buried*

*By means whereof, this breast of mine hath
Thoughts of great value, worthy cogitations.*

Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

*Bru. No, Cassius: for the eye sees not itself,
But by reflection, by some other things.*

Cæs. 'Tis just:

*And it is very much lamented, Brutus,
That you have no such mirrors, as will turn
Your hidden worthiness into your eye,
That you might see your shadow. I have heard,
Where many of the best respect in Rome,
(Except immortal Cæsar,) speaking of Brutus,
And groaning underneath this age's yoke,
Have wish'd that noble Brutus had his eyes.*

Bru. Into what dangers would you lead me,

Cassius,

*That you would have me seek into myself
For that which is not in me? [hear:*

Cæs. Therefore, good Brutus, be prepar'd to

And since you know you cannot see yourself

So well as by reflection, I, your glass,

Will modestly discover to yourself

That of yourself which you yet know not of.

And be not jealous of me, gentle Brutus:

Were I a common laughter, or did use

To stale¹ with ordinary oaths my love

To every new protester: if you know

That I do fawn on men, and hug them hard,

And after scandal them; or if you know

That I profess myself in banqueting

To all the rout, then hold me dangerous.

[Flourish and Shout.

*Bru. What means this shouting? I do fear, the
Choose Cæsar for their king. [people*

Cæs. Ay, do you fear it?

Then must I think you would not have it so.

B. I would not, Cassius; yet I love him well:—

But wherefore do you hold me here so long?

What is it that you would impart to me?

If it be aught toward the general good,

Set honour in one eye, and death i' the other,

And I will look on both indifferently:

For, let the gods so speed me, as I love

The name of honour more than I fear death.

Cæs. I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,

As well as I do know your outward favour.

Well, honour is the subject of my story.—

I cannot tell, what you and other men

Think of this life; but, for my single self,

I had as lief not be, as live to be

In awe of such a thing as I myself.

I was born free as Cæsar; so were you:

We both have fed as well: and we can both

Endure the winter's cold, as well as he.

For once, upon a raw and gusty day,

The troubled Tyber chafing with her shores,

Cæsar said to me, Dar'st thou, Cassius, now,

Leap in with me into this angry flood,

And swim to yonder point? Upon the word,

1 Make common.

Accoutred as I was, I plunged in,
And bade him follow: so, indeed, he did.
The torrent roar'd; and we did buffet it
With lusty sinews; throwing it aside
And stemming it with hearts of controversy.
But ere we could arrive the point propos'd,
Cæsar cry'd, *Help me, Cassius, or I sink.*
I, as Æneas, our great ancestor,
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder
The old Anchises bear, so, from the waves of
Did I the tired Cæsar: And this man [Tyber
Is now become a god; and Cassius is
A wretched creature, and must bend his body,
If Cæsar carelessly but nod on him.
He had a fever when he was in Spain,
And, when the fit was on him, I did mark
How he did shake: 'tis true, this god did shake:
His coward lips did from their colour fly;
And that same eye, whose bend doth awe the world,
Did lose his lustre: I did hear him groan:
Ay, and that tongue of his, that bade the Romans
Mark him, and write his speeches in their books,
Alas! it cried, *Give me some drink, Titinius,*
As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me,
A man of such a feeble temper¹ should
So get the start of the majestick world,
And bear the palm alone. [*Shout. Flourish.*

Bru. Another general shout!
I do believe, that these applauses are
For some new honours that are heap'd on Cæsar.

Cas. Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow
Like a Colossus; and we petty men [world,
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their fates;
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Brutus and Cæsar: What should be in that
Cæsar? [yours?

Why should that name be sounded more than
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;
Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with them,
Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Cæsar. [*Shout.*
Now in the names of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Cæsar feed,
That he is grown so great? Age, thou art sham'd:
Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!
When went there by an age, since the great flood,
But it was fam'd with more than with one man?
When could they say, till now, that talk'd of Rome,
That her wide walks encompass'd but one man?
Now is it Rome indeed, and room enough,
When there is in it but one only man.
O! you and I have heard our fathers say,
There was a Brutus once, that would have brook'd
The eternal devil to keep his state in Rome,
As easily as a king.

Bru. That you do love me, I am nothing jealous;
What you would work me to, I have some aim²;
How I have thought of this, and of these times,
I shall recount hereafter; for this present,
I would not, so with love I might entreat you,
Be any further mov'd. What you have said,
I will consider; what you have to say,
I will with patience hear: and find a time
Both meet to hear, and answer, such high things.

1 Constitution.

2 Guess.

Till then, my noble friend, chew¹ upon this;
Brutus had rather be a villager,
Than to repute himself a son of Rome
Under these hard conditions as this time
Is like to lay upon us.

Cas. I am glad that my weak words [Brutus.
Have struck but thus much show of fire from
Re-enter Cæsar, and his Train.

Br. The games are done, and Cæsar is returning.
Cas. As they pass by, pluck Casca by the sleeve;
And he will, after his sour fashion, tell you
What hath proceeded, worthy note, to-day.

Bru. I will do so:—But look you, Cassius,
The angry spot doth glow on Cæsar's brow,
And all the rest look like a chidden train:
Calphurnia's cheek is pale; and Cicero
Looks with such ferret² and such fiery eyes,
As we have seen him in the Capitol,
Being cross'd in conference by some senators.

Cas. Casca will tell us what the matter is.

Cas. Antonius.

Ant. Cæsar.

Cas. Let me have men about me that are fat;
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights;
Yond' Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.
Ant. Fear him not, Cæsar, he's not dangerous;
He is a noble Roman, and well given.

Cas. 'Would he were fatter:—But I fear him not;
Yet if my name were liable to fear,
I do not know the man I should avoid
So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much;
He is a great observer, and he looks [plays,
Quite through the deeds of men: he loves no
As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music:
Seldom he smiles; and smiles in such a sort,
As if he mock'd himself, and scorn'd his spirit
That could be mov'd to smile at any thing.
Such men as he be never at heart's ease,
Whiles they behold a greater than themselves;
And therefore are they very dangerous.
I rather tell thee what is to be fear'd,
Than what I fear, for always I am Cæsar.
Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf,
And tell me truly what thou think'st of him.

[*Exeunt Cæsar and his Train.* Casca
stays behind.

Casca. You pull'd me by the cloak; would
you speak with me?

*B. Ay, Casca; tell us what hath chanc'd to-day,
That Cæsar looks so sad.*

Casca. Why, you were with him, were you not?

Bru. I should not then ask Casca what hath
chanc'd.

Casca. Why, there was a crown offer'd him;
and being offer'd him, he put it by with the
back of his hand, thus; and then the people fell
a shouting.

Bru. What was the second noise for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

Cas. They shouted thrice; What was the last
cry for?

Casca. Why, for that too.

Bru. Was the crown offer'd him thrice?

Casca. Ay, marry, was't, and he put it by thrice,
every time gentler than other; and at every
putting by, mine honest neighbours shouted.

1 Ruminare.

2 A ferret has red eyes.

Cas. Who offer'd him the crown?

Casca. Why, Antony.

Bru. Tell us the manner of it, gentle Casca.

Casca. I can as well be hanged as tell the manner of it: it was mere foolery. I did not mark it. I saw Mark Antony offer him a crown;—yet 'twas not a crown neither, 'twas one of these coronets;—and, as I told you, he put it by once; but, for all that, to my thinking, he would fain have had it. Then he offered it to him again; then he put it by again: but, to my thinking, he was very loath to lay his fingers off it. And then he offered it the third time; he put it the third time by: and still as he refused it, the rabblement hooted, and clapped their chopped hands, and threw up their night-caps, and uttered such a deal of foul breath because Cæsar refused the crown, that it had almost choked Cæsar; for he swooned, and fell down at it. And for mine own part, I durst not laugh, for fear of opening my lips, and receiving the bad air.

Cas. But soft, I pray you: What? did Cæsar swoon?

Casca. He fell down in the market-place, and foamed at mouth, and was speechless.

B. 'Tis very like: he hath the falling-sickness.

Cas. No, Cæsar hath it not; but you, and I, and honest Casca, we have the falling-sickness.

Casca. I know not what you mean by that; but, I am sure, Cæsar fell down. If the tag-rag people did not clap him, and hiss him, according as he pleased, and displeased them, as they us'd to do the players in the theatre, I am no true man.

Bru. What said he, when he came unto himself?

Casca. Marry, before he fell down, when he perceived the common herd was glad he refused the crown, he plucked me ope his doublet, and offered them his throat to cut.—And I had been a man of any occupation,¹ I would have taken him at a word:—and so he fell. When he came to himself again, he said, If he had done, or said anything amiss, he desired their worship to think it was his infirmity. Three or four wenches, where I stood, cried, *Alas, good soul!*—and forgave him with all their hearts: But there's no heed to be taken of them: if Cæsar had stabbed their mothers, they would have done no less.

Bru. And after that, he came, thus sad, away?

Casca. Ay.

Cas. Did Cicero say anything?

Casca. Ay, he spoke Greek.

Cas. To what effect?

Casca. Nay, and I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i' the face again: But those that understood him, smiled at one another, and shook their heads; but, for mine own part, it was Greek to me. I could tell you more news too; Marullus and Flavius, for pulling scarfs off Cæsar's images, are put to silence. Fare you well. There was more foolery yet, if I could remember it.

Cas. Will you sup with me to-night, Casca?

Casca. No, I am promised forth.

Cas. Will you dine with me to-morrow?

Casca. Ay, if I be alive, and your mind hold, and your dinner worth the eating.

1 A tradesman.

Cas. Good; I will expect you.

Casca. Do so: Farewell, both. [*Exit Casca.*]

Bru. What a blunt fellow this is grown to be; He was quick mettle, when he went to school.

Cas. So is he now, in execution Of any bold or noble enterprise, However he puts on this tardy form, This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit, Which gives men stomach to digest his words With better appetite.

B. And so it is. For this time I will leave you: To-morrow, if you please to speak with me, I will come home to you; or, if you will, Come home to me, and I will wait for you.

Cas. I will do so:—till then, think of the world. [*Exit Brutus.*]

Well, Brutus, thou art noble; yet, I see, Thy honourable metal may be wrought From that it is dispos'd¹: Therefore 'tis meet That noble minds keep ever with their likes: For who so firm, that cannot be seduc'd? Cæsar doth bear me hard; but he loves Brutus: If I were Brutus now, and he were Cassius, He should not humour² me. I will this night, In several hands, in at his windows throw, As if they came from several citizens, Writings all tending to the great opinion That Rome holds of his name; wherein obscurely Cæsar's ambition shall be glanced at: And, after this, let Cæsar seat him sure; For we will shake him, or worse days endure. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A STREET.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter, from opposite sides, Casca, with his sword drawn, and Cicero.

Cic. Good even, Casca: Brought you Cæsar home?

Why are you breathless? and why stare you so?

Casca. Are not you mov'd, when all the sway of earth

Shakes, like a thing unfirm? O Cicero, I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds Have riv'd the knotty oaks; and I have seen The ambitious ocean swell, and rage, and foam, To be exalted with the threaten'ing clouds: But never till to-night, never till now, Did I go through a tempest dropping fire. Either there is a civil strife in heaven; Or else the world, too saucy with the gods, Incenses them to send destruction.

Cic. Why, saw you any thing more wonderful?

Casca. A common slave (you know him well by sight)

Held up his left hand, which did flame, and burn Like twenty torches join'd; and yet his hand, Not sensible of fire, remain'd unscorch'd. Besides (I have not since put up my sword), Against the Capitol I met a lion, Who glar'd upon me, and went surly by, Without annoying me: And there were drawn Upon a heap a hundred ghastly women, Transformed with their fear; whoswore, they saw Men, all on fire, walk up and down the streets. And, yesterday, the bird of night did sit,

1 (Disposed to.)

2 Cajole.

Even at noon-day, upon the market-place,
Hooting, and shrieking. When these prodigies
Do so conjointly meet, let not men say,
These are their reasons,—They are natural;
For, I believe they are portentous things
Unto the climate that they point upon.

Cic. Indeed, it is a strange-disposed time:
But men may construe things after their fashion,
Clean from the purpose of the things themselves.
Comes Cæsar to the Capitol to-morrow?

Casca. He doth; for he did bid Antonius
Send word to you, he would be there to-morrow.

Cic. Good night then, Casca: this disturbed
Is not to walk in. [sly]

Casca. Farewell, Cicero.

Enter Cassius.

Cas. Who's there?

Casca. A Roman.

Cas. Casca, by your voice.

Casca. Your ear is good. Cassius, what night
is this?

Cas. A very pleasing night to honest men.

Casca. Who ever knew the heavens menace so?

Cas. Those, that have known the earth so full
of faults,

For my part, I have walk'd about the streets,
Submitting me unto the perilous night;
And thus, unbraced, Casca, as you see,
Have bar'd my bosom to the thunder-stone¹:
And, when the cross blue lightning seem'd to open
The breast of heaven, I did present myself
Even in the aim and very flash of it.

Casca. But wherefore did you so much tempt
the heavens?

It is the part of men to fear and tremble,
When the most mighty gods, by tokens, send
Such dreadful heralds to astonish us.

Cas. You are dull, Casca; and those sparks of
That should be in a Roman, you do want, [life
Or else you use not: You look pale and gaze,
And put on fear, and cast yourself in wonder,
To see the strange impatience of the heavens:
But if you would consider the true cause,
Why all these fires, why all these gliding ghosts,
Why birds and beasts, from quality and kind;
Why old men, fools, and children calculate;
Why all these things change, from their ordi-
Their natures and pre-formed faculties, [nance,
To monstrous quality; why, you shall find,
That heaven hath infus'd them with these spirits,
To make them instruments of fear, and warning,
Unto some monstrous state. Now could I, Casca,
Name to thee a man most like this dreadful night;
That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars
As doth the lion in the Capitol:

A man no mightier than thyself, or me,
In personal action; yet prodigious² grown,
And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.

Casca. 'Tis Cæsar that you mean: Is it not,
Cassius?

Cas. Let it be who it is: for Romans now
Have thewes and limbs like to their ancestors;
But woe the while! our fathers' minds are dead,
And we are govern'd with our mothers' spirits;
Our yoke and sufferings show us womanish.

¹ Formerly supposed to be emitted by thunder.

² Portentous.

Casca. Indeed, they say, the senators to-morrow
Mean to establish Cæsar as a king:

And he shall wear his crown by sea and land,
In every place, save here in Italy.

Cas. I know where I will wear this dagger then:
Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:

Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong;
Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat:

Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass,
Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,
Can be retentive to the strength of spirit;
But life, being weary of these worldly bars,
Never lacks power to dismiss itself.

If I know this, know all the world besides,
That part of tyranny, that I do bear,
I can shake off at pleasure.

Casca. So can I:

So every bondman in his own hand bears
The power to cancel his captivity.

Cas. And why should Cæsar be a tyrant then:
Poor man! I know, he would not be a wolf,

But that he sees the Romans are but sheep:
He were no lion, were not Romans hinds.

Those that with haste will make a mighty fire,
Begin it with weak straws: What trash is Rome,
What rubbish, and what offal, when it serves
For the base matter to illuminate

So vile a thing as Cæsar? But, O grief!
Where hast thou led me? I, perhaps, speak this
Before a willing bondman: then I know
My answer must be made: But I am arm'd,
And dangers are to me indifferent.

Casca. You speak to Casca; and to such a man,
That is no fleeing tell-tale. Hold¹ my hand:
Be factious for redress of all these griefs;
And I will set this foot of mine as far,
As who goes farthest.

Cas. There's a bargain made.
Now know you, Casca, I have mov'd already
Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans,
To undergo, with me, an enterprise
Of honourable-dangerous consequence;
And I do know, by this, they stay for me
In Pompey's porch: for now, this fearful night,
There is no stir, or walking in the streets;
And the complexion of the element
Is favour'd,² like the work we have in hand,
Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.

Enter Cinna.

Casca. Stand close awhile, for here comes one
in haste.

Cas. 'Tis Cinna, I do know him by his gait;
He is a friend.—Cinna, where haste you so?

Cin. To find out you: Who's that? Metellus
Cimber?

Cas. No, it is Casca; one incorporate
To our attempts. Am I not staid for, Cinna?

Cin. I am glad on't. What a fearful night is
this: [sights.

There's two or three of us have seen strange
Cas. Am I not staid for, Cinna? Tell me.

Cin. Yes
You are. O, Cassius, if you could but win
The noble Brutus to our party— [paper,

Cas. Be you content: good Cinna, take this
And look you lay it in the prætor's chair,

¹ Here's.

² Appears.

Where Brutus may but find it; and throw this
In at his window; set this up with wax
Upon old Brutus' statue: all this done,
Repair to Pompey's porch, where you shall find us.
Is Decius Brutus, and Trebonius, there?

Cin. All but Metellus Cimber; and he's gone
To seek you at your house. Well, I will hie,
And so bestow these papers as you bade me.

Cas. That done, repair to Pompey's theatre.

[*Exit Cinna.*]

Come, Casca, you and I will yet, ere day,
See Brutus at his house: three parts of him
Is ours already; and the man entire,
Upon the next encounter, yields him ours.

Casca. O, he sits high, in all the people's hearts:
And that, which would appear offence in us,
His countenance, like richest alchymy,
Will change to virtue, and to worthiness.

Cas. Him, and his worth, and our great need
of him,

You have right well conceited. Let us go,
For it is after midnight; and ere day,
We will awake him, and be sure of him. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.—BRUTUS' ORCHARD.

Enter Brutus.

Bru. What, Lucius! ho!—
I cannot, by the progress of the stars,
Give guess how near to-day.—Lucius, I say!
I would it were my fault to sleep so soundly.
When, Lucius, when! Awake, I say! What, Lucius!

Enter Lucius.

Luc. Call'd you, my lord?

Bru. Get me a taper in my study, Lucius:
When it is lighted, come and call me here.

Luc. I will, my lord. [*Exit.*]

Bru. It must be by his death: and, for my part,
I know no personal cause to spurn at him,
But for the general. He would be crown'd:—
How that might change his nature, there's the
question.

It is the bright day that brings forth the adder;
And that craves wary walking. Crown him?—
That;—

And then, I grant, we put a sting in him,
That at his will he may do danger with.
The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins
Remorse¹ from power: And, to speak truth of
Cæsar,

I have not known when his affections sway'd
More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof²
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,
Whereto the climber upward turns his face;
But when he once attains the upmost round,
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees³
By which he did ascend: So Cæsar may;
Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quar-
rel will bear no colour for the thing he is, [*rel*]
Fashion it thus; that what he is, augmented,
Would run to these, and these extremities:
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg,

1 Pity. 2 Experience. 3 Low steps.

Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mis-
chievous;
And kill him in the shell.

Re-enter Lucius.

Luc. The taper burneth in your closet, sir.
Searching the window for a flint, I found
This paper, thus seal'd up; and, I am sure,
It did not lie there when I went to bed.

Bru. Get you to bed again, it is not day.
Is not to-morrow, boy, the ides of March?

Luc. I know not, sir.

Bru. Look in the calendar, and bring me word.

Luc. I will, sir.

Bru. The exhalations, whizzing in the air,
Give so much light, that I may read by them.

[*Opens the Letter, and reads.*]

Brutus, thou sleep'st; awake, and see thyself.

Shall Rome, &c. Speak, strike, redress!

Brutus, thou sleep'st; awake—

Such instigations have been often dropp'd
Where I have took them up.

Shall Rome, &c. Thus, must I piece it out;
Shall Rome stand under one man's awe? What!
Rome?

My ancestors did from the streets of Rome
The Tarquin drive, when he was call'd a king.
Speak, strike, redress!—Am I entreated then
To speak, and strike? O Rome! I make thee
promise,

If the redress will follow, thou receivest
Thy full petition at the hand of Brutus.

Re-enter Lucius.

Luc. Sir, March has wasted fourteen days.

[*Knock within.*]

Bru. 'Tis good. Go to the gate; somebody
knocks. [*Exit Lucius.*]

Since Cassius first did whet me against Cæsar,
I have not slept.

Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream:
The genius, and the mortal instruments,
Are then in council; and the state of man,
Like to a little kingdom, suffers then
The nature of an insurrection.

Re-enter Lucius.

Luc. Sir, 'tis your brother Cassius at the door,
Who doth desire to see you.

Bru. Is he alone?

Luc. No, sir, there are more with him.

Bru. Do you know them?

Luc. No, sir; their hats are pluck'd about
their ears,

And half their faces buried in their cloaks,
That by no means I may discover them
By any mark of favour.¹

Bru. Let them enter. [*Exit Lucius.*]
They are the faction. O conspiracy!
Sham'st thou to show thy dangerous brow by
night,

When evils are most free? O, then, by day,
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none,
conspiracy;

1 Countenance.

Hide it in smiles, and affability:
For if thou path,¹ thy native semblance on,
Not Erebus itself were dim enough
To hide thee from prevention.

*Enter Cassius, Casca, Decius, Cinna, Metellus
Cimber, and Trebonius.*

Cas. I think we are too bold upon your rest:
Good morrow, Brutus; Do we trouble you?

Bru. I have been up this hour; awake all night.
Know I these men, that come along with you?

Cas. Yes, every man of them; and no man here,
But honours you: and every one doth wish,
You had but that opinion of yourself,
Which every noble Roman bears of you.
This is Trebonius.

Bru. He is welcome hither.

Cas. This, Decius Brutus.

Bru. He is welcome too.

Cas. This, Casca; this, Cinna;

And this Metellus Cimber.

Bru. They are all welcome.
What watchful cares do interpose themselves
Betwixt your eyes and night?

Cas. Shall I entreat a word? [*They whisper.*

Dec. Here lies the east: Doth not the day break
Casca. No. [here?

Cin. O, pardon, sir, it doth; and yon grey lines,
That fret the clouds, are messengers of day.

Casca. You shall confess, that you are both
deceiv'd.

Here, as I point my sword, the sun arises;
Which is a great way growing on the south,
Weighing the youthful season of the year.
Some two months hence, up higher toward the
north

He first presents his fire; and the high east
Stands, as the Capitol, directly here.

Bru. Give me your hands all over, one by one.

Cas. And let us swear our resolution.

Bru. No, not an oath: If not the face of men,
The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse,—
If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And every man hence to his idle bed;
So let high-sighted tyranny range on,
Till each man drop by lottery. But if these,
As I am sure they do, bear fire enough
To kindle cowards; and to steel with valour
The melting spirits of women; then, countrymen,
What need we any spur, but our own cause,
To prick us to redress? what other bond,
Than secret Romans, that have spoke the word,
And will not palter? and what other oath,
Than honesty to honesty engag'd,
That this shall be, or we will fall for it?
Swear priests, and cowards, and men cautious,²
Old feeble carriages, and such suffering souls
That welcome wrongs; unto bad causes swear
Such creatures as men doubt; but do not stain
The even virtue of our enterprise,
Nor the insuppressible mettle of our spirits,
To think, that, or our cause, or our performance,
Did need an oath; when every drop of blood,
That every Roman bears, and nobly bears,
Is guilty of a several bastardy,
If he do break the smallest particle
Of any promise that hath pass'd from him.

¹ Walk.

² Cautious.

Cas. But what of Cicero? Shall we sound him?
I think, he will stand very strong with us.

Casca. Let us not leave him out.

Cin. No, by no means.

Met. O, let us have him; for his silver hairs
Will purchase us a good opinion,
And buy men's voices to commend our deeds;
It shall be said, his judgment rul'd our hands:
Our youths, and wildness, shall no whit appear,
But all be buried in his gravity.

Bru. O, name him not; let us not break¹ with
him;

For he will never follow anything
That other men begin.

Cas. Then leave him out.

Casca. Indeed, he is not fit.

D. Shall no man else be touch'd but only Cæsar?

Cas. Decius, well urg'd;—I think it is not meet,
Mark Antony, so well belov'd of Cæsar,
Should outlive Cæsar. We shall find of him
A shrewd contriver; and, you know, his means,
If he improves them, may well stretch so far,
As to annoy us all: which, to prevent,
Let Antony, and Cæsar, fall together.

Bru. Our course will seem too bloody, Caius
Cassius,

To cut the head off, and then hack the limbs;
Like wrath in death, and envy² afterwards:
For Antony is but a limb of Cæsar.
Let us be sacrificers, but no butchers, Caius.
We all stand up against the spirit of Cæsar;
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:
O, that we then could come by Cæsar's spirit,
And not dismember Cæsar! But, alas,
Cæsar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not wrathfully;
Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds:
And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
Stir up their servants to an act of rage,
And after seem to chide them. This shall make
Our purpose necessary, and not envious:
Which so appearing to the common eyes,
We shall be call'd purgers, not murderers.
And for Mark Antony, think not of him;
For he can do no more than Cæsar's arm,
When Cæsar's head is off.

Cas. Yet I do fear him:
For in the ingrafted love he bears to Cæsar:—

Bru. Alas, good Cassius, do not think of him:
If he love Cæsar, all that he can do
Is to himself; take thought, and die for Cæsar;
And that were much he should; for he is given
To sports, to wildness, and much company.

Treb. There is no fear in him, let him not die;
For he will live, and laugh at this hereafter.

[*Clock strikes.*

Bru. Peace, count the clock.

Cas. The clock hath stricken three.

Treb. 'Tis time to part.

Cas. But it is doubtful yet,
Wher Cæsar will come forth to-day, or no;
For he is superstitious grown of late;
Quite from the main opinion he held once
Of fantasy, of dreams, and ceremonies;
It may be, these apparent prodigies,
The unaccustom'd terror of this night,

¹ (The matter to him.)

² Malice.

And the persuasion of his augurers,
May hold him from the Capitol to-day.

Dec. Never fear that: If he be so resolv'd,
I can o'ersway him; for he loves to hear,
That unicorns may be betray'd with trees,
And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,
Lions with toils, and men with flatterers.
But, when I tell him, he hates flatterers,
He says, he does; being then most flattered.
Let me work:

For I can give his humour the true bent;
And I will bring him to the Capitol.

Cas. Nay, we will all of us be there to fetch him.

B. By the eighth hour: Is that the uttermost?

Cin. Be that the uttermost, and fail not then.

Met. Caius Ligarius doth bear Cæsar hard,
Who rated him for speaking well of Pompey;
I wonder, none of you have thought of him.

Brut. Now, good Metellus, go along by him!
He loves me well, and I have given him reasons;
Send him but hither, and I'll fashion him.

Cas. The morning comes upon us: We'll leave
you, Brutus:—

And, friends, disperse yourselves: but all re-
member

What you have said, and show yourselves true
Romans.

Brut. Good gentlemen, look fresh and merrily;
Let not our looks put on our purposes;
But bear it as our Roman actors do,
With untir'd spirits, and formal constancy:
And so, good morrow to you every one.

[*Exeunt all but Brutus.*]

Boy! Lucius!—Fast asleep? It is no matter;
Enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber:
Thou hast no figures,² nor no fantasies,
Which busy care draws in the brains of men;
Therefore thou sleep'st so sound.

Enter Portia.

Por. Brutus, my lord?

Brut. Portia, what mean you? Wherefore
rise you now?

It is not for your health thus to commit
Your weak condition to the raw-cold morning.

Por. Nor for yours neither. You have ur-
gently, Brutus,

Stole from my bed: And yesternight, at supper,
You suddenly arose, and walk'd about,

Musing, and sighing, with your arms across:

And when I ask'd you what the matter was,

You star'd upon me with ungentle looks:

I urg'd you further; then you scratch'd your head,

And too impatiently stamp'd with your foot:

Yet I insist'd, yet you answer'd not;

But with an angry wafture of your hand,

Gave sign for me to leave you: So I did;

Fearing to strengthen that impatience,

Which seem'd too much enkindled; and, withal,

Hoping it was but an effect of humour,

Which sometime hath his hour with every man.

It will not let you eat, nor talk, nor sleep;

And, could it work so much upon your shape

As it hath much prevail'd on your condition,³

I should not know you, Brutus. Dear my lord,

Make me acquainted with your cause of grief.

Brut. I am not well in health, and that is all.

1 By his house. 2 Imaginations. 3 Temper.

Por. Brutus is wise, and were he not in health,
He would embrace the means to come by it.

Brut. Why, so I do:—good Portia, go to bed.

Por. Is Brutus sick? and is it physical
To walk unbraced, and suck up the humours
Of the dank morning? What, is Brutus sick;
And will he steal out of his wholesome bed,
To dare the vile contagion of the night?
And tempt the rheumy² and unpurged air
To add unto his sickness? No, my Brutus;
You have some sick offence within your mind,
Which, by the right and virtue of my place,
I ought to know of: And, upon my knees,
I charm you, by my once commended beauty,
By all your vows of love, and that great vow
Which did incorporate and make us one,
That you unfold to me, yourself, your half,
Why you are heavy; and what men to-night
Have had resort to you: for here have been
Some six or seven, who did hide their faces
Even from darkness.

Brut. Kneel not, gentle Portia.

Por. I should not need, if you were gentle
Brutus.

Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,
Is it excepted, I should know no secrets
That appertain to you? Am I yourself,
But, as it were, in sort, or limitation;
To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,
And talk to you sometimes? Dwell I but in
the suburbs

Of your good pleasure? If it be no more,
Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.

Brut. You are my true and honourable wife;
As dear to me, as are the ruddy drops
That visit my sad heart.

Por. If this were true, then should I know
this secret.

I grant, I am a woman, but, withal,
A woman that lord Brutus took to wife:

I grant, I am a woman; but, withal,

A woman well reputed; Cato's daughter.

Think you, I am no stronger than my sex,

Being so father'd, and so husbanded?

Tell me your counsels, I will not disclose them:

I have made strong proof of my constancy,

Giving myself a voluntary wound

Here, in the thigh: Can I bear that with patience,

And not my husband's secrets?

Brut. O ye gods,

Render me worthy of this noble wife!

[*Knocking within.*]

Hark, hark! one knocks: Portia, go in a while;

And by and by thy bosom shall partake

The secrets of my heart.

All my engagements I will construe to thee,

All the character of my sad brows:—

Leave me with haste.

[*Exit Portia.*]

Enter Lucius and Ligarius.

Lucius, who is that, knocks?

Luc. Here is a sick man, that would speak
with you.

Brut. Caius Ligarius, that Metellus spake of.—

Boy, stand aside.—Caius Ligarius! how?

Lig. Vouchsafe good morrow from a feeble
tongue.

1 Damp.

2 Moist.

Bru. O, what a time have you chose out, brave Caius,

To wear a kerchief? 'Would you were not sick!

Lig. I am not sick, if Brutus have in hand Any exploit worthy the name of honour.

Bru. Such an exploit have I in hand, *Liga-*
Hath you a healthful ear to hear of it. [*rius,*

Lig. By all the gods that Romans bow before,

I here discard my sickness. Soul of Rome!

Brave son, deriv'd from honourable loins!

Thou, like an exorcist, hast conjur'd up

My mortified spirit. Now bid me run,

And I will strive with things impossible;

Yea, get the better of them. What's to do?

Bru. A piece of work, that will make sick men whole. [*make sick?*

Lig. But are not some whole, that we must

Bru. That must we also. What it is, my I shall unfold to thee, as we are going; [*Caius,*
To whom it must be done.

Lig. Set on your foot;

And, with a heart new fir'd, I follow you,

To do I know not what: but it sufficeth,

That Brutus leads me on.

Bru. Follow me then. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN CÆSAR'S PALACE.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter *Cæsar*, in his Night-gown.

Cæs. Nor heaven, nor earth, have been at peace to-night;

Thrice hath Calphurnia in her sleep cried out,
Help, ho! they murder Cæsar! Who's within?

Enter a *Servant*.

Serv. My lord?

Cæs. Go bid the priests do present sacrifice,
And bring me their opinions of success.

Serv. I will, my lord. [*Exit.*

Enter *Calphurnia*.

Cal. What mean you, Cæsar? Think you to walk forth?

You shall not stir out of your house to-day.

Cæs. Cæsar shall forth: The things that threaten'd me,

Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall
The face of Cæsar, they are vanished. [*see*

Cal. Cæsar, I never stood on ceremonies,¹

Yet now they fright me. There is one within,

Besides the things that we have heard and seen,

Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.

A lioness hath whelped in the streets;

And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead:

Fierce fiery warriors fight upon the clouds,

In ranks, and squadrons, and right form of war,

Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol:

The noise of battle hurl'd² in the air,

Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan;

And ghosts did shriek, and squeal about the streets.

O Cæsar! these things are beyond all use,
And I do fear them.

Cæs. What can be avoided,

1 Prodigies or omens.

2 Clashing.

Whose end is purpos'd by the mighty gods?

Yet Cæsar shall go forth: for these predictions
Are to the world in general, as to Cæsar.

Cal. When beggars die, there are no comets
seen:

The heavens themselves blaze forth the death
of princes.

Cæs. Cowards die many times before their
deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once,

Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,

It seems to me most strange that men should
fear:

Seeing that death, a necessary end,

Will come, when it will come.

Re-enter a *Servant*.

What say the augurers?

Serv. They would not have you to stir forth
to-day.

Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,

They could not find a heart within the beast.

Cæs. The gods do this in shame of cowardice:

Cæsar should be a beast without a heart,

If he should stay at home to-day for fear.

No, Cæsar shall not: Danger knows full well,

That Cæsar is more dangerous than he.

We were two lions litter'd in one day,

And I the elder and more terrible;

And Cæsar shall go forth.

Cal. Alas, my lord,

Your wisdom is consum'd in confidence.

Do not go forth to-day: Call it my fear,

That keeps you in the house, and not your
own.

We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house;

And he shall say, you are not well to-day:

Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

Cæs. Mark Antony shall say, I am not well;

And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

Enter *Decius*.

Here's Decius Brutus, he shall tell them so.

Dec. Cæsar, all hail! Good morrow, worthy
Cæsar:

I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

Cæs. And you are come in very happy time,

To bear my greeting to the senators,

And tell them, that I will not come to-day:

Cannot, is false; and that I dare not, falser;

I will not come to-day: Tell them so, Decius.

Cal. Say, he is sick.

Cæs. Shall Cæsar send a lie?

Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,

To be afraid to tell grey-beards the truth?

Decius, go tell them, Cæsar will not come.

D. Most mighty Cæsar, let me know some
cause,

Lest I be laugh'd at, when I tell them so.

Cæs. The cause is in my will, I will not come;

That is enough to satisfy the senate.

But, for your private satisfaction,

Because I love you, I will let you know.

Calphurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:

She dreamt to-night she saw my statua,

Which like a fountain with a hundred spouts,

Did run pure blood; and many lusty Romans

Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it.

And these does she apply for warnings, por-
And evils imminent; and on her knee [tents,
Hath begg'd, that I will stay at home to-day.

Dec. This dream is all amiss interpreted;
It was a vision, fair and fortunate:
Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
In which so many smiling Romans bath'd,
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
Reviving blood; and that great men shall press
For tinctures, stains, relics, and cognizance.
This by Calphurnia's dream is signified. [it.

Cæs. And this way have you well expounded
Dec. I have, when you have heard what I can
say:

And know it now; The senate have concluded
To give, this day, a crown to mighty Cæsar.
If you shall send them word, you will not come,
Their minds may change. Besides, it were a
mock

Apt to be rendered, for some one to say,
Break up the senate till another time,
When Cæsar's wife shall meet with better dreams.
If Cæsar hide himself, shall they not whisper,
Lo, Cæsar is afraid?

Pardon me Cæsar; for my dear, dear love,
To your proceeding bids me tell you this;
And reason to my love is liable.¹

Cæs. How foolish do your fears seem now,
Calphurnia?

I am ashamed I did yield to them.—
Give me my robe, for I will go:—

Enter Publius, Brutus, Ligarius, Metellus,
Casca, Trebonius, and Cinna.

And look where Publius is come to fetch me.
Pub. Good morrow, Cæsar.

Cæs. Welcome, Publius.—
What, Brutus, are you stirr'd so early too?—
Good morrow, Casca.—Caius Ligarius,
Cæsar was ne'er so much your enemy,
As that same ague which hath made you lean.—
What is't o'clock?

Bru. Cæsar, 'tis stricken eight.

Cæs. I thank you for your pains and courtesies.

Enter Antony.

See! Antony, that revels long o' nights,
Is notwithstanding up:—
Good morrow, Antony.

Ant. So to most noble Cæsar.

Cæs. Bid them prepare within:—
I am to blame to be thus waited for.—
Now, Cinna:—Now Metellus:—What, Trebo-
I have an hour's talk in store for you: [nius?
Remember that you call on me to-day:
Be near me, that I may remember you.

Treb. [Aside.] Cæsar, I will:—and so near will
I be,
That your best friends shall wish I had been
further.

Cæs. Good friends, go in, and taste some wine
with me;
And we, like friends, will straightway go to-
gether.

Bru. That every like is not the same, O Cæsar,
The heart of Brutus yearns² to think upon!

[*Exeunt.*

¹ Subordinate.

² Grieves.

SCENE III.—A STREET NEAR THE CAPITOL.

Enter Artemidorus, reading a Paper.

Art. Cæsar, beware of Brutus; take heed of
Cassius; come not near Casca; have an eye to
Cinna; trust not Trebonius; mark well Metellus
Cimber; Decius Brutus loves thee not; thou hast
wronged Caius Ligarius. There is but one mind
in all these men, and it is bent against Cæsar.
If thou be'st not immortal, look about you: Se-
curity gives way to conspiracy. The mighty gods
defend thee! Thy lover, ARTEMIDORUS.

Here will I stand, till Cæsar pass along
And as a suitor will I give him this.
My heart laments, that virtue cannot live
Out of the teeth of emulation.¹
If thou read this, O Cæsar, thou mayst live;
If not, the fates with traitors do contrive. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE SAME STREET, BEFORE THE HOUSE OF BRUTUS.

Enter Portia and Lucius.

Por. I prythee, boy, run to the senate-house;
Stay not to answer me, but get thee gone:
Why dost thou stay?

Luc. To know my errand, madam.

Por. I would have had thee there, and here
again,
Ere I can tell thee what thou shouldst do there.—
O constancy, be strong upon my side!
Set a huge mountain 'tween my heart and
tongue!

I have a man's mind, but a woman's might.
How hard it is for women to keep counsel?
Art thou here yet?

Luc. Madam, what should I do?
Run to the Capitol, and nothing else?
And so return to you, and nothing else?

Por. Yes, bring me word, boy, if thy lord
look well?

For he went sickly forth: And take good note,
What Cæsar doth, what suitors press to him.
Hark, boy! what noise is that?

Luc. I hear none, madam.

Por. Prythee, listen well;
I heard a bustling rumour, like a fray,
And the wind brings it from the Capitol.

Luc. Sooth,² madam, I hear nothing.

Enter Soothsayer.

Por. Come hither, fellow:
Which way hast thou been?

Sooth. At mine own house, good lady.

Por. What is't o'clock?

Sooth. About the ninth hour, lady.

Por. Is Cæsar yet gone to the Capitol?

Sooth. Madam, not yet; I go to take my stand,
To see him pass on to the Capitol?

P. Thou hast some suit to Cæsar, hast thou not?

Sooth. That I have, lady: If it will please Cæsar
To be so good to Cæsar as to hear me,
I shall beseech him to befriend himself.

Por. Why, know'st thou any harm's intended
towards him?

Sooth. None that I know will be, much that
I fear may chance.

¹ Envy.

² In truth.

Good-morrow to you. Here the street is narrow:
The throng that follows Cæsar at the heels,
Of senators, of prætors, common suitors,
Will crowd a feeble man almost to death:
I'll get me to a place more void, and there
Speak to great Cæsar as he comes along. *[Exit.]*

Por. I must go in.—Ah me! how weak a thing
The heart of woman is! O Brutus!
The heaven speed thee in thy enterprise!
Sure, the boy heard me:—Brutus hath a suit,
That Cæsar will not grant.—O, I grow faint:—
Run, Lucius, and commend me to my lord;
Say, I am merry: come to me again,
And bring me word what he doth say to thee. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Third.

SCENE I. -THE CAPITOL; THE SENATESITTING.

A Crowd of People in the Street leading to the Capitol: among them Artemidorus and the Soothsayer. Flourish. Enter Cæsar, Brutus, Cassius, Casca, Decius, Metellus, Trebonius, Cinna, Antony, Lepidus, Popilius, Publius, and others.

Cæs. The ides of March are come.

Sooth. Ay, Cæsar; but not gone.

Art. Hail, Cæsar! Read this schedule.

Dec. Trebonius doth desire you to o'er-read,
At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

Art. O Cæsar, read mine first; for mine's a suit
That touches Cæsar nearer: Read it, great Cæsar.

Cæs. What touches us ourself, shall be last
serv'd.

Art. Delay not, Cæsar; read it instantly.

Cæs. What, is the fellow mad?

Pub. Sirrah, give place.

Cæs. What, urge you your petitions in the
Come to the Capitol. *[street?]*

Cæsar enters the Capitol, the rest following.

All the Senators rise.

Pop. I wish your enterprise to-day may thrive.

Cæs. What enterprise, Popilius?

Pop. Fare you well.

[Advances to Cæsar.]

Bru. What said Popilius Lena?

Cæs. He wish'd to-day our enterprise might
I fear, our purpose is discover'd. *[thrive.]*

Bru. Look, how he makes to Cæsar: Mark him.

Cæs. Casca, be sudden, for we fear prevention.—
Brutus, what shall be done? If this be known,
Cassius or Cæsar never shall turn back,
For I will slay myself.

Bru. Cassius, be constant:

Popilius Lena speaks not of our purposes;
For, look, he smiles, and Cæsar doth not change.

Cæs. Trebonius knows his time; for look
you, Brutus,

He draws Mark Antony out of the way.

*Exeunt Antony and Trebonius. Cæsar and
the Senators take their Seats.*

Dec. Where is Metellus Cimber? Let him go,
And presently prefer his suit to Cæsar.

B. He is address'd¹; press near, and second
him.

1 Ready.

Cin. Casca, you are the first that rears your
hand.

Cæs. Are we all ready? what is now amiss,
That Cæsar, and his senate must redress?

Met. Most high, most mighty, and most
puissant Cæsar,

Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat
An humble heart:— *[Kneeling.]*

Cæs. I must prevent thee, Cimber.
These couchings, and these lowly courtesies,
Might fire the blood of ordinary men,
And turn pre-ordinance, and first decree,
Into the law of children. Be not fond,
To think that Cæsar bears such rebel blood,
That will be thaw'd from the true quality
With that which melteth fools; I mean, sweet
words,

Low-crook'd court'sies, and base spaniel fawn-
ing.

Thy brother by decree is banished;

If thou dost bend, and pray, and fawn for him,
I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.

Know, Cæsar doth not wrong; nor without cause
Will he be satisfied.

M. Is there no voice more worthy than my own,
To sound more sweetly in great Cæsar's ear,
For the repealing of my banish'd brother?

Bru. I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Cæsar;
Desiring thee, that Publius Cimber may
Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

Cæs. What, Brutus?

Cæs. Pardon, Cæsar; Cæsar, pardon:
As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall,
To beg enfranchisement for Publius Cimber.

Cæs. I could be well mov'd, if I were as you;
If I could pray to move, prayers would move me:
But I am constant as the northern star,
Of whose true fix'd and resting quality,
There is no fellow in the firmament.

The skies are painted with unnumber'd sparks,
They are all fire, and every one doth shine;

But there's but one in all doth hold his place:
So, in the world; 'tis furnish'd well with men,
And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive¹;

Yet, in the number, I do know but one
That unassailable holds on his rank,

Unshak'd of motion²; and, that I am he:
Let me a little show it, even in this;

That I was constant, Cimber should be banish'd,
And constant do remain to keep him so.

Cin. O Cæsar, —

Cæs. Hence! Wilt thou lift up Olympus?
Dec. Great Cæsar, —

Cæs. Doth not Brutus bootless³ kneel?
Casca. Speak, hands, for me.

*[Casca stabs Cæsar in the neck. Cæsar
catches hold of his arm. He is then
stabbed by several other conspirators,
and at last by Marcus Brutus.]*

Cæs. Et tu, Brute⁴?—Then, fall, Cæsar.

*[Dies. The Senators and People retire in
confusion.]*

Cin. Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!
Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

Cæs. Some to the common pulpits, and cry out,
Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!

1 Intelligent.

2 Solicitation.

3 In vain.

4 And thou, Brutus.

Bru. People, and senators! be not affrighted; Fly not; stand still:—ambition's debt is paid.
Casca. Go to the pulpit, Brutus.

Dec. And Cassius too.

Bru. Where's Publius?

Cin. Here, quite confounded with this mutiny.

Met. Stand fast together, lest some friend of Cæsar's

Should chance——

B. Talk not of standing;—Publius, good cheer; There is no harm intended to your person, Nor to no Roman else; so tell them, Publius.

Cas. And leave us, Publius, lest that the people, Rushing on us, should do your age some mischief.

Bru. Do so;—and let no man abide this deed, But we the doers.

Re-enter Trebonius.

Cas. Where's Antony?

Tre. Fled to his house amazed: Men, wives, and children, stare, cry out, and run, As it were doomsday.

Bru. Fates! we will know your pleasures:— That we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time, And drawing days out, that men stand upon.

Cas. Why, he that cuts off twenty years of life, Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

Bru. Grant that, and then is death a benefit: So are we Cæsar's friends, that have abridg'd His time of fearing death.—Stoop, Romans, stoop, And let us bathe our hands in Cæsar's blood. Up to the elbows, and besmear our swords: Then walk we forth, even to the market-place: And, waving our red weapons o'er our heads, Let's all cry, Peace! Freedom! and Liberty!

Cas. Stoop, then, and wash. How many ages hence,

Shall this our lofty scene be acted over, In states unborn, and accents yet unknown!

B. How many times shall Cæsar bleed in sport, That now on Pompey's basis¹ lies along, No worthier than the dust!

Cas. So oft as that shall be, So often shall the knot of us be call'd The men that gave our country liberty.

Dec. What, shall we forth?

Cas. Ay, every man away: Brutus shall lead; and we will grace his heels With the most boldest and best hearts of Rome.

Enter a Servant.

B. Soft, who comes here? A friend of Antony's.

Serv. Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel; Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down:

And, being prostrate, thus he bade me say, Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest; Cæsar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving: Say, I love Brutus, and I honour him; Say, I fear'd Cæsar, honour'd him, and lov'd him; If Brutus will vouchsafe, that Antony May safely come to him, and be resolv'd How Cæsar hath deserv'd to lie in death, Mark Antony shall not love Cæsar dead So well as Brutus living; but will follow The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus

¹ (Base of his statue.)

Through the hazards of this untrod state, With all true faith. So says my master Antony.

Bru. Thy master is a wise and valiant Roman; I never thought him worse.

Tell him, so please him come unto this place, He shall be satisfied; and, by my honour, Depart untouch'd.

Serv. I'll fetch him presently. [*Exit.*]

B. I know that we shall have him well to friend. *Cas.* I wish we may; but yet have I a mind, That fears him much; and my misgiving still Falls shrewdly to the purpose.

Re-enter Antony.

Bru. But here comes Antony.—Welcome, Mark Antony.

Ant. O mighty Cæsar! Dost thou lie so low? Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils, Shrunk to this little measure?—Fare thee well.— I know not, gentlemen, what you intend, Who else must be let blood, who else is rank¹: If I myself, there is no hour so fit As Cæsar's death's hour; nor no instrument Of half that worth, as those your swords, made rich

With the most noble blood of all this world. I do beseech ye, if you bear me hard, [smoke, Now, whilst your purpled hands do reek and Fulfil your pleasure. Live a thousand years, I shall not find myself so apt to die: No place will please me so, no mean of death, As here by Cæsar, and by you cut off, The choice and master spirits of this age.

Bru. O Antony! beg not your death of us. Though now we must appear bloody and cruel, As, by our hands, and this our present act, You see we do; yet see you but our hands, And this the bleeding business they have done: Our hearts you see not, they are pitiful; And pity to the general wrong of Rome (As fire drives out fire, so pity, pity,) Hath done this deed on Cæsar. For your part, To you our swords have leaden points, Mark

Antony:

Our arms, in strength of malice, and our hearts, Of brother's temper, do receive you in With all kind love, good thoughts, and reverence.

Cas. Your voice shall be as strong as any man's, In the disposing of new dignities.

Bru. Only be patient, till we have appeas'd The multitude, beside themselves with fear, And then we will deliver you the cause, Why I, that did love Cæsar when I struck him, Have thus proceeded.

Ant. I doubt not of your wisdom. Let each man render me his bloody hand: First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you;— Next, Caius Cassius, do I take your hand; Now, Decius Brutus, yours;—now yours, Metellus; Yours, Cinna;—and, my valiant Casca, yours;— Though last, not least in love, yours, good Trebonius.

Gentlemen all,—alas! what shall I say? My credit now stands on such slippery ground, That one of two bad ways you must conceit me, Either a coward, or a flatterer.—

¹ Too great.

That I did love thee, Cæsar, O, 'tis true:
 If then thy spirit look upon us now,
 Shall it not grieve thee, dearer than thy death,
 To see thy Antony making his peace,
 Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,
 Most noble! in the presence of thy corse?
 Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,
 Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood,
 It would become me better, than to close
 In terms of friendship with thine enemies.
 Pardon me, Julius!—Here wast thou bay'd,
 brave hart;
 Here didst thou fall; and here thy hunters stand,
 Sign'd in thy spoil, and crimson'd in thy lethe.¹
 O world! thou wast the forest to this hart;
 And this, indeed, O world, the heart of thee,—
 How like a deer, stricken by many princes,
 Dost thou here lie!

Cas. Mark Antony,——

Ant. Pardon me, Caius Cassius:
 The enemies of Cæsar shall say this;
 Then, in a friend, it is cold modesty.

Cas. I blame you not for praising Cæsar so;
 But what compact mean you to have with us?
 Will you be pricked in number of our friends:
 Or shall we on, and not depend on you?

Ant. Therefore I took your hands; but was,
 indeed,

Sway'd from the point, by looking down on Cæsar.
 Friends am I with you all, and love you all;
 Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons,
 Why, and wherein, Cæsar was dangerous.

Bru. Or else were this a savage spectacle:
 Our reasons are so full of good regard,
 That were you, Antony, the son of Cæsar,
 You should be satisfied.

Ant. That's all I seek:
 And am moreover suitor, that I may
 Produce his body to the market-place;
 And in the pulpit as becomes a friend,
 Speak in the order of his funeral.

Bru. You shall, Mark Antony.

Cas. Brutus, a word with you.—
 [*Aside.*] You know not what you do; Do not
 consent,

That Antony speak in his funeral:
 Know you how much the people may be mov'd—
 By that which he will utter?

Bru. By your pardon;
 I will myself into the pulpit first,
 And show the reason of our Cæsar's death:
 What Antony shall speak, I will protest
 He speaks by leave and by permission;
 And that we are contented, Cæsar shall
 Have all true rites, and lawful ceremonies.
 It shall advantage more, than do us wrong.

Cas. I know not what may fall; I like it not.

Bru. Mark Antony, here, take you Cæsar's body.
 You shall not in your funeral speech blame us,
 But speak all good you can devise of Cæsar;
 And say, you do't by our permission;
 Else shall you not have any hand at all
 About his funeral: And you shall speak
 In the same pulpit whereto I am going,
 After my speech is ended.

Ant. Be it so;
 I do desire no more.

¹ Death.

Bru. Prepare the body then, and follow us.

[*Exeunt all but Antony.*]

Ant. O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of
 earth,

That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
 Thou art the ruins of the noblest man,
 That ever lived in the tide of times.

Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
 Over thy wounds now do I prophesy—
 Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby
 lips,

To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue;—
 A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
 Domestic fury, and fierce civil strife,
 Shall cumber all the parts of Italy:
 Blood and destruction shall be so in use,
 And dreadful objects so familiar,
 That mothers shall but smile, when they behold
 Their infants quarter'd with the hands of war;
 All pity chok'd with custom of fell deeds:
 And Cæsar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
 With Atë by his side, come hot from hell,
 Shall in these confines, with a monarch's voice,
 Cry, *Havock!* and let slip the dogs of war;
 That this foul deed shall smell above the earth,
 With carrion men groaning for burial.

Enter a Servant.

You serve Octavius Cæsar, do you not?

Serv. I do, Mark Antony.

Ant. Cæsar did write for him to come to Rome.

Serv. He did receive his letters, and is coming:
 And bid me say to you by word of mouth,
 O Cæsar!—— [*Seeing the Body.*]

Ant. Thy heart is big, get thee apart and weep.
 Passion, I see, is catching; for mine eyes
 Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,
 Began to water. Is thy master coming?

Serv. He lies to-night within seven leagues
 of Rome.

Ant. Post back with speed, and tell him
 what hath chanc'd:

Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome,
 No Rome of safety for Octavius yet;
 Hie hence, and tell him so. Yet, stay a while;
 Thou shalt not back, till I have borne this corse
 Into the market-place: there shall I try,
 In my oration, how the people take
 The cruel issue of these bloody men;
 According to the which, thou shalt discourse
 To young Octavius of the state of things.
 Lend me your hand.

[*Exeunt, with Cæsar's Body.*]

SCENE II.—THE FORUM.

*Enter Brutus and Cassius, and a Throng of
 Citizens.*

Cit. We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

Bru. Then follow me, and give me audience,
 Cassius, go you into the other street, [*friends.*—
 And part the numbers.—
 Those that will hear me speak, let them stay here;
 Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;
 And publick reasons shall be rendered
 Of Cæsar's death.

¹ *Cit.* I will hear Brutus speak.

¹ The signal for giving no quarter.

2 *Cit.* I will hear Cassius, and compare their
When severally we hear them rendered. [reasons,
[*Exit Cassius, with some of the Citizens.*

Brutus goes into the Rostrum.

3 *Cit.* The noble Brutus is ascended: Silence!

Bru. Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers¹! hear me for my cause; and be silent that ye may hear; believe me for mine honour; and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: censure me in your wisdom; and awake your senses that you may the better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Cæsar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Cæsar was no less than his. If then that friend demand, why Brutus rose against Cæsar, this is my answer,—Not that I loved Cæsar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Cæsar were living, and die all slaves; than that Cæsar were dead, to live all free men? As Cæsar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him: but, as he was ambitious, I slew him: There is tears, for his love; joy, for his fortune; honour, for his valour; and death, for his ambition. Who is here so base, that would be a bondman: If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude, that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile, that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

Cit. None, Brutus, none.

[*Several speaking at once.*

Bru. Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Cæsar, than you should do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol: his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy; nor his offences enforced,² for which he suffered death.

Enter Antony and others, with Cæsar's body.

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony: Who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the benefit of his dying, a place in the commonwealth; As which of you shall not? With this I depart; That as I slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death.

Cit. Live, Brutus, live! live!

1 *Cit.* Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

2 *Cit.* Give him a statue with his ancestors.

3 *Cit.* Let him be Cæsar.

4 *Cit.* Cæsar's better parts
Shall now be crown'd in Brutus.

1 *Cit.* We'll bring him to his house with shouts and clamours.

Bru. My countrymen,—

2 *Cit.* Peace; silence! Brutus speaks.

1 *Cit.* Peace, ho!

Bru. Good countrymen, let me depart alone, And, for my sake, stay here with Antony: Do grace to Cæsar's corpse, and grace his speech

Tending to Cæsar's glories; which Mark Antony, By our permission, is allow'd to make.

1 Friends.

2 Exaggerated.

I do entreat you not a man depart.

Save I alone, till Antony have spoke. [*Exit.*

1 *Cit.* Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

3 *Cit.* Let him go up into the publick chair;

We'll hear him:—Noble Antony, go up.

Ant. For Brutus' sake, I am beholden to you.

4 *Cit.* What does he say of Brutus?

3 *Cit.* He says for Brutus' sake,

He finds himself beholden to us all.

4 *Cit.* 'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here.

1 *Cit.* This Cæsar was a tyrant.

3 *Cit.* Nay, that's certain:

We are bless'd that Rome is rid of him.

2 *Cit.* Peace; let us hear what Antony can say.

Ant. You gentle Romans,—

Cit. Peace, ho! let us hear him.

Ant. Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him.

The evil, that men do, lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Cæsar. The noble Brutus

Hath told you, Cæsar was ambitious;

If it were so, it was a grievous fault;

And grievously hath Cæsar answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Brutus, and the rest,

(For Brutus is an honourable man;

So are they all, all honourable men;)

Come I to speak in Cæsar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

But Brutus says, he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome,

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Cæsar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Cæsar hath wept;

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says, he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see, that on the Lupercal,

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?

Yet Brutus says, he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,

But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause:

What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?

O judgment, thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason!—Bear with me;

My heart is in the coffin there with Cæsar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

1 *Cit.* Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

2 *Cit.* If thou consider rightly of the matter, Cæsar has had great wrongs.

3 *Cit.* Has he, masters?

I fear, there will a worse come in his place.

4 *Cit.* Mark'd ye his words? He would not take the crown;

Therefore, 'tis certain, he was not ambitious.

1 *Cit.* If it be found so, some will dear abide it.

2 *Cit.* Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

3 *Cit.* There's not a nobler man in Rome, than Antony.

4 *Cit.* Now mark him, he begins again to speak.

Ant. But yesterday, the word of Cæsar might
Have stood against the world: now lies he there,
And none so poor to do him reverence.

O masters! if I were dispos'd to stir
Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,
I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,
Who, you all know, are honourable men:
I will not do them wrong; I rather choose
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself, and you,
Than I will wrong such honourable men.
But here's a parchment, with the seal of Cæsar,
I found it in his closet, 'tis his will:
Let but the commons hear this testament,
(Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read,)
And they would go and kiss dead Cæsar's wounds,
And dip their napkins in his sacred blood;
Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
And, dying, mention it within their wills,
Bequeathing it, as a rich legacy,
Unto their issue.

4 *Cit.* We'll hear the will: Read it, Mark Antony.

Cit. The will, the will; we will hear Cæsar's will.

Ant. Have patience, gentle friends, I must not
read it;

It is not meet you know how Cæsar lov'd you.
You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;
And being men, hearing the will of Cæsar,
It will inflame you, it will make you mad:

'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs;
For if you should, O, what would come of it!

4 *Cit.* Read the will; we will hear it, Antony;
You shall read us the will; Cæsar's will.

Ant. Will you be patient? Will you stay awhile?
I have o'ershot myself, to tell you of it.

I fear, I wrong the honourable men,
Whose daggers have stabb'd Cæsar: I do fear it.

4 *Cit.* They were traitors: Honourable men!
Cit. The will! the testament!

2 *Cit.* They were villains, murderers: The
will! read the will!

Ant. You will compel me then to read the will.
Then make a ring about the corpse of Cæsar,
And let me show you him that made the will.
Shall I descend? And will you give me leave?

Cit. Come down.

2 *Cit.* Descend. [*He comes down from the*

3 *Cit.* You shall have leave. [*pulpit.*

4 *Cit.* A ring; stand round.

1 *Cit.* Stand from the hearse, stand from the
body.

2 *Cit.* Room for Antony:—Most noble Antony.

Ant. Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

Cit. Stand back! room! bear back!

A. If you have tears, prepare to shed them
now.

You all do know this mantle: I remember
The first time ever Cæsar put it on;
'Twas on a summer's evening in his tent;
That day he overcame the Nervii:—
Look! in this place, ran Cassius' dagger through:
See, what a rent the envious Casca made:
Through this, the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;
And, as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,
Mark how the blood of Cæsar follow'd it;
As rushing out of doors, to be resolv'd
If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;
For Brutus, as you know, was Cæsar's angel:
Judge, O you gods, how dearly Cæsar lov'd him!

This was the most unkindest cut of all:
For when the noble Cæsar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitor's arms,
Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty
heart:

And, in his mantle muffling up his face,
Even at the base of Pompey's statue,¹
Which all the while ran blood, great Cæsar fell.
O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!
Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us.
O, now you weep: and, I perceive, you feel
The dint² of pity: these are gracious drops.
Kind souls, what, weep you, when you but behold
Our Cæsar's vesture wounded? Look you here,
Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.

1 *Cit.* O piteous spectacle!

2 *Cit.* O noble Cæsar!

3 *Cit.* O woful day!

4 *Cit.* O traitors, villains!

1 *Cit.* O most bloody sight!

2 *Cit.* We will be revenged: revenge; about,
seek,—burn,—fire,—kill,—slay!—let not a
traitor live.

Ant. Stay, countrymen.

1 *Cit.* Peace there:—Hear the noble Antony.

2 *Cit.* We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll
die with him.

Ant. Good friends, sweet friends, let me not
stir you up

To such a sudden flood of mutiny.
They, that have done this deed, are honourable;
What private griefs³ they have, alas, I know not,
That made them do it; they are wise and hon-
ourable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.
I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts;
I am no orator, as Brutus is:

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,
That love my friend; and that they know full well
That gave me public leave to speak of him.
For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;
I tell you that, which you yourselves do know:
Show you sweet Cæsar's wounds, poor, poor
dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me: But were I Brutus,
And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue
In every wound of Cæsar, that should move
The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

Cit. We'll mutiny.

1 *Cit.* We'll burn the house of Brutus.

3 *Cit.* Away then, come, seek the conspirators.

Ant. Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear
me speak.

Cit. Peace, ho! Hear Antony, most noble
Antony.

Ant. Why, friends, you go to do you know
not what:

Wherein hath Cæsar thus deserv'd your loves?
Alas, you know not:—I must tell you then:—
You have forgot the will I told you of.

Cit. Most true:—the will;—let's stay, and
hear the will.

Ant. Here is the will, and under Cæsar's seal.

1 Statue. 2 Impression. 3 Grievances.

To every Roman citizen he gives,
 To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.¹
 2 *Cit.* Most noble Cæsar!—we'll revenge his
 3 *Cit.* O royal Cæsar! [death.
 4 *Ant.* Hear me with patience.
Cit. Peace, ho!
Ant. Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,
 His private arbours, and new-planted orchards,
 On this side Tyber; he hath left them you,
 And to your heirs for ever; common pleasures,
 To walk abroad, and recreate yourselves.
 Here was a Cæsar: When comes such another?
 1 *Cit.* Never, never:—Come, away, away:
 We'll burn his body in the holy place,
 And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.
 Take up the body.

2 *Cit.* Go, fetch fire.

3 *Cit.* Pluck down benches.

4 *Cit.* Pluck down forms, windows, any thing.

[*Exeunt Citizens, with the Body.*

Ant. Now let it work: Mischief, thou art afoot,
 Take thou what course thou wilt!—How now,
 fellow?

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

Ant. Where is he?

Serv. He and Lepidus are at Cæsar's house.

Ant. And thither will I straight to visit him:
 He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,
 And in this mood will give us any thing.

Serv. I heard him say, Brutus and Cassius
 Are rid like madmen through the gates of Rome.

Ant. Belike, they had some notice of the people
 How I had mov'd them. Bring me to Octavius.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.—A STREET.

Enter Cinna, the Poet.

C. I dreamt to-night that I did feast with Cæsar,
 And things unluckily charge my phantasy:
 I have no will to wander forth of doors,
 Yet something leads me forth.

Enter Citizens.

1 *Cit.* What is your name?

2 *Cit.* Whither are you going?

3 *Cit.* Where do you dwell?

4 *Cit.* Are you a married man, or a bachelor?

2 *Cit.* Answer every man directly.

1 *Cit.* Ay, and briefly.

4 *Cit.* Ay, and wisely.

3 *Cit.* Ay, and truly, you were best.

Cin. What is my name? Whither am I go-
 ing? Where do I dwell? Am I a married man,
 or a bachelor? Then to answer every man
 directly and briefly, wisely, and truly. Wisely
 I say, I am a bachelor.

2 *Cit.* That's as much as to say they are
 fools that marry—You'll bear me a bang for
 that, I fear. Proceed; directly.

Cin. Directly, I am going to Cæsar's funeral.

1 *Cit.* As a friend, or an enemy!

Cin. As a friend.

2 *Cit.* That matter is answered directly.

4 *Cit.* For your dwelling,—briefly.

Cin. Briefly, I dwell by the Capitol.

4 *Cit.* Your name, sir, truly.

1 About fifty shillings.

Cin. Truly, my name is Cinna.

1 *Cit.* Tear him to pieces, he's a conspirator.

Cin. I am Cinna the poet, I am Cinna the
 poet.

4 *Cit.* Tear him for his bad verses, tear him
 for his bad verses.

Cin. I am not Cinna the conspirator.

2 *Cit.* It is no matter, his name's Cinna;
 pluck but his name out of his heart, and turn
 him going.

3 *Cit.* Tear him, tear him. Come, brands, ho!
 firebrands. To Brutus', to Cassius'; burn all.
 Some to Decius' house, and some to Casca's:
 some to Ligarius': away; go. [*Exeunt.*

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN ANTONY'S HOUSE.

*Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus, seated at a
 Table.*

Ant. These many then shall die; their names
 are prick'd.¹ [*Lepidus?*

Oct. Your brother too must die; Consent you,

Lep. I do consent.

Oct. Prick him down, Antony.

Lep. Upon condition Publius shall not live,
 Who is your sister's son, Mark Antony.

Ant. He shall not live; look, with a spot I
 damn² him.

But, Lepidus, go you to Cæsar's house;
 Fetch the will hither, and we will determine
 How to cut off some charge in legacies.

Lep. What, shall I find you here?

Oct. Or here, or at
 The Capitol. [*Exit Lepidus.*

Ans. This is a slight unmeritable man,
 Meet to be sent on errands: Is it fit,
 The three-fold world divided, he should stand
 One of the three to share it?

Oct. So you thought him;
 And took his voice who should be prick'd to die,
 In our black sentence and proscription. [*You;*

Ant. Octavius, I have seen more days than
 And though we lay these honours on this man,
 To ease ourselves of divers slanderous loads,
 He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,
 To groan and sweat under the business,
 Either led or driven, as we point the way;
 And having brought our treasure where we will,
 Then take we down his load, and turn him off,
 Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears,
 And graze in commons.

Oct. You may do your will;
 But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

Ant. So is my horse, Octavius; and, for that,
 I do appoint him store of provender.

It is a creature that I teach to fight,
 To wind, to stop, to run directly on;
 His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.
 And, in some taste, is Lepidus but so;
 He must be taught, and train'd, and bid go
 A barren-spirited fellow; one that feeds [forth:
 On objects, arts, and imitations;
 Which, out of use, and stal'd by other men,

1 Marked down.

2 Condemn.

Begin his fashion: Do not talk of him,
But as a property. And now, Octavius,
Listen great things.—Brutus and Cassius
Are levying powers: we must straight make
Therefore, let our alliance be combin'd, [head.
Our best friends made, and our best means
stretch'd out;

And let us presently go sit in council,
How covert matters may be best disclos'd,
And open perils surest answered.

Oct. Let us do so; for we are at the stake,
And bay'd about with many enemies; [fear,
And some, that smile, have in their hearts, I
Millions of mischief. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—BEFORE BRUTUS' TENT, IN THE
CAMP NEAR SARDIS.

Drum. Enter Brutus, Lucilius, Lucius, and
Soldiers; Titinius and Pindarus meeting
them.

Bru. Stand here.

Luc. Give the word, ho! and stand.

Bru. What now, Lucilius? is Cassius near?

Luc. He is at hand; and Pindarus is come
To do you salutation from his master.

[Pindarus gives a letter to Brutus.

Bru. He greets me well.—Your master, Pin-
darus,

In his own charge, or by ill offices,
Hath given me some worthy cause to wish
Things done, undone: but, if he be at hand,
I shall be satisfied.

Pin. I do not doubt,
But that my noble master will appear
Such as he is, full of regard, and honour.

Bru. He is not doubted.—A word, Lucilius:
How he receiv'd you, let me be resolv'd.

Luc. With courtesy, and with respect enough;
But not with such familiar instances,
Nor with such free and friendly conference,
As he hath used of old.

Bru. Thou hast describ'd
A hot friend cooling: Ever note, Lucilius,
When love begins to sicken and decay,
It useth an enforced ceremony.

There are no tricks in plain and simple faith:
But hollow men, like horses hot at hand,
Make gallant show and promise of their mettle:
But when they should endure the bloody spur,
They fall their crests, and, like deceitful jades,
Sink in the trial. Comes his army on?

Luc. They mean this night in Sardis to be quar-
The greater part, the horse in general, [ter'd;
Are come with Cassius. [March within.

Bru. Hark, he is arriv'd:—
March gently on to meet him.

Enter Cassius and Soldiers.

Cas. Stand, ho!

Bru. Stand, ho! Speak the word along.

[Within.] Stand.

[Within.] Stand.

[Within.] Stand.

C. Most noble brother, you have done me
wrong. [mies?

Bru. Judge me, you gods! Wrong I mine ene-

1 Surrounded.

And, if not so, how should I wrong a brother?

Cas. Brutus, this sober form of yours hides
And when you do them— [wrongs;

Bru. Cassius, be content,
Speak your griefs softly,—I do know you well:—
Before the eyes of both our armies here,
Which should perceive nothing but love from us,
Let us not wrangle: Bid them move away;
Then in my tent, Cassius, enlarge your griefs,
And I will give you audience.

Cas. Pindarus,
Bid our commanders lead their charges off
A little from this ground.

Bru. Lucilius, do the like; and let no man
Come to our tent, till we have done our conference.
Let Lucius and Titinius guard our door. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.—WITHIN THE TENT OF BRUTUS.

Lucius and Titinius at some distance from it.

Enter Brutus and Cassius.

Cas. That you have wrong'd me doth appear
in this:

You have condemn'd and noted Lucius Pella,
For taking bribes here of the Sardians;
Wherein my letters, praying on his side
Because I knew the man, were slighted off.

B. You wrong'd yourself, to write in such a case.

Cas. In such a time as this, it is not meet
That every nice offence should bear his comment.

Bru. Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm;
To sell and mart your offices for gold,
To undeservers.

Cas. I an itching palm?

You know that you are Brutus that speak this,
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

B. The name of Cassius honours this corruption,
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.

Cas. Chastisement?

Bru. Remember March, the ides of March
remember!

Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?
What villain touch'd his body, that did stab,
And not for justice? What, shall one of us,
That struck the foremost man of all this world,
But for supporting robbers; shall we now
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes?
And sell the mighty space of our large honours,
For so much trash, as may be grasped thus?—
I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon,
Than such a Roman.

Cas. Brutus, bay not me;
I'll not endure it; you forget yourself
To hedge me in; I am a soldier, I,
Older in practice, abler than yourself
To make conditions.

Bru. Go to; you're not, Cassius.

Cas. I am.

Bru. I say, you are not.

Cas. Urge me no more, I shall forget myself;
Have mind upon your health, tempt me no
further.

Bru. Away, slight man!

Cas. Is't possible?

Bru. Hear me, for I will speak.

1 Trifling.

Must I give way and room to your rash choler?
Shall I be frighted, when a madman stares?

C. O ye gods! ye gods! Must I endure all this?

Bru. All this? ay, more: Fret, till your proud heart break;

Go show your slaves how choleric you are,
And make your bondmen tremble. Must I budge?
Must I observe you? Must I stand and crouch
Under your testy humour? By the gods,
You shall digest the venom of your spleen,
Though it do split you: for, from this day forth,
I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter,
When you are waspish.

Cas. Is it come to this?

Bru. You say, you are a better soldier:
Let it appear so; make your vaunting true,
And it shall please me well: For mine own part,
I shall be glad to learn of noble men.

Cas. You wrong me every way; you wrong me,
I said, an elder soldier, not a better: [*Brutus:*
Did I say, better?

Bru. If you did, I care not.

Cas. When Cæsar lived, he durst not thus have mov'd me.

B. Peace, peace; you durst not so have tempted
Cas. I durst not? [*him.*

Bru. No.

Cas. What? durst not tempt him?

Bru. For your life you durst not.

Cas. Do not presume too much upon my love,
I may do that I shall be sorry for.

B. You have done that you should be sorry for.
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats:

For I am arm'd so strong in honesty,
That they pass by me, as the idle wind,

Which I respect not. I did send to you
For certain sums of gold, which you denied me;—

For I can raise no money by vile means:
By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,

And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring
From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash

By any indirection.¹ I did send
To you for gold to pay my legions, [*Cassius?*

Which you denied me: Was that done like
Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?

When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,
To lock such rascal counters from his friends,

Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts,
Dash him to pieces!

Cas. I denied you not.

Bru. You did.

Cas. I did not:—he was but a fool,
That brought my answer back.—Brutus hath
riv'd my heart:

A friend should bear his friend's infirmities,
But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

Bru. I do not, till you practise them on me.

Cas. You love me not.

Bru. I do not like your faults.

C. A friendly eye could never see such faults.

Bru. A flatterer's would not, though they do
As huge as high Olympus. [*appear*

Cas. Come, Antony, and young Octavius,
Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius, [*come,*

For Cassius is weary of the world:
Hated by one he loves; braved by his brother;
Check'd like a bondman; all his faults observ'd,

¹ Dishonest practice.

Set in a note-book, learn'd and conn'd by rote,
To cast into my teeth. O, I could weep

My spirit from mine eyes!—There is my dagger,
And here my naked breast; within, a heart

Dearer than Plutus' mine, richer than gold:
If that thou be'st a Roman, take it forth;

I, that denied thee gold, will give my heart:
Strike, as thou didst at Cæsar; for, I know,

When thou didst hate him worst, thou lov'd'st
him better

Than ever thou lov'd'st Cassius.

Bru. Sheathe your dagger:

Be angry when you will, it shall have scope;
Do what you will, dishonour shall be humour.

O Cassius, you are yoked with a lamb
That carries anger, as the flint bears fire;

Who much enforced, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again.

Cas. Hath Cassius liv'd
To be but mirth and laughter to his Brutus,

When grief, and blood ill-temper'd, vexeth him?

Bru. When I spoke that, I was ill-temper'd too.

Cas. Do you confess so much? Give me your
Bru. And my heart too. [*hand.*

Cas. O Brutus!—

Bru. What's the matter?

Cas. Have you not love enough to bear with me,
When that rash humour, which my mother gave

Makes me forgetful? [*me,*

Bru. Yes, Cassius: and henceforth,
When you are over-earnest with your Brutus,

He'll think your mother chides, and leave you
so. [*Noise within.*

Poet. [*Within.*] Let me go in to see the
generals:

There is some grudge between them, 'tis not meet
They be alone.

Luc. [*Within.*] You shall not come to them.

Poet. [*Within.*] Nothing but death shall stay
me.

Enter Poet.

Cas. How now? What's the matter?

Poet. For shame, you generals: What do you
mean?

Love, and be friends, as two such men should be;
For I have seen more years, I am sure, than ye.

Cas. Ha, ha; how vilely doth this cynick rhyme!

Bru. Get you hence, sirrah; saucy fellow, hence.

Cas. Bear with him, Brutus; 'tis his fashion.

Bru. I'll know his humour, when he knows his
time:

What should the wars do with these jiggings¹
Companion,² hence. [*fools!*

Cas. Away, away, begone. [*Exit Poet.*

Enter Lucilius and Titinius.

Bru. Lucilius and Titinius, bid the commanders
Prepare to lodge their companies to-night.

Cas. And come yourselves, and bring Messala
with you,

Immediately to us.

[*Exeunt Lucilius and Titinius.*

Bru. Lucius, a bowl of wine.

C. I did not think, you could have been so angry.

Bru. O Cassius, I am sick of many griefs.

Cas. Of your philosophy you make no use,
If you give place to accidental evils.

¹ Dancing.

² Fellow.

B. No man bears sorrow better:—Portia is
Cas. Ha! Portia? [dead.
Bru. She is dead.

C. How scap'd I killing, when I cross'd you so?—
 O insupportable and touching loss!—
 Upon what sickness?

Bru. Impatient of my absence;
 And grief, that young Octavius with Mark
 Antony [death
 Have made themselves so strong;—for with her
 That tidings came;—With this she fell distract,
 And, her attendants absent, swallow'd fire.

Cas. And died so?

Bru. Even so.

Cas. O ye immortal gods!

Enter Lucius, with Wine and Tapers.

Bru. Speak no more of her.—Give me a bowl
 of wine:—

In this I bury all unkindness, Cassius. [*Drinks.*

C. My heart is thirsty for that noble pledge:—
 Fill, Lucius, till the wine o'erswell the cup;
 I cannot drink too much of Brutus' love. [*Drinks.*

Re-enter Titinius with Messala.

Bru. Come in, Titinius:—Welcome, good Mes-
 Now sit we close about this taper here, [sala.—
 And call in question our necessities.

Cas. Portia, art thou gone?

Bru. No more, I pray you.—
 Messala, I have here received letters,
 That young Octavius, and Mark Antony,
 Come down upon us with a mighty power,
 Bending their expedition towards Philippi.

M. Myself have letters of the self-same tenour.

Bru. With what addition?

Mes. That by proscription, and bills of out-
 Octavius, Antony, and Lepidus, [lawry,
 Have put to death an hundred senators.

Bru. Therein our letters do not well agree:
 Mine speak of seventy senators, that died
 By their proscriptions, Cicero being one.

Cas. Cicero one?

Mes. Ay, Cicero is dead,
 And by that order of proscription.—
 Had you your letters from your wife, my lord?

Bru. No, Messala.

Mes. Nor nothing in your letters writ of her?

Bru. Nothing, Messala.

Mes. That, methinks, is strange.

Bru. Why ask you? Hear you aught of her in

Mes. No, my lord. [yours?

Bru. Now, as you are a Roman, tell me true.

Mes. Then like a Roman bear the truth I tell:
 For certain she is dead, and by strange manner.

Bru. Why, farewell, Portia.—We must die,
 Messala:

With meditating that she must die once,
 I have the patience to endure it now. [dure.

Mes. Even so great men great losses should en-
Cas. I have as much of this in art' as you,

But yet my nature could not bear it so.

B. Well, to our work alive. What do you think,
 Of marching to Philippi presently?

Cas. I do not think it good.

Bru.

Your reason?

Cas.

This it is:

Theory.

'Tis better, that the enemy seek us:

So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers,
 Doing himself offence; whilst we, lying still,
 Are full of rest, defence, and nimbleness.

Bru. Good reasons must, of force, give place
 to better.

The people, 'twixt Philippi and this ground,
 Do stand but in a forc'd affection;
 For they have grudg'd us contribution:
 The enemy, marching along by them,
 By them shall make a fuller number up,
 Come on refresh'd, new-added, and encourag'd;
 From which advantage shall we cut him off,
 If at Philippi we do face him there,
 These people at our back.

Cas. Hear me, good brother.

B. Under your pardon.—You must note beside,
 That we have try'd the utmost of our friends,
 Our legions are brim-full, our cause is ripe:
 The enemy increaseth every day,
 We, at the height, are ready to decline.
 There is a tide in the affairs of men,
 Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life
 Is bound in shallows, and in miseries.
 On such a full sea are we now afloat;
 And we must take the current when it serves,
 Or lose our ventures.

Cas. Then, with your will, go on;

We'll on ourselves, and meet him at Philippi.

Bru. The deep of night is crept upon our talk.

And nature must obey necessity;

Which we will niggard with a little rest.

There is no more to say?

Cas. No more. Good night;

Early to-morrow will we rise, and hence.

Bru. Lucius, my gown. [*Exit Lucius.*] Fare-
 well, good Messala:—

Good night, Titinius:—Noble, noble Cassius,
 Good night, and good repose.

Cas. O my dear brother!

This was an ill beginning of the night:
 Never come such division 'tween our souls!
 Let it not, Brutus.

Bru. Every thing is well.

Cas. Good night, my lord.

Bru. Good night, good brother.

Tit. Mes. Good night, lord Brutus.

Bru. Farewell, every one.

[*Exeunt Cas. Tit. and Mes.*

Re-enter Lucius, with the Gown.

Give me the gown. Where is thy instrument?

Luc. Here in the tent.

Bru. What, thou speak'st drowsily?

Poor knave, I blame thee not; thou art o'er-
 watch'd.

Call Claudius, and some other of my men;
 I'll have them sleep on cushions in my tent.

Luc. Varro, and Claudius!

Enter Varro and Claudius.

Var. Calls my lord?

Bru. I pray you, sirs, lie in my tent, and sleep;

It may be, I shall raise you by and by

On business to my brother Cassius.

Var. So please you, we will stand, and watch
 your pleasure.

Bru. I will not have it so: lie down, good sirs;
It may be, I shall otherwise bethink me.
Look, Lucius, here's the book I sought for so;
I put it in the pocket of my gown.

[*Servants lie down.*]

Luc. I was sure your lordship did not give it me.

Bru. Bear with me, good boy, I am much forgetful.

Canst thou hold up thy heavy eyes awhile,
And touch thy instrument a strain or two.

Luc. Ay, my lord, an it please you.

Bru. It does, my boy;

I trouble thee too much, but thou art willing.

Luc. It is my duty, sir.

Bru. I should not urge thy duty past thy might;

I know, young bloods look for a time of rest.

Luc. I have slept, my lord, already.

Bru. It is well done; and thou shalt sleep again;

I will not hold thee long: if I do live,

I will be good to thee. [*Music and a Song.*]

This is a sleepy tune:—O murd'rous slumber!

Lay'st thou thy leaden mace upon my boy,

That plays thee musick?—Gentle knave, good night;

I will not do thee so much wrong to wake thee.

If thou dost nod, thou break'st thy instrument;

I'll take it from thee; and, good boy, good night.

Let me see, let me see;—Is not the leaf turn'd down,

Where I left reading? Here it is, I think.

[*He sits down.*]

Enter the Ghost of Cæsar.

How ill this taper burns!—Ha! who comes here?

I think it is the weakness of mine eyes,

That shapes this monstrous apparition.

It comes upon me—art thou any thing?

Art thou some god, some angel, or some devil,

That mak'st my blood cold, and my hair to stare?

Speak to me, what art thou?

Ghost. Thy evil spirit, Brutus.

Bru. Why com'st thou?

G. To tell thee, thou shalt see me at Philippi.

Bru. Well;

Then I shall see thee again?

Ghost. Ay, at Philippi.

[*Ghost vanishes.*]

Bru. Why, I will see thee at Philippi then.—

Now I have taken heart, thou vanishest.

Ill spirit, I would hold more talk with thee.—

Boy! Lucius!—Varro! Claudius! Sirs, awake!

Claudius!

Luc. The strings, my lord, are false.

Bru. He thinks, he still is at his instrument.—

Lucius, awake.

Luc. My lord!

Bru. Didst thou dream, Lucius, that thou so cry'dst out?

Luc. My lord, I do not know that I did cry.

Bru. Yes, that thou didst: Didst thou see

Luc. Nothing, my lord. [*any thing?*]

Bru. Sleep again, Lucius.—Sirrah, Claudius!

Fellow thou! awake.

Var. My lord!

Clau. My lord!

B. Why did you so cry out, sirs, in your sleep?

Var. Clau. Did we, my lord?

Bru. Ay; Saw you any thing?

Var. No, my lord, I saw nothing.

Clau.

Nor I, my lord.

B. Go, and commend me to my brother Cassius;

Bid him set on his powers betimes before,

And we will follow.

Var. Clau.

It shall be done, my lord.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE PLAINS OF PHILIPPI.

Enter Octavius, Antony, and their Army.

Oct. Now, Antony, our hopes are answered:

You said the enemy would not come down,

But keep the hills and upper regions;

It proves not so: their battles are at hand;

They mean to warn¹ us at Philippi here,

Answering before we do demand of them.

Ant. Tut, I am in their bosoms, and I know,

Wherefore they do it: they could be content

To visit other places; and come down

With fearful bravery, thinking, by this face,

To fasten in our thoughts that they have

But 'tis not so. [*courage;*]

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Prepare you, generals:

The enemy comes on in gallant show;

Their bloody sign of battle is hung out,

And something's to be done immediately.

Ant. Octavius, lead your battle softly on,

Upon the left hand of the even field.

Oct. Upon the right hand I, keep thou the left.

Ant. Why do you cross me in this exigent?

Oct. I do not cross you; but I will do so.

[*March.*]

Drum. Enter Brutus, Cassius, and their Army;

Lucilius, Titinius, Messala, and others.

Bru. They stand, and would have parley.

Cas. Stand fast, Titinius: We must out and talk.

Oct. Mark Antony, shall we give sign of battle?

Ant. No, Cæsar, we will answer on the charge.

Make forth, the generals would have some words.

Oct. Stir not until the signal.

B. Words before blows: Is it so, countrymen?

Oct. Not that we love words better, as you do.

Bru. Good words are better than bad strokes,

Octavius.

Ant. In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words:

Witness the hole you made in Cæsar's heart,

Crying, *Long live! hail Cæsar!*

Cas. Antony,

The posture of your blows are yet unknown;

But for your words, they rob the Hybla bees,

And leave them honeyless.

Ant. Not stingless too.

Bru. O, yes, and soundless too;

For you have stol'n their buzzing, Antony,

And, very wisely, threat before you sting.

Ant. Villains, you did not so, when your vile daggers

Hack'd one another in the sides of Cæsar;

1 Summon.

2 Exigency.

You show'd your teeth like apes, and fawn'd like hounds,

And bow'd like bondmen, kissing Cæsar's feet,
Whilst curs'd Casca, like a cur behind,
Struck Cæsar on the neck. O flatterers!

Cas. Flatterers!—Now, Brutus, thank yourself:
This tongue had not offended so to-day,
If Cassius might have rul'd. [us sweat,

Oct. Come, come, the cause: If arguing make
The proof of it will turn to redder drops.
Look;

I draw a sword against conspirators;
When think you that the sword goes up again?—
Never till Cæsar's three and twenty wounds
Be well aveng'd; or till another Cæsar
Have added slaughter to the sword of traitors.

B. Cæsar, thou canst not die by traitors' hands,
Unless thou bring'st them with thee.

Oct. So I hope;

I was not born to die on Brutus' sword.
Bru. O, if thou wert the noblest of thy strain,
Young man, thou couldst not die more honourable.

Cas. A peevish school-boy, worthless of such
Join'd with a masker and a reveller. [honour,
Ant. Old Cassius still!

Oct. Come, Antony; away.—
Defiance, traitors, hurl we in your teeth:
If you dare fight to-day, come to the field;
If not, when you have stomachs.

[*Exeunt Octavius, Antony, and their Army.*]

Cas. Why now, blow, wind; swell, billow;
and swim, bark!

The storm is up, and all is on the hazard.

Bru. Ho!

Lucilius; hark, a word with you.

Luc. My lord.

[*Brutus and Lucilius converse apart.*]

Cas. Messala,—

Mes. What says my general?

Cas. Messala,

This is my birth-day; as this very day,
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala:
Be thou my witness, that, against my will,
As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set
Upon one battle all our liberties.

You know, that I held Epicurus strong,
And his opinion: now I change my mind,
And partly credit things that do presage.
Coming from Sardis, on our former¹ ensign
Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perch'd,
Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands;
Who to Philippi here consorted² us;
This morning are they fled away, and gone;
And in their steads, do ravens, crows, and kites,
Fly o'er our heads, and downward look on us,
As we were sickly prey; their shadows seem
A canopy most fatal, under which
Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

Mes. Believe not so.

Cas. I but believe it partly;
For I am fresh of spirit, and resolv'd
To meet all perils very constantly.

Bru. Even so, Lucilius.

Cas. Now, most noble Brutus,
The gods to-day stand friendly; that we may,
Lovers in peace, lead on our days to age!

¹ Foremost.

² Accompanied.

But, since the affairs of men rest still uncertain,
Let's reason with the worst that may befall.
If we do lose this battle, then is this
The very last time we shall speak together:
What are you then determined to do?

Bru. Even by the rule of that philosophy,
By which I did blame Cato for the death
Which he did give himself:—I know not how,
But I do find it cowardly and vile,
For fear of what might fall, so to prevent
The time of life: arming myself with patience,
To stay the Providence of some high powers
That govern us below.

Cas. Then, if we lose this battle,
You are contented to be led in triumph
Through the streets of Rome?

Bru. No, Cassius, no: think not, thou noble
Roman,

That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome;
He bears too great a mind. But this same day
Must end that work the ides of March begun;
And whether we shall meet again I know not.
Therefore our everlasting farewell take:—
For ever, and for ever, farewell, Cassius!
If we do meet again, why we shall smile;
If not, why then this parting was well made.

Cas. For ever, and for ever, farewell, Brutus!
If we do meet again, we'll smile indeed:

If not, 'tis true, this parting was well made.

Bru. Why then, lead on.—O, that a man
might know

The end of this day's business, ere it come!

But it sufficeth, that the day will end,
And then the end is known.—Come, ho! away!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

Alarum. Enter Brutus and Messala.

B. Ride, ride, Messala, ride and give these bills¹
Unto the legions on the other side:

[*Loud Alarum.*]

Let them set on at once; for I perceive
But cold demeanour in Octavius' wing,
And sudden push gives them the overthrow.
Ride, ride, Messala: let them all come down.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarum. Enter Cassius and Titinius.

Cas. O, look, Titinius, look, the villains fly:
Myself have to mine own turn'd enemy:
This ensign here of mine was turning back;
I slew the coward, and did take it from him.

T. O Cassius, Brutus gave the word too early:
Who having some advantage on Octavius,
Took it too eagerly: his soldiers fell to spoil,
Whilst we by Antony were all enclos'd.

Enter Pindarus.

Pin. Fly further off, my lord, fly further off;
Mark Antony is in your tents, my lord!

Fly therefore, noble Cassius, fly far off.

Cas. This hill is far enough. Look, look,
Titinius;

Are those my tents, where I perceive the fire?

Tit. They are, my lord.

¹ Directions.

Cas. Titinius, if thou lov'st me,
Mount thou my horse, and hide thy spurs in him,
Till he have brought thee up to yonder troops,
And here again that I may rest assur'd,
Whether yond' troops are friend or enemy.

Tit. I will be here again, even with a thought.
[*Exit.*]

Cas. Go, Pindarus, get higher on that hill;
My sight was ever thick; regard Titinius,
And tell me what thou not'st about the field.—

[*Exit Pindarus.*]
This day I breathed first: time is come round,
And where I did begin, there I shall end;
My life is run his compass.—Sirrah, what news?

Pin. [Above.] O my lord!

Cas. What news?

Pin. Titinius is

Enclosed round about with horsemen, that
Make to him on the spur;—yet he spurs on.—
Now they are almost on him;—now, Titinius!—
Now some 'light:—O, he 'lights too—he's ta'en
—and, hark! [Shout.]
They shout for joy.

Cas. Come down, behold no more.—
O, coward that I am, to live so long.
To see my best friend ta'en before my face!

Enter Pindarus.

Come hither, sirrah:
In Parthia did I take thee prisoner;
And then I swore thee, saving of thy life,
That whatsoever I did bid thee do, [oath:]
Thou shouldst attempt it. Come now, keep thine
Now be a freeman; and, with this good sword,
That ran through Cæsar's bowels, search this
bosom.

Stand not to answer: Here, take thou the hilts;
And, when my face is cover'd as 'tis now,
Guide thou the sword,—Cæsar, thou art reveng'd,
Even with the sword that kill'd thee. [*Dies.*]

Pin. So I am free, yet would not so have been,
Durst I have done my will. O Cassius!
Far from this country Pindarus shall run,
Where never Roman shall take note of him. [*Exit.*]

Re-enter Titinius with Messala.

Mes. It is but change, Titinius; for Octavius
Is overthrown by noble Brutus' power,
As Cassius' legions are by Antony.

Tit. These tidings will well comfort Cassius.
Mes. Where did you leave him?

Tit. All disconsolate,
With Pindarus his bondman, on this hill.

Mes. Is not that he, that lies upon the ground?

Tit. He lies not like the living. O my heart!

Mes. Is not that he?

Tit. No, this was he, Messala,
But Cassius is no more.—O setting sun!
As in thy red rays thou dost sink to-night,
So in his red blood Cassius' day is set;
The sun of Rome is set! Our day is gone;
Clouds, dews, and dangers come; our deeds are
Mistrust of my success hath done this deed. [done:]

M. Mistrust of good success hath done this
O hateful error, melancholy's child! [deed.]
Why dost thou show to the apt thoughts of men
The things that are not? O error, soon conceiv'd,
Thou never com'st unto a happy birth,
But kill'st the mother that engender'd thee.

T. What, Pindarus? Where art thou, Pindarus?

Mes. Seek him, Titinius: whilst I go to meet
The noble Brutus, thrusting this report
Into his ears: I may say, thrusting it;
For piercing steel, and darts envenom'd,
Shall be as welcome to the ears of Brutus,
As tidings of this sight.

Tit. Hie you, Messala,
And I will seek for Pindarus the while.

[*Exit Messala.*]
Why didst thou send me forth, brave Cassius?
Did I not meet thy friends, and did not they
Put on my brows this wreath of victory,
And bid me give't thee? Didst thou not hear their
shouts?

Alas! thou hast misconstrued every thing.
But hold thee, take this garland on thy brow;
Thy Brutus bid me give it thee, and I
Will do his bidding.—Brutus, come apace,
And see how I regarded Caius Cassius.—
By your leave, gods:—This is a Roman's part:
Come, Cassius' sword, and find Titinius' heart.
[*Dies.*]

Alarum. *Re-enter Messala, with Brutus, young Cato, Strato, Volumnius, and Lucilius.*

Bru. Where, where, Messala, doth his body lie?

Mes. Lo, yonder; and Titinius mourning it.

Bru. Titinius' face is upward.

Cato. He is slain.

Bru. O Julius Cæsar, thou art mighty yet!
Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords
In our own proper entrails. [Low alarums.]

Cato. Brave Titinius!
Look, wh'er he have not crown'd dead Cassius!

B. Are yet two Romans living such as these?—
The last of all the Romans, fare thee well!

It is impossible that ever Rome [tears]
Should breed thy fellow.—Friends, I owe more
To this dead man, than you shall see me pay.—

I shall find time, Cassius, I shall find time.—
Come, therefore, and to Thassos send his body;

His funeral shall not be in our camp,
Lest it discomfort us.—Lucilius, come;

And come, young Cato, let us to the field.—

Labeo, and Flavius, set our battles on:—
'Tis three o'clock; and, Romans, yet ere night

We shall try fortune in a second fight. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Alarum. *Enter, fighting, Soldiers of both Armies; then Brutus, Cato, Lucilius, and others.*

B. Yet, countrymen, O, yet hold up your heads!

Cato. What bastard doth not? Who will go with
I will proclaim my name about the field: [me?]
I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

A foe to tyrants, and my country's friend;

I am the son of Marcus Cato, ho!

[*Charges the Enemy.*]

Bru. And I am Brutus, Marcus Brutus, I;
Brutus, my country's friend; know me for Brutus.

[*Exit, charging the Enemy. Cato is overpowered, and falls.*]

Luc. O young and noble Cato, art thou down?

Why, now thou diest as bravely as Titinius;

And mayst be honour'd, being Cato's son.

1 Sold. Yield, or thou diest.

Luc. Only I yield to die:
There is so much that thou wilt kill me straight;
[Offering Money.
Kill Brutus, and be honour'd in his death.
1 *Sold.* We must not.—A noble prisoner!
2 *Sold.* Room, ho! Tell Antony, Brutus is ta'en.
1 *Sold.* I'll tell the news.—Here comes the general:

Enter Antony.

Brutus is ta'en, Brutus is ta'en, my lord.
Ant. Where is he?
Luc. Safe, Antony; Brutus is safe enough:
I dare assure thee, that no enemy
Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus:
The gods defend him from so great a shame!
When you do find him or alive, or dead,
He will be found like Brutus, like himself.
A. This is not Brutus, friend; but, I assure you,
A prize no less in worth: keep this man safe,
Give him all kindness: I had rather have
Such men my friends than enemies. Go on,
And see whe'r Brutus be alive, or dead:
And bring us word, unto Octavius' tent,
How every thing is chanc'd. [Exit.

SCENE V.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Enter Brutus, Dardanius, Clitus, Strato, and Volumnius.

Bru. Come, poor remains of friends, rest on this rock.

Cl. Statilius show'd the torch-light; but, my He came not back; he is or ta'en, or slain. [Lord,
Bru. Sit thee down, Clitus, slaying is the word;
It is a deed in fashion. Hark thee, Clitus.—

[Whispering.

Cl. What, I, my lord? No, not for all the *Bru.* Peace, then, no words, [world.

Cl. I'll rather kill myself.
Bru. Hark thee, Dardanius! [Whispers him.

Dar. I do such a deed?

Cl. O, Dardanius!

Dar. O, Clitus!

Cl. What ill request did Brutus make to thee?

Dar. To kill him, Clitus: Look, he meditates.

Cl. Now is that noble vessel full of grief,

That it runs over even at his eyes.

B. Come hither, good Volumnius: list a word.

Vol. What says my lord?

Bru. Why, this, Volumnius:

The ghost of Cæsar hath appear'd to me
Two several times by night: at Sardis, once;
And, this last night, here in Philippi' fields.
I know, my hour is come.

Vol. Not so, my lord.

Bru. Nay, I am sure it is, Volumnius.

Thou seest the world, Volumnius, how it goes;
Our enemies have beat us to the pit:
It is more worthy to leap in ourselves,
Than tarry till they push us. Good Volumnius,
Thou know'st, that we two went to school to-
gether;

Even for that our love of old, I pray thee,
Hold thou my sword-hilt, whilst I run on it.

Vol. That's not an office for a friend, my lord.

[Alarum still.

Cl. Fly, fly, my lord; there is no tarrying here.
Bru. Farewell to you;—and you;—and you,
Volumnius.—

Strato, thou hast been all this while asleep;
Farewell to thee, too, Strato.—Countrymen,
My heart doth joy, that yet in all my life,
I found no man, but he was true to me.
I shall have glory by this losing day,
More than Octavius, and Mark Antony,
By this vile conquest shall attain unto.
So, fare you well at once; for Brutus' tongue
Hath almost ended his life's history: [rest,
Night hangs upon mine eyes; my bones would
That have but labour'd to attain this hour.

[Alarum. Cry within; Fly, fly, fly.

Cl. Fly, my lord, fly.

Bru. Hence; I will follow thee.

[Exit Brutus, Dardanius, and Volumnius.

I pr'ythee, Strato, stay thou by thy lord:
Thou art a fellow of a good respect;
Thy life hath had some snatch of honour in it:
Hold then my sword, and turn away thy face,
While I do run upon it. Wilt thou, Strato?

Str. Give me your hand first: Fare you well, my lord.

Bru. Farewell, good Strato.—Cæsar, now be still:

I kill'd not thee with half so good a will.

[He runs on his Sword, and dies.

Alarum. Retreat. Enter Octavius, Antony, Messala, Lucilius, and their Army.

Oct. What man is that?

Mes. My master's man.—Strato, where is thy master?

St. Free from the bondage you are in, Messala;
The conquerors can but make a fire of him;
For Brutus only overcame himself,
And no man else hath honour by his death.

Luc. So Brutus should be found.—I thank thee, Brutus,

That thou hast prov'd Lucilius' saying true.

Oct. All that serv'd Brutus, I will entertain them.

Fellow, wilt thou bestow thy time with me?

Str. Ay, if Messala will prefer² me to you.

Oct. Do so, Messala.

Mes. How died my master, Strato?

Str. I held the sword, and he did run on it.

Mes. Octavius, then take him to follow thee,
That did the latest service to my master.

Ant. This was the noblest Roman of them all:
All the conspirators, save only he,
Did that they did in envy of great Cæsar;
He, only, in a general honest thought,
And common good to all, made one of them.
His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, *This was a man!*

Oct. According to his virtue let us use him,
With all respect and rights of burial.
Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie,
Most like a soldier, order'd honourably.—
So, call the field to rest: and let's away,
To part the glories of this happy day.

[Exit.

1 Receive into my service. 2 Recommend.

Antony and Cleopatra.

Persons Represented.

M. ANTONY,
OCTAVIUS CÆSAR,
M. ÆMIL. LEPIDUS, } *Triumvirs.*
SEXTUS POMPEIUS.

DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS,
VENTIDIUS,
EROS,
SCARUS,
DERCETAS,
DEMETRIUS,
PHILO, } *Friends of Antony.*

MECÆNAS,
AGRIPPA,
DOLABELLA,
PROCULEIUS, } *Friends to Cæsar.*

THYREUS,
GALLUS,
MENAS,
MENECRATES, } *Friends of Pompey.*
VARRIUS,

TAURUS, *Lieutenant-General to Cæsar.*
CANIDIUS, *Lieutenant-General to Antony.*
SILIUS, *an Officer in Ventidius' Army.*
EUPHRONIUS, *an Ambassador from Antony to*

Cæsar.
ALEXAS, MARDIAN, SELEUCUS, and DIOMEDES;
Attendants on Cleopatra.
A Soothsayer.
A Clown.

CLEOPATRA, *Queen of Egypt.*
OCTAVIA, *Sister to Cæsar, and Wife to Antony.*
CHARMIAN, } *Attendants on Cleopatra.*
IRAS,

Officers, Soldiers, Messengers, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Dispersed; in several parts of the Roman Empire.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN
CLEOPATRA'S PALACE.

Enter Demetrius and Philo.

Phi. Nay, but this dotage of our general's,
O'erflows the measure: Those his goodly eyes,
That o'er the files and musters of the war
Have glow'd like plated Mars, now bend, now

turn,
The office and devotion of their view
Upon a tawny front: his captain's heart,
Which in the scuffles of great fights had burst
The buckles on his breast, reneges¹ all temper;
And is become the bellows and the fan,
To cool a gipsy's lust. Look, where they come!

*Flourish. Enter Antony and Cleopatra, with
their Trains; Eunuchs fanning her.*

Take but good note, and you shall see in him
The triple pillar of the world transform'd
Into a wanton's fool: behold and see.

Cleo. If it be love indeed, tell me how much.
Ant. There's beggary in the love that can be
reckon'd.

Cleo. I'll set a bourn² how far to be belov'd.

Ant. Then must thou needs find out new
heaven, new earth.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. News, my good lord, from Rome.

Ant. Grates³ me:—The sum⁴?

Cleo. Nay, hear them, Antony.

1 Renounces. 3 Offends.
2 Bound. 4 The news in few words.

Fulvia, perchance, is angry; Or, who knows
If the scarce-bearded Cæsar have not sent
His powerful mandate to you, *Do this, or this;*
Take in¹ that kingdom, and enfranchise that;
Perform't, or else we damn thee.

Ant. How, my love!

Cleo. Perchance,—nay, and most like,
You must not stay here longer, your dismissal
Is come from Cæsar; therefore hear it, Antony.—
Where's Fulvia's process²? Cæsar's, I would
say?—Both?—

Call in the messengers.—As I am Egypt's queen,
Thou blushest, Antony; and that blood of thine
Is Cæsar's homager: else so thy cheek pays shame,
When shrill-tongued Fulvia scolds.—The mes-
sengers.

Ant. Let Rome in Tyber melt! and the wide arch
Of the rang'd empire fall! Here is my space;
Kingdoms are clay: our dungy earth alike
Feasts beast as man: The nobleness of life
Is, to do thus; when such a mutual pair

[Embracing.]

And such a twain can do't, in which, I bind,
On pain of punishment, the world to weet,³
We stand up peerless.

Cleo. Excellent falsehood!
Why did he marry Fulvia, and not love her?—
I'll seem the fool I am not; Antony
Will be himself.

Ant. But stir'd by Cleopatra.—
Now, for the love of Love, and her soft hours,
Let's not confound⁴ the time with conference
harsh:

There's not a minute of our lives should stretch

1 Subdue. 2 Summons. 3 Know. 4 Consume.

Without some pleasure now: What sport to-night?

Cleo. Hear the ambassadors.

Ant. Fie, wrangling queen!

Whom every thing becomes, to chide, to laugh,
To weep; whose every passion fully strives
To make itself, in thee, fair and admir'd!
No messenger; but thine and all alone,
To-night, we'll wander through the streets, and
The qualities of people. Come, my queen; [note
Last night you did desire it:—Speak not to us.

[*Exeunt Ant. and Cleo. with their Train.*]

Dem. Is Caesar with Antonius priz'd so slight?

Phi. Sir, sometimes, when he is not Antony,
He comes too short of that great property
Which still should go with Antony.

Dem. I am full sorry,
That he approves the common liar,¹ who
Thus speaks of him at Rome: But I will hope
Of better deeds to-morrow. Rest you happy!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM.

Enter Charmian, Iras, Alexas, and a Soothsayer.

Char. Lord Alexas, sweet Alexas, most any
thing Alexas, almost most absolute Alexas,
where's the soothsayer that you praised so to
the queen? O, that I knew this husband, which,
you say, must change his horns with garlands!

Alex. Soothsayer.

Sooth. Your will?

Char. Is this the man?—Is't you, sir, that
know things?

Sooth. In nature's infinite book of secrecy,
A little I can read.

Alex. Show him your hand.

Enter Enobarbus.

Eno. Bring in the banquet quickly: wine
Cleopatra's health to drink. [enough,

Char. Good sir, give me good fortune.

Sooth. I make not, but foresee.

Char. Pray, then, foresee me one.

Sooth. You shall be yet far fairer than you are.

Char. He means, in flesh.

Iras. No, you shall part when you are old.

Char. Wrinkles forbid!

Alex. Vex not his prescience; be attentive.

Char. Hush!

So. You shall be more loving, than beloved.

Cha. I had rather heat my liver with drinking.

Alex. Nay, hear him.

Char. Good now, some excellent fortune! Let
me be married to three kings in a forenoon, and
widow them all: let me have a child at fifty,
to whom Herod of Jewry may do homage: find
me to marry me with Octavius Cæsar, and
companions me with my mistress.

S. You shall outlive the lady whom you serve.

C. O excellent! I love long life better than figs.

So. You have seen and proved a fairer former
Than that which is to approach. [fortune

Char. Then, pr'ythee, how many boys and
wenches must I have?

Sooth. If every of your wishes had a womb,
And fertile every wish, a million.

¹ [Fame.]

Char. Out, fool; I forgive thee for a witch.

Alex. We'll know all our fortunes.

Eno. Mine, and most of our fortunes, to-night,
shall be—drunk to bed.

Iras. There's a palm presages chastity, if no-
thing else.

Char. Even as the o'erflowing Nilus presageth
famine.

Iras. Go, you wild fellow, you cannot soothsay.

Char. Nay, if an oily palm be not a fruitful
prognostication, I cannot scratch mine ear.—
Pr'ythee, tell her but a worky-day fortune.

Sooth. Your fortunes are alike.

Iras. But how, but how? give me particulars.

Sooth. I have said.

Ir. Am I not an inch of fortune better than she?

Char. Well, if you were but an inch of fortune
better than I, where would you choose it?

Iras. Not in my husband's nose.

Char. Our worse thoughts heavens mend!
Alexas,—come, his fortune, his fortune.—O, let
him marry, sweet Isis, I beseech thee! And let
her die, and give him a worse! and let worse
follow worse, till the worst of all follow him
laughing to his grave. Good Isis, hear me this
prayer, though thou deny me a matter of more
weight; good Isis, I beseech thee!

Iras. Amen. Dear goddess, hear that prayer
of the people! Dear Isis, keep decorum, and
fortune him accordingly!

Char. Amen.

Eno. Hush! here comes Antony.

Char. Not he, the queen.

Enter Cleopatra.

Cleo. Saw you my lord?

Eno. No, lady.

Cleo. Was he not here?

Char. No, madam.

Cl. He was disposed to mirth; but on a sudden
A Roman thought hath struck him.—Enobarbus.

Eno. Madam.

Cleo. Seek him and bring him hither. Where's
Alexas?

Alex. Here, madam, at your service.—My lord
approaches.

Enter Antony, with a Messenger and Attendants.

Cleo. We will not look upon him: Go with us.

[*Exeunt Cleopatra, Enobarbus, Alexas, Iras,
Charmian, Soothsayer, and Attendants.*]

Mess. Fulvia thy wife first came into the field.

Ant. Against my brother Lucius?

Mess. Ay:

But soon that war had end, and the time's state
Made friends of them, jointing their force 'gainst
Cæsar;

Whose better issue in the war, from Italy,
Upon the first encounter, drave them.

Ant. Well,

What worst?

Mess. The nature of bad news infects the teller.

A. When it concerns the fool, or coward.—On:
Things, that are past, are done with me.—'Tis thus:
Who tells me true, though in his tale lie death,
I hear him as he flatter'd.

Mess. Labienus

(This is stiff news) hath, with his Parthian force,

Extended¹ Asia from Euphrates;
His conquering banner shook, from Syria
To Lydia, and to Ionia;

Whilst——

Ant. Antony, thou wouldst say——

Mess. O, my lord!

Ant. Speak to me home, mince not the general
tongue;

Name Cleopatra as she's called in Rome;
Rail thou in Fulvia's phrase: and taunt my faults
With such full license, as both truth and malice
Have power to utter. O, then we bring forth

weeds,
When our quick winds lie still²; and our ill³s
told us,

Is as our earring.⁴ Fare thee well a while.

Mess. At your noble pleasure. [*Exit.*]

Ant. From Sicyon how the news? Speak
there.

1 Att. The man from Sicyon.—Is there such
an one?

2 Att. He stays upon your will.

Ant. Let him appear,—
These strong Egyptian fetters I must break,

Enter another Messenger.

Or lose myself in dotage.—What are you?

2 Mess. Fulvia thy wife is dead.

Ant. Where died she?

2 Mess. In Sicyon: [serious]
Her length of sickness, with what else more
Importeth thee to know, this bears.

[*Gives a Letter.*]

Ant. Forbear me.—

[*Exit Messenger.*]

There's a great spirit gone! Thus did I desire it:
What our contempts do often hurl from us,
We wish it ours again; the present pleasure,
By revolution lowering, does become
The opposite of itself: she's good, being gone;
The hand could pluck her back, that shov'd
her on.

I must from this enchanting queen break off;
Ten thousand harms, more than the ill³s I know,
My idleness doth hatch.—How now! Eno¹barbus?

Enter Eno¹barbus.

Eno. What's your pleasure, sir?

Ant. I must with haste from hence.

Eno. Why then, we kill all our women: We
see how mortal an unkindness is to them; if
they suffer our departure, death's the word.

Ant. I must be gone.

Eno. Under compelling occasion, let women
die: It were pity to cast them away for no-
thing; though, between them and a great cause,
they should be esteemed nothing. Cleopatra,
catching but the least noise of this, dies in-
stantly; I have seen her die twenty times upon
far poorer moment.

Ant. She is cunning past man's thought.

Eno. Alack, sir, no; her passions are made
of nothing but the finest part of pure love:
We cannot call her winds and waters, sighs and
tears; they are greater storms and tempests
than almanacks can report: this cannot be cun-

¹ Over-run. ² When we are untroubled. ³ Faults.

⁴ Is what earring (ploughing) is to the soil.

ning in her; if it be, she makes a shower of rain
as well as Jove.

Ant. Would I had never seen her!

Eno. O, sir, you had then left unseen a won-
derful piece of work; which not to have been
blessed withal, would have discredited your
travel.

Ant. Fulvia is dead.

Eno. Sir?

Ant. Fulvia is dead.

Eno. Fulvia?

Ant. Dead.

Eno. Why, sir, give the gods a thankful sac-
rifice. When it pleaseth their deities to take the
wife of a man from him, it shows to man the
tailors of the earth; comforting therein, that
when old robes are worn out, there are others
to make new. If there were no more women
but Fulvia, then had you indeed a cut, and the
case to be lamented: this grief is crowned with
consolation; and, indeed, the tears live in an
onion, that should water this sorrow.

A. The business she hath broached in the state,
Cannot endure my absence.

Eno. And the business you have broached
here, cannot be without you; especially that of
Cleopatra's, which wholly depends on your
abode.

Ant. No more light answers. Let our officers
Have notice what we propose. I shall break
The cause of our expedience¹ to the queen,
And get her love to part. For not alone
The death of Fulvia, with more urgent touches,
Do strongly speak to us: but the letters too
Of many our contriving friends in Rome
Petition us at home; Sextus Pompeius
Hath given the dare to Cæsar, and commands
The empire of the sea: our slippery people
(Whose love is never link'd to the deser-
ver, Till his deserts are past,) begin to throw
Pompey the great, and all his dignities,
Upon his son; who, high in name and power,
Higher than both in blood and life, stands up
For the main soldier: whose quality, going on,
The sides o' the world may danger: Much is
breeding,

Which, like the courser's hair, hath yet but life,
And not a serpent's poison. Say, our pleasure,
To such whose place is under us, requires
Our quick remove from hence.

Eno. I shall do't. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, Iras, and Alexas.

Cleo. Where is he?

Char. I did not see him since.

Cleo. See where he is, who's with him, what
he does:

I did not send you²—If you find him sad,
Say, I am dancing; if in mirth, report
That I am sudden sick: Quick, and return.

[*Exit Alexas.*]

Char. Madam, methinks, if you did love him
dearly,

You do not hold the method to enforce
The like from him.

¹ Expedition. ² Look as if I did not send you.

Cleo. What should I do, I do not?
Char. In each thing give him way, cross him
 in nothing.

Cleo. Thou teachest like a fool: the way to
 lose him.

Ch. Tempt him not so too far: I wish, forbear;
 In time we hate that which we often fear.

Enter Antony.

But here comes Antony.

Cleo. I am sick, and sullen.

Ant. I am sorry to give breathing to my pur-
 pose.—

Cleo. Help me away, dear Charmian, I shall fall;
 It cannot be thus long, the sides of nature
 Will not sustain it.

Ant. Now, my dearest queen,—

Cleo. Pray you, stand further from me.

Ant. What's the matter?

Cleo. I know, by that same eye, there's some
 good news.

What says the married woman?—You may go;
 'Would, she had never given you leave to come!
 Let her not say, 'tis I that keep you here,
 I have no power upon you; hers you are.

Ant. The gods best know,—

Cleo. O, never was there queen
 So mightily betray'd! Yet, at the first,
 I saw the treasons planted.

Ant. Cleopatra,—

Cleo. Why should I think you can be mine,
 and true,

Though you in swearing shake the throned gods,
 Who have been false to Fulvia? Riotous madness,
 To be entangled with those mouth-made vows,
 Which break themselves in swearing!

Ant. Most sweet queen,—

C. Nay, pray you, seek no colour for your going,
 But bid farewell, and go: when you sued staying,
 Then was the time for words: No going then;—
 Eternity was in our lips, and eyes;
 Bliss in our brows bent! none our parts so poor,
 But was a race² of heaven; They are so still,
 Or thou, the greatest soldier of the world,
 Art turn'd the greatest liar.

Ant. How now, lady!

Cleo. I would, I had thy inches; thou shouldst
 There were a heart in Egypt. [know,

Ant. Hear me, queen:

The strong necessity of time commands
 Our services awhile; but my full heart
 Remains in use with you. Our Italy
 Shines o'er with civil swords: Sextus Pompeius
 Makes his approaches to the port³ of Rome:
 Equality of two domestick powers [strength,
 Breeds scrupulous faction: The hated, grown to
 Are newly grown to love: the condemn'd Pompey,
 Rich in his father's honour, creeps apace
 Into the hearts of such as have not thriv'd
 Upon the present state, whose numbers threaten;
 And quietness, grown sick of rest, would purge
 By any desperate change: My more particular,
 And that which most with you should save my
 Is Fulvia's death. [going,

Cleo. Though age from folly could not give me
 freedom,

It does from childishness:—Can Fulvia die?

1 Eyebrows.

2 Flavour.

3 Gate.

Ant. She's dead, my queen:

Look here, and, at thy sovereign leisure, read
 The garboils¹ she awak'd; at the last, best:
 See, when, and where she died.

Cleo. O most false love!

Where be the sacred vials thou shouldst fill
 With sorrowful water? Now I see, I see,
 In Fulvia's death, how mine receiv'd shall be.

Ant. Quarrel no more, but be prepar'd to know
 The purposes I bear; which are, or cease,
 As you shall give the advice: Now, by the fire,
 That quickens Nilus' slime, I go from hence,
 Thy soldier, servant; making peace, or war,
 As thou affect'st.

Cleo. Cut my lace, Charmian, come;—
 But let it be.—I am quickly ill, and well:

So Antony loves.

Ant. My precious queen, forbear;
 And give true evidence to his love, which stands
 An honourable trial.

Cleo. So Fulvia told me.

I prythee, turn aside, and weep for her:
 Then bid adieu to me, and say, the tears
 Belong to Egypt: Good now, play one scene
 Of excellent dissembling; and let it look
 Like perfect honour.

Ant. You'll heat my blood; no more.

Cleo. You can do better yet; but this is meetly.

Ant. Now by my sword,—

Cleo. And target,—Still he mends;
 But this is not the best: Look, prythee, Charmi-
 How this Herculean Roman does become [an,
 The carriage of his chafe.³

Ant. I'll leave you, lady.

Cleo. Courteous lord, one word.

Sir, you and I must part,—but that's not it:
 Sir, you and I have lov'd,—but there's not it:
 That you know well: Something it is I would,—
 O, my oblivion is a very Antony,
 And I am all forgotten.

Ant. But that your royalty
 Holds idleness your subject, I should take you
 For idleness itself.

Cleo. 'Tis sweating labour,
 To bear such idleness so near the heart
 As Cleopatra this. But, sir, forgive me;
 Since my becomings kill me, when they do not
 Eye well to you: Your honour calls you hence;
 Therefore be deaf to my unpitied folly,
 And all the gods go with you! upon your sword
 Sit laurel'd victory! and smooth success
 Be strew'd before your feet!

Ant. Let us go. Come;
 Our separation so abides, and flies,
 That thou, residing here, go'st yet with me,
 And I, hence fleeting, here remain with thee.
 Away. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.

ROME. AN APARTMENT IN CÆSAR'S HOUSE.

Enter Octavius Cæsar, Lepidus, and Attendants.

C. You may see, Lepidus, and henceforth know
 It is not Cæsar's natural vice to hate
 One great competitor: From Alexandria
 This is the news: He fishes, drinks, and wastes
 The lamps of night in revel: is not more manlike

1 Conmotion.

2 To me, the queen.

3 Rage.

Than Cleopatra; nor the queen Ptolemy
More womanly than he: hardly gave audience, or
Vouchsaf'd to think he had partners: You shall
find there

A man, who is the abstract of all faults
That all men follow.

Lep. I must not think, there are
Evils enough to darken all his goodness:
His faults, in him, seem as the spots of heaven,
More fiery by night's blackness; hereditary,
Rather than purchas'd¹; what he cannot change,
Than what he chooses.

C. You are too indulgent: Let us grant, it is
Amiss to press the bed of Ptolemy; [not
To give a kingdom for a mirth; to sit
And keep the turn of tippling with a slave;
To reel the streets at noon, and stand the buffet
With knaves unworthy: say, this becomes him,
(As his composure must be rare indeed,
Whom these things cannot blemish,) yet must
Antony

No way excuse his soils, when we do bear
So great weight in his lightness. If he fill'd
His vacancy with his voluptuousness,
Full surfeits, and the dryness of his bones,
Call on him for't: but, to confound² such time,
That drums him from his sport, and speaks as
loud

As his own state, and ours,—'tis to be chid
As we rate boys; who being mature in knowledge,
Pawn their experience to their present pleasure,
And so rebel to judgment.

Enter a Messenger.

Lep. Here's more news.

Mess. Thy biddings have been done; and
every hour,
Most noble Cæsar, shalt thou have report
How 'tis abroad. Pompey is strong at sea;
And it appears, he is belov'd of those
That only have fear'd Cæsar: to the ports
The discontents³ repair, and men's reports
Give him much wrong'd.

Cæs. I should have known no less:—
It hath been taught us from the primal state,
That he, which is, was wish'd, until he were;
And the ebb'd man, ne'er lov'd, till ne'er worth
love, [body,
Comes dear'd by being lack'd. This common
Like a vagabond flag upon the stream,
Goes to, and back, lackeying the varying tide,
To rot itself with motion.

Mess. Cæsar, I bring thee word,
Menecrates and Menas, famous pirates,
Make the sea serve them; which they ear⁴ and
wound

With keels of every kind: Many hot inroads
They make in Italy; the borders maritime
Lack blood⁵ to think on't, and flush youth revolt:
No vessel can peep forth, but 'tis as soon
Taken as seen; for Pompey's name strikes more,
Than could his war resisted.

Cæs. Antony,
Leave thy lascivious wassels.⁶ When thou once
Wast beaten from Modena, where thou slew'st
Hirtius and Pansa, consuls, at thy heel

Did famine follow: whom thou fought'st against
Though daintily brought up, with patience more
Than savages could suffer: Thou didst drink
What beasts would cough at; thy palate then
did deign

The roughest berry on the rudest hedge;
Yea, like the stag, when snow the pasture sheets,
The barks of trees thou browsed'st; on the Alps,
It is reported, thou didst eat strange flesh,
Which some did die to look on: And all this
(It wounds thine honour, that I speak it now,)
Was borne so like a soldier, that thy cheek
So much as lank'd not.

Lep. It is pity of him.

Cæs. Let his shames quickly
Drive him to Rome: 'Tis time we twain
Did show ourselves i' the field; and, to that end,
Assemble we immediate council: Pompey
Thrives in our idleness.

Lep. To-morrow, Cæsar,
I shall be furnish'd to inform you rightly
Both, what by sea and land I can be able,
To 'front this present time.

Cæs. Till which encounter,
It is my business too. Farewell.

Lep. Farewell, my lord: What you shall know
mean time

Of stirs abroad, I shall beseech you, sir,
To let me be partaker.

Cæs. Doubt not, sir;
I knew it for my bond.¹ [Exit.

SCENE V.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, Iras, and Mardian.

Cleo. Charmian,—

Char. Madam.

Cleo. Ha, ha!—

Give me to drink mandragora.²

Char. Why, madam?

Cleo. That I might sleep out this great gap
of time,

My Antony is away.

Char. You think of him

Too much.

Cleo. O, 'tis treason!

Char. Madam, I trust, not so.

Cleo. O Charmian,

Where think'st thou he is now? Stands he, or
sits he?

Or does he walk? or is he on his horse?

O happy horse, to bear the weight of Antony!

Do bravely, horse! for wot'st thou whom thou
mov'st?

The demi-Atlas of this earth, the arm³
And burgonet⁴ of men.—He's speaking now,
Or murmuring, *Where's my serpent of old Nile?*
For so he calls me: Now I feed myself

With most delicious poison:—Think on me,
That am with Phœbus' amorous pinches black,
And wrinkled deep in time? Broad-fronted Cæsar,
When thou wast here above the ground, I was
A morsel for a monarch: and great Pompey
Would stand, and make his eyes grow in my brow;
There would he anchor his aspect, and die
With looking on his life.

1 Duty. 2 A sleepy potion. 3 Weapon. 4 Helmet.

1 Acquired. 3 Discontented. 5 Turn pale.
2 Consume. 4 Plough. 6 Feastings.

Enter Alexas.

Alex. Sovereign of Egypt, hail!

Cleo. How much unlike art thou Mark Antony!
Yet coming from him, that great medicine hath
With his tinct¹ gilded thee.—

How goes it with my brave Mark Antony?

Alex. Last thing he did, dear queen,
He kiss'd,—the last of many double kisses,—
This orient pearl;—His speech sticks in my heart.

Cleo. Mine ear must pluck it thence.

Alex. Good friend, quoth he,
Say, *The firm Roman to great Egypt sends
This treasure of an oyster; at whose foot,
To mend the petty present, I will piece
Her opulent throne with kingdoms; All the east,
Say thou, shall call her mistress.* So he nodded,
And soberly did mount a termagant² steed,
Who neigh'd so high, that what I would have
spoke

Was beastly dumb'd by him.

Cleo. What, was he sad, or merry?

Alex. Like to the time o' the year between the
extremes

Of hot and cold; he was nor sad, nor merry.

Cleo. O well-divided disposition!—Note him,
Note him, good Charmian, 'tis the man: but
note him:

He was not sad: for he would shine on those
That make their looks by his: he was not merry;
Which seem'd to tell them, his remembrance lay
In Egypt with his joy: but between both;
O heavenly mingle!—Be'st thou sad or merry,
The violence of either thee becomes;
So does it no man else.—Met'st thou my posts?

Alex. Ay, madam, twenty several messengers:
Why do you send so thick?

Cleo. Who's born that day
When I forget to send to Antony,
Shall die a beggar.—Ink and paper, Charmian.—
Welcome, my good Alexas.—Did I, Charmian,
Ever love Cæsar so?

Char. O that brave Cæsar!

Cleo. Be chok'd with such another emphasis!
Say, the brave Antony.

Char. The valiant Cæsar!

Cleo. By Isis, I will give thee bloody teeth,
If thou with Cæsar paragon again
My man of men.

Char. By your most gracious pardon,
I sing but after you.

Cleo. My salad days;
When I was green in judgment:—Cold in blood,
To say, as I said then!—But, come away:
Get me ink and paper: he shall have every day
A several greeting, or I'll unpeople Egypt.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

MESSINA. A ROOM IN POMPEY'S HOUSE.

Enter Pompey, Menecrates, and Menas.

Pom. If the great gods be just, they shall assist
The deeds of justest men.

1 Tincture.

2 Furious.

Mene. Know, worthy Pompey,
That what they do delay, they not deny.

Pom. Whiles we are suitors to their throne,
decays

The thing we sue for.

Mene. We, ignorant of ourselves,
Beg often our own arms, which the wise powers
Deny us for our good; so find we profit,
By losing of our prayers.

Pom. I shall do well:

The people love me, and the sea is mine;
My power's a crescent, and my auguring hope
Says, it will come to the full. Mark Antony
In Egypt sits at dinner, and will make
No wars without doors: Cæsar gets money,
where

He loses hearts: Lepidus flatters both,
Of both is flatter'd; but he neither loves,
Nor either cares for him.

Mene. Cæsar and Lepidus
Are in the field; a mighty strength they carry.

Pom. Where have you this? 'tis false.

Mene. From Silvius, sir.

Pom. He dreams; I know they are in Rome
together,

Looking for Antony: But all charms of love,
Salt Cleopatra, soften thy wad' lip!
Let witchcraft join with beauty!

Tie up the libertine in a field of feasts,
Keep his brain fuming; Epicurean cooks,
Sharpen with cloyless sauce his appetite;
That sleep and feeding may prorogue his
honour,

Even till¹ a Lethe'd dulness.—How now, Varrius?

Enter Varrius.

Var. This is most certain that I shall deliver:
Mark Antony is every hour in Rome
Expected; since he went from Egypt, 'tis
A space for further travel.

Pom. I could have given less matter
A better ear.—Menas, I did not think,
This amorous surfeiter would have don'd his
helm

For such a petty war: his soldiership
Is twice the other twain: But let us rear
The higher our opinion, that our stirring
Can from the lap of Egypt's widow pluck
The ne'er-lust-wearyed Antony.

Mene. I cannot hope,
Cæsar and Antony shall well greet together:
His wife, that's dead, did trespass to Cæsar;
His brother warr'd upon him; although, I
think,

Not mov'd by Antony.

Pom. I know not, Menas,
How lesser enmities may give way to greater.
Were't not that we stand up against them all,
'Twere pregnant they should square² between
themselves;

For they have entertained cause enough
To draw their swords: but how the fear of us
May cement their divisions, and bind up
The petty difference, we yet not know.
Be it as our gods will have it! It only stands
Our lives upon, to use our strongest hands.

Come, Menas. [*Exeunt.*]

1 (To.)

2 Quarrel.

SCENE II.

ROME. A ROOM IN THE HOUSE OF LEPIDUS.

Enter Enobarbus and Lepidus.

Lep. Good Enobarbus, 'tis a worthy deed,
And shall become you well, to entreat your
captain

To soft and gentle speech.

Eno. I shall entreat him
To answer like himself: If Cæsar move him,
Let Antony look over Cæsar's head,
And speak as loud as Mars. By Jupiter,
Were I the wearer of Antonius' beard,
I would not shave to-day.

Lep. 'Tis not a time
For private stomaching.

Eno. Every time
Serves for the matter that is then born in it.

Lep. But small to greater matters must give

Eno. Not if the small come first. [way.

Lep. Your speech is passion:
But, pray you, stir no embers up. Here comes
The noble Antony.

Enter Antony and Ventidius.

Eno. And yonder, Cæsar.

Enter Cæsar, Mecænas, and Agrippa.

Ant. If we compose¹ well here, to Parthia:
Hark you, Ventidius.

Cæs. I do not know,
Mecænas; ask Agrippa.

Lep. Noble friends,
That which combin'd us was most great, and let
A leaner action rend us. What's amiss, [not
May it be gently heard: When we debate
Our trivial difference loud, we do commit
Murder in healing wounds: Then, noble partners,
(The rather, for I earnestly beseech,)
Touch you the sourest points with sweetest terms
Nor curstness grow² to the matter.

Ant. 'Tis spoken well;
Were we before our armies, and to fight,
I should do thus.

Cæs. Welcome to Rome.

Ant. Thank you.

Cæs. Sit.

Ant. Sit, sir!

Cæs. Nay,
Then—

Ant. I learn you take things ill, which are not
Or, being, concern you not. [so;

Cæs. I must be laugh'd at,
If, or for nothing, or a little, I
Should say myself offended; and with you
Chiefly i' the world: more laugh'd at that I should
Once name you derogately, when to sound your
It not concern'd me. [name

Ant. My being in Egypt, Cæsar,
What was't to you?

Cæs. No more than my residing here at Rome
Might be to you in Egypt: Yet, if you there
Did practise on my state, your being in Egypt
Might be my question.³

Ant. How intend you, practis'd?

1 Agree. 2 Nor let ill humour be added.

3 Subject of conversation.

C. You may be pleas'd to catch at mine intent,
By what did here befall me. Your wife, and
brother,

Made wars upon me; and their contestation
Was theme for you, you were the word of war.

Ant. You do mistake your business; my brother
never

Did urge me in his act: I did inquire it;
And have my learning from some true reports,
That drew their swords with you. Did he not
Discredit my authority with yours; [rather
And make the wars alike against my stomach,
Having alike your cause? Of this, my letters
Before did satisfy you. If you'll patch a quarrel,
As matter whole you have not to make it with,
It must not be with this.

Cæs. You praise yourself
By laying defects of judgment to me; but
You patch'd up your excuses.

Ant. Not so, not so;

I know you could not lack, I am certain on't,
Very necessity of this thought, that I, [fought,
Your partner in the cause, 'gainst which he
Could not with graceful eyes attend those wars
Which fronted mine own peace. As for my wife,
I would you had her spirit in such another:
The third o' the world is yours; which with a
snaffle

You may pace easy, but not such a wife.

Eno. 'Would we had all such wives, that the
men might go to wars with the women!

Ant. So much incurable, her garboils,² Cæsar
Made out of her impatience, (which not wanted
Shrewdness of policy too,) I grieving grant,
Did you too much disquiet: for that you must
But say, I could not help it.

Cæs. I wrote to you,
When rioting in Alexandria; you
Did pocket up my letters, and with taunts
Did gibe my missive³ out of audience.

Ant. Sir,
He fell upon me, ere admitted; then
Three kings I had newly feasted, and did want
Of what I was i' the morning: but, next day,
I told him of myself; which was as much
As to have ask'd him pardon: Let this fellow
Be nothing of our strife; if we contend,
Out of our question⁴ wipe him.

Cæs. You have broken
The article of your oath; which you shall never
Have tongue to charge me with.

Lep. Soft, Cæsar.

Ant. No, Lepidus, let him speak;
The honour's sacred which he talks on now,
Supposing that I lack'd it: But on, Cæsar;
The article of my oath,—

Cæs. To lend me arms, and aid, when I requir'd
The which you both denied. [them;

Ant. Neglected, rather;
And then, when poison'd hours had bound me up
From mine own knowledge. As nearly as I may,
I'll play the penitent to you: but mine honesty
Shall not make poor my greatness, nor my power
Work without it: Truth is, that Fulvia,
To have me out of Egypt, made wars here;
For which myself, the ignorant motive, do

1 Opposed.

2 Commotions.

3 Messenger.

4 Conversation.

So far ask pardon, as befits mine honour
To stoop in such a case.

Lep. 'Tis nobly spoken.

M. If it might please you, to enforce no further
The griefs¹ between ye: to forget them quite,
Were to remember that the present need
Speaks to atone² you.

Lep. Worthily spoke, Mécænas.

Eno. Or, if you borrow one another's love
for the instant, you may, when you hear no
more words of Pompey, return it again: you
shall have time to wrangle in, when you have
nothing else to do.

Ant. Thou art a soldier only; speak no more.

Eno. That truth should be silent, I had almost
forgot.

Ant. You wrong this presence, therefore speak
no more.

Eno. Go to, then; your considerate stone.³

Cæs. I do not much dislike the matter, but
The manner of his speech: for it cannot be,
We shall remain in friendship, our conditions⁴
So differing in their acts. Yet, if I knew
What hoop should hold us staunch, from edge
O' the world I would pursue it. [to edge

Agri. Give me leave, Cæsar,—

Cæs. Speak, Agrippa.

Agri. Thou hast a sister by the mother's side,
Admir'd Octavia: great Mark Antony
Is now a widower.

Cæs. Say not so, Agrippa;

If Cleopatra heard you, your reproof
Were well deserv'd of rashness.

Ant. I am not married, Cæsar: let me hear
Agrippa further speak.

Agri. To hold you in perpetual amity,
To make you brothers, and to knit your hearts
With an unslipping knot, take Antony
Octavia to his wife: whose beauty claims
No worse a husband than the best of men;
Whose virtue, and whose general graces, speak
That which none else can utter. By this marriage,
All little jealousies, which now seem great,
And all great fears, which now import their
dangers,

Would then be nothing: truths would be but tales
Where now half tales be truths: her love to both,
Would, each to other, and all loves to both,
Draw after her. Pardon what I have spoke;
For 'tis a studied, not a present thought,
By duty ruminated.

Ant. Will Cæsar speak?

Cæs. Not till he hears how Antony is touch'd
With what is spoke already.

Ant. What power is in Agrippa,
If I would say, *Agrippa, be it so*,
To make this good?

Cæs. The power of Cæsar, and
His power unto Octavia.

Ant. May I never
To this good purpose, that so fairly shows,
Dream of impeding!—Let me have thy hand:
Further this act of grace; and, from this hour,
The heart of brothers govern in our loves,
And sway our great designs!

Cæs. There is my hand.

A sister I bequeath you, whom no brother
Did ever love so dearly: Let her live
To join our kingdoms, and our hearts; and never
Fly off our loves again!

Lep. Happily, amen!

Ant. I did not think to draw my sword 'gainst
Pompey;

For he hath laid strange courtesies, and great,
Of late upon me: I must thank him only,
Lest my remembrance suffer ill report;
At heel of that, defy him.

Lep. Time calls upon us:
Of us must Pompey presently be sought,
Or else he seeks out us.

Ant. And where lies he?

Cæs. About the Mount Misenum.

Ant. What's his strength
By land?

Cæs. Great and increasing: but by sea
He is an absolute master.

Ant. So is the fame.

Would we had spoke together! Haste we for it:
Yet, ere we put ourselves in arms, despatch we
The business we have talked of.

Cæs. With most gladness;
And do invite you to my sister's view,
Whither straight I will lead you.

Ant. Let us, Lepidus,
Not lack your company.

Lep. Noble Antony,
Not sickness should detain me.

[*Flourish. Exit Cæsar, Antony, and
Lepidus.*

Mec. Welcome from Egypt, sir.

E. Half the heart of Cæsar, worthy Mécænas!
—my honourable friend, Agrippa!—

Agri. Good Enobarbus!

Mec. We have cause to be glad, that matters
are so well digested. You staid well by it in
Egypt.

Eno. Ay, sir; we did sleep day out of counte-
nance, and made the night light with drinking.

Mec. Eight wild boars roasted whole at a break-
fast, and but twelve persons there; Is this true?

Eno. This was but as a fly by an eagle: we
had much more monstrous matter of feast,
which worthily deserved noting.

Mec. She's a most triumphant lady, if report
be square¹ to her.

Eno. When she first met Mark Antony, she
purs'd up his heart upon the river of Cydnus.

Agri. There she appeared indeed; or my re-
porter devised well for her.

Eno. I will tell you:

The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne,
Burn'd on the water: the poop was beaten gold;
Purple the sails, and so perfum'd, that
The winds were love-sick with them: the oars
were silver;

Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water, which they beat, to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. For her own person,
It beggar'd all description: she did lie
In her pavilion, (cloth of gold, of tissue,)
O'er-picturing that Venus, where we see
The fancy out-work nature: on each side her,
Stood pretty dimpled boys, like smiling Cupids,

With diverse-colour'd fans, whose wind did seem
To glow the delicate cheeks which they did cool,
And what they undid, did.

Agr. O, rare for Antony!

Eno. Her gentlewomen, like the Nereides,
So many mermaids, tended her i' the eyes,
And made their bends adornings: at the helm
A seeming mermaid steers; the silken tackles
Swell with the touches of those flower-soft hands,
That yarely¹ frame the office. From the barge
A strange invisible perfume hits the sense
Of the adjacent wharfs. The city cast
Her people out upon her; and Antony,
Enthron'd in the market-place, did sit alone,
Whistling to the air; which, but for vacancy,
Had gone to gaze on Cleopatra too,
And made a gap in nature.

Agr. Rare Egyptian!

Eno. Upon her landing, Antony sent to her,
Invited her to supper: she replied,
It should be better, he became her guest;
Which she entreated: Our courteous Antony,
Whom ne'er the word of No woman heard speak,
Being barber'd ten times o'er, goes to the feast;
And, for his ordinary, pays his heart,
For what his eyes eat only.

Agr. Royal wench!

She made great Cæsar lay his sword to bed.

Eno. I saw her once

Hop forty paces through the public street:
And having lost her breath, she spoke, and
That she did make defect, perfection, [panted,
And, breathless, power breathe forth.

Mec. Now Antony must leave her utterly.

Eno. Never; he will not.

Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety: Other women [hungry
Cloy th' appetites they feed; but she makes
Where most she satisfies. For vilest things
Become themselves in her.

Mec. If beauty, wisdom, modesty, can settle
The heart of Antony, Octavia is
A blessed lottery to him.

Agr. Let us go.—

Good Enocharbus, make yourself my guest,
Whilst you abide here.

Eno. Humbly, sir, I thank you.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN CÆSAR'S HOUSE.

*Enter Cæsar, Antony, Octavia between them;
Attendants and a Soothsayer.*

Ant. The world, and my great office, will some-
Divide me from your bosom. [times
Octa. All which time
Before the gods my knee shall bow in prayers
To them for you.

Ant. Good night, sir.—My Octavia,
Read not my blemishes in the world's report;
I have not kept my square; but that to come
Shall all be done by the rule. Good night, dear
Octa. Good night, sir. [lady.—
Cæs. Good night.

[*Exeunt Cæsar and Octavia.*]

Ant. Now, sirrah! you do wish yourself in
Egypt?

¹ Readily.

Soo. Would I had never come from thence, nor
Thither!

Ant. If you can, your reason?

Sooth. I see't in
My motion, have it not in my tongue: But yet
Hie you again to Egypt.

Ant. Say to me,
Whose fortunes shall rise higher, Cæsar's or
Sooth. Cæsar's. [mine?

Therefore, O Antony, stay not by his side:
Thy daemon, that's thy spirit which keeps thee, is
Noble, courageous, high, unmatchable,
Where Cæsar's is not; but near him, thy angel
Becomes a Fear, as being o'erpower'd; therefore
Make space enough between you.

Ant. Speak this no more.

Sooth. To none but thee; no more, but when
to thee.

If thou dost play with him at any game,
Thou art sure to lose; and, of that natural luck,
He beats thee 'gainst the odds; thy lustre
thickens,

When he shines by: I say again, thy spirit
Is all afraid to govern thee near him;
But, he away, 'tis noble.

Ant. Get thee gone:
Say to Ventidius, I would speak with him:

[*Exit Soothsayer.*]

He shall to Parthia.—Be it art, or hap,
He hath spoken true: the very dice obey him;
And, in our sports, my better cunning faints
Under his chance: if we draw lots, he speeds:
His cocks do win the battles still of mine,
When it is all to nought; and his quails ever
Beat mine, inhoop'd¹ at odds. I will to Egypt:
And, though I make this marriage for my peace,

Enter Ventidius.

I' the east my pleasure lies:—O, come, Ventidius,
You must to Parthia; your commission's ready:
Follow me, and receive it. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—A STREET.

Enter Lepidus, Mecenas, and Agrippa.

Lep. Trouble yourselves no further: pray you
Your generals after. [hasten

Agr. Sir, Mark Antony
Will e'en but kiss Octavia, and we'll follow.

Lep. Till I shall see you in your soldier's dress,
Which will become you both, farewell.

Mec. We shall,
As I conceive the journey, be at Mount
Before you, Lepidus.

Lep. Your way is shorter,
My purposes do draw me much about;
You'll win two days upon me.

Mec. & Agr. Sir, good success!
Lep. Farewell. [Exit.

SCENE V.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, Iras, and Alexas.

Cleo. Give me some musick; musick; moody²
Of us that trade in love. [food
Attendant. The musick, ho!

¹ Enclosed.

² Melancholy.

Enter Mardian.

Cleo. Let it alone; let us to billiards:
Come, Charmian.

Char. My arm is sore, best play with Mardian.

Cleo. Come, you'll play with me, sir?

Mar. As well as I can, madam.

Cleo. And when good will is show'd, though
it come too short,

The actor may plead pardon. I'll none now:—
Give me mine angle,—We'll to the river: there,
My musick playing far off, I will betray
Tawny-finn'd fishes; my bended hook shall pierce
Their slimy jaws; and, as I draw them up,
I'll think them every one an Antony,
And say, Ah! ha! you're caught.

Char. 'Twas merry, when
You wager'd on your angling; when your diver
Did hang a salt-fish on his hook, which he
With fervency drew up.

Cleo. That time!—O times!—
I laugh'd him out of patience; and that night
I laugh'd him into patience! and next morn,
Ere the ninth hour, I drunk him to his bed;
Then put my tires¹ and mantles on him, whilst
I wore his sword Philippan. O! from Italy;

Enter a Messenger.

Ram thou thy fruitful tidings in mine ears,
That long time have been barren.

Mess. Madam, madam,—

Cleo. Antony's dead?—

If thou say so, villain, thou kill'st thy mistress:
But well and free,
If thou so yield him, there is gold, and here
My bluest veins to kiss: a hand, that kings
Have lipp'd, and trembled kissing.

Mess. First, madam, he's well.

Cleo. Why, there's more gold. But, sirrah,
mark; We use

To say, the dead are well; bring it to that,
The gold I give thee, will I melt, and pour
Down thy ill-uttering throat.

Mess. Good madam, hear me.

Cleo. Well, go to, I will;
But there's no goodness in thy face: if Antony
Be free and healthful,—why so tart a favour²
To trumpet such good tidings? If not well,
Thou shouldst come like a fury crown'd with
snakes,

Not like a formal³ man.

Mess. Will't please you hear me?

Cleo. I have a mind to strike thee, ere thou
speak'st:

Yet, if thou say, Antony lives, is well,
Or friends with Cæsar, or not captive to him,
I'll set thee in a shower of gold, and hail
Rich pearls upon thee.

Mess. Madam, he's well.

Cleo. Well said.

Mess. And friends with Cæsar.

Cleo. Thou'rt an honest man.

M. Cæsar and he are greater friends than ever.

Cleo. Make thee a fortune from me.

Mess. But yet, madam—

Cleo. I do not like but yet, it does allay
The good precedence; fie upon but yet:

¹ Head dress.

² So sour a countenance.

³ Decent.

But yet is as a gaoler to bring forth
Some monstrous malefactor. Pr'ythee, friend,
Pour out the pack of matter to mine ear,
The good and bad together: He's friends with
Cæsar;

In state of health, thou say'st; and, thou say'st
free.

M. Free, madam! no; I made no such report:
He's bound unto Octavia.

Cleo. I am pale, Charmian.

Mess. Madam, he's married to Octavia.

Cl. The most infectious pestilence upon thee!
[Strikes him down.]

Mess. Good madam, patience.

Cleo. What say you?—Hence,
[Strikes him again.]

Horrible villain! or I'll spurn thine eyes
Like balls before me; I'll unhair thy head;

[She hales him up and down.]
Thou shalt be whipp'd with wire, and stew'd in
Smarting in ling'ring pickle. [brine,

Mess. Gracious madam,
I, that do bring the news, made not the match.

Cleo. Say, 'tis not so, a province I will give thee,
And make thy fortunes proud: the blow thou
hadst

Shall make thy peace, for moving me to rage;
And I will boot¹ thee with what gift beside
Thy modesty can beg.

Mess. He's married, madam.

Cleo. Rogue, thou hast liv'd too long.

[Draws a Dagger.]
Mess. Nay, then I'll run:—

What mean you, madam? I have made no fault.
[Exit.]

Ch. Good madam, keep yourself within your-
The man is innocent. [self;

Cleo. Some innocents 'scape not the thunder-
bolt.—

Melt Egypt into Nile! and kindly creatures
Turn all to serpents!—Call the slave again;
Though I am mad, I will not bite him:—Call.

Char. He is afraid to come.

Cleo. I will not hurt him:—
These hands do lack nobility, that they strike
A meaner than myself; since I myself
Have given myself the cause.—Come hither, sir.

Re-enter Messenger.

Though it be honest, it is never good
To bring bad news: Give to a gracious message
An host of tongues; but let ill tidings tell
Themselves, when they be felt.

Mess. I have done my duty.

Cleo. Is he married?

I cannot hate thee worse than I do,

If thou again say, Yes.

Mess. He is married, madam.

Cleo. The gods confound thee! dost thou hold
there still?

Mess. Should I lie, madam?

Cleo.—O, I would, thou didst;
So half my Egypt were submerg'd, and made
A cistern for scald snakes! Go, get thee hence;
Hadst thou Narcissus in thy face, to me
Thou wouldst appear most ugly. He is married?

Mess. I crave your highness' pardon.

¹ Recompense.

Cleo. He is married?

Mess. Take no offence, that I would not offend you:

To punish me for what you make me do, Seems much unequal: He is married to Octavia.

Cleo. O, that his fault should make a knave of thee,

That art not! What? thou'rt sure of't?—Get thee hence:

The merchandise which thou hast brought from Rome

Are all too dear for me; Lie they upon thy hand, And be undone by 'em! [*Exit Messenger.*]

Char. Good your highness, patience.

Cleo. In praising Antony, I have dispraised Cæsar.

Char. Many times, madam.

Cleo. I am paid for't now.

Lead me from hence,

I faint, O Iras, Charmian,—"Tis no matter:—

Go to the fellow, good Alexas; bid him

Report the feature of Octavia, her years,

Her inclination, let him not leave out

The colour of her hair:—bring me word quickly.—

[*Exit Alexas.*]

Let him for ever go:—Let him not—Charmian,

Though he be painted one way like a Gorgon, T'other way he's a Mars:—[*To Mardian*] Bid you Alexas

Bring me word, how tall she is.—Pity me, Charmian,

But do not speak to me.—Lead me to my chamber. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VI.—NEAR MISENUM.

Enter Pompey and Menas, at one side, with Drum and Trumpet: at another, Cæsar, Lepidus, Antony, Enobarbus, Mæcenas, with Soldiers marching.

Pom. Your hostages I have, so have you mine: And we shall talk before we fight.

Cæs. Most meet, That first we come to words; and therefore have Our written purposes before us sent; [we Which, if thou hast consider'd, let us know If't will tie up thy discontented sword; And carry back to Sicily much tall¹ youth That else must perish here.

Pom. To you all three, The senators alone of this great world, Chief factors for the gods,—I do not know, Wherefore my father should revengers want, Having a son, and friends; since Julius Cæsar, Who at Philippi the good Brutus ghosted,² There saw you labouring for him. What was it, That mov'd pale Cassius to conspire? And what Made the all-honour'd, honest, Roman Brutus, With the arm'd rest, courteous of beauteous freedom,

To drench the Capitol; but that they would Have one man but a man? And that is it, Hath made me rig my navy; at whose burden The anger'd ocean foams; with which I meant To scourge the ingratitude that despiteful Rome Cast on my noble father.

Cæs. Take your time.

1 Brave.

2 Haunted.

Ant. Thou canst not fear¹ us, Pompey, with thy sails,

We'll speak with thee at sea: at land, thou know'st How much we do o'er-count thee.

Pom. At land, indeed, Thou dost o'er-count me of my father's house: But, since the cuckoo builds not for himself, Remain in't as thou mayst.

Lep. Be pleas'd to tell us, (For this is from the present,²) how you take The offers we have sent you.

Cæs. There's the point.

Ant. Which do not be entreated to, but weigh What it is worth embrac'd.

Cæs. And what may follow, To try a larger fortune.

Pom. You have made me offer Of Sicily, Sardinia; and I must Rid all the sea of pirates; then, to send Measures of wheat to Rome: This 'greed upon, To part with unhack'd edges, and bear back Our targe³ undinted.

Cæs. Ant. Lep. That's our offer.

Pom. Know then, I came before you, here, a man prepar'd To take this offer: But Mark Antony Put me to some impatience:—Though I lose The praise of it by telling, You must know, When Cæsar and your brothers were at blows, Your mother came to Sicily, and did find Her welcome friendly.

Ant. I have heard it, Pompey; And am well studied for a liberal thanks, Which I do owe you.

Pom. Let me have your hand: I did not think, sir, to have met you here.

Ant. The beds i' the east are soft; and thanks to you,

That call'd me, timelier than my purpose, hither, For I have gain'd by it.

Cæs. Since I saw you last, There is a change upon you.

Pom. Well, I know not What counts⁴ harsh fortune casts upon my face; But in my bosom shall she never come, To make my heart her vassal.

Lep. Well met here.

Pom. I hope so, Lepidus.—Thus we are agreed: I crave our composition may be written, And seal'd between us.

Cæs. That's the next to do.

P. We'll feast each other, ere we part; and let us Draw lots who shall begin.

Ant. That will I, Pompey.

Pom. No, Antony, take the lot: but, first, Or last, your fine Egyptian cookery Shall have the fame. I have heard, that Julius

Cæsar Grew fat with feasting there.

Ant. You have heard much.

Pom. I have fair meanings, sir.

Ant. And fair words to them.

Pom. Then so much have I heard:

And I have heard, Apollodorus carried—

Eno. No more of that:—He did so.

Pom. What, I pray you?

1 Shield. 2 Present subject. 3 Affright. 4 Marks.

Eno. A certain queen to Cæsar in a mattress.

Pom. I know thee now;—How far'st thou, soldier?

Eno. Well:

And well am like to do: for, I perceive,
Four feasts are toward.

Pom. Let me shake thy hand;
I never hated thee: I have seen thee fight,
When I have envied thy behaviour.

Eno. Sir,
I never lov'd you much; but I have prais'd you,
When you have well deserv'd ten times as much
As I have said you did.

Pom. Enjoy thy plainness,
It nothing ill becomes thee.—
Aboard my galley, I invite you all:
Will you lead, lords?

Cæs. Ant. Lep. Show us the way, sir.

Pom. Come.

[*Exeunt Pompey, Cæsar, Antony, Lepidus,
Soldiers, and Attendants.*]

Men. [*Aside.*] Thy father, Pompey, would
ne'er have made this treaty.—You and I have
known,¹ sir.

Eno. At sea, I think.

Men. We have, sir.

Eno. You have done well by water.

Men. And you by land.

Eno. I will praise any man that will praise
me, though it cannot be denied what I have
done by land.

Men. Nor what I have done by water.

Eno. Yes, something you can deny for your
own safety: you have been a great thief by sea.

Men. And you by land.

Eno. There I deny my land service. But give
me your hand, Menas: If our eyes had author-
ity, here they might take two thieves kissing.

Men. All men's faces are true, whatsoe'er their
hands are.

Eno. But there is never a fair woman has a
true face.

Men. No slander; they steal hearts.

Eno. We came hither to fight with you.

Men. For my part, I am sorry it is turned to
a drinking. Pompey doth this day laugh away
his fortune.

E. If he do, sure he cannot weep it back again.

Men. You have said, sir. We looked not for
Mark Antony here; Pray you, is he married to
Cleopatra?

Eno. Cæsar's sister is called Octavia.

Men. True, sir; she was the wife of Caius
Marcellus.

Eno. But she is now the wife of Marcus An-
tonius.

Men. Pray you, sir?

Eno. 'Tis true.

M. Then is Cæsar and he forever knit together.

Eno. If I were bound to divine of this unity,
I would not prophesy so.

Men. I think the policy of that purpose made
more in the marriage, than the love of the parties.

Eno. I think so too. But you shall find, the
band that seems to tie their friendship together,
will be the very strangler of their amity: Octavia
is of a holy, cold, and still conversation.

¹ Been acquainted.

Men. Who would not have his wife so?

Eno. Not he, that himself is not so; which
is Mark Antony. He will to his Egyptian dish
again: then shall the sighs of Octavia blow the
fire up in Cæsar: and, as I said before, that
which is the strength of their amity, shall prove
the immediate author of their variance. Antony
will use his affection where it is; he married but
his occasion here.

Men. And thus it may be. Come, sir, will
you aboard? I have a health for you.

Eno. I shall take it, sir: we have used our
throats in Egypt.

Men. Come; let's away. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—ON BOARD POMPEY'S GALLEY,
LYING NEAR MISENUM.

Musick. Enter two or three Servants, with a
Banquet.

¹ *Serv.* Here they'll be, man: Some o' their
plants are ill-rooted¹ already; the least wind i'
the world will blow them down.

² *Serv.* Lepidus is high-coloured.

¹ *Serv.* They have made him drink alms-drink.²

² *Serv.* As they pinch one another by the dis-
position,³ he cries out, *No more*; reconciles
them to his entreaty, and himself to the drink.

¹ *Serv.* But it raises the greater war between
him and his discretion.

² *Serv.* Why this it is to have a name in great
men's fellowship: I had as lief⁴ have a reed that
will do me no service, as a partizan⁵ I could not
heave.

¹ *Serv.* To be called into a huge sphere, and
not to be seen to move in't, are the holes where
eyes should be, which pitifully disaster the
cheeks.

A Sennet sounded. Enter Cæsar, Antony, Pom-
pey, Lepidus, Agrippa, Mecænas, Enobarbus,
Menas, with other Captains.

Ant. [*To Cæsar.*] Thus do they, sir: They take
the flow o' the Nile

By certain scales i' the pyramid; they know,
By the height, the lowness, or the mean, if
dearth,

Or foison,⁶ follow: The higher Nilus swells,
The more it promises: as it ebbs, the seedsman
Upon the slime and ooze scatters his grain,
And shortly comes to harvest.

Lep. You have strange serpents there.

Ant. Ay, Lepidus.

Lep. Your serpent of Egypt is bred now of
your mud by the operation of your sun; so is
your crocodile.

Ant. They are so.

Pom. Sit,—and some wine.—A health to
Lepidus.

Lep. I am not so well as I should be, but I'll
ne'er out.

Eno. Not till you have slept; I fear me, you'll
be in, till then.

L. Nay, certainly, I have heard, the Ptolemies'
pyramids⁷ are very goodly things; without con-
tradiction, I have heard that.

¹ Feet are unsteady.

² More than his share.

³ Touch on any sore point.

⁴ Willingly.

⁵ Pike.

⁶ Plenty.

⁷ Pyramids.

Men. [*Aside.*] Pompey, a word.

Pom. Say in mine ear: What is't?

Men. [*Aside.*] Forsake thy seat, I do beseech thee, captain,

And hear me speak a word.

Pom. Forbear me till anon.—

This wine for Lepidus.

Lep. What manner o' thing is your crocodile?

Ant. It is shaped, sir, like itself; and it is as broad as it hath breadth: it is just so high as it is, and moves with its own organs: it lives by that which nourisheth it; and the elements once out of it, it transmigrates.

Lep. What colour is it of?

Ant. Of its own colour too.

Lep. 'Tis a strange serpent.

Ant. 'Tis so. And the tears of it are wet.

Cæs. Will this description satisfy him?

Ant. With the health that Pompey gives him, else he is a very epicure.

Pom. [*To Menas aside.*] Go, hang, sir, hang!

Tell me of that? away!

Do as I bid you.—Where's this cup I called for?

Men. [*Aside.*] If for the sake of merit thou wilt hear me,

Rise from thy stool.

Pom. I think, thou'rt mad. The matter?

[*Rises, and walks aside.*]

Men. I have ever held my cap off to thy fortunes.

Pom. Thou hast serv'd me with much faith:

What's else to say?

Be jolly, lords.

Ant. These quick-sands, Lepidus,

Keep off them, for you sink.

Men. Wilt thou be lord of all the world?

Pom. What sayst thou?

Men. Wilt thou be lord of the whole world? That's twice.

Pom. How should that be?

Men. But entertain it, and,

Although thou think me poor, I am the man Will give thee all the world.)

Pom. Hast thou drunk well?

M. No, Pompey, I have kept me from the cup.

Thou art, if thou dar'st be, the earthly Jove:

Whate'er the ocean pales,¹ or sky inclips,²

Is thine, if thou wilt have't.

Pom. Show me which way.

Men. These three world-sharers, these competitors,³

Are in thy vessel: Let me cut the cable;

And, when we are put off, fall to their throats: All there is thine.

Pom. Ah, this thou shouldst have done, And not have spoke on't! in me, 'tis villainy; In thee, it had been good service. Thou must know,

'Tis not my profit that doth lead mine honour; Mine honour, it. Repent, that e'er thy tongue Hath so betray'd thine act: Being done unknown,

I should have found it afterwards well done; But must condemn it now. Desist, and drink.

Men. [*Aside.*] For this?

I'll never follow thy pall'd⁴ fortunes more.—

¹ Encompasses.

² Embraces.

³ Confederates.

⁴ Impaired.

Who seeks, and will not take, when once 'tis Shall never find it more. [*offer'd.*]

Pom. This help to Lepidus.

Ant. Bear him ashore.—I'll pledge it for him,

Eno. Here's to thee, Menas. [*Pompey.*]

Men. Enobarbus, welcome.

Pom. Fill, till the cup be hid.

Eno. There's a strong fellow, Menas.

[*Pointing to the Attendant who carries off Lepidus.*]

Men. Why?

Eno. He bears

The third part of the world, man; Seest not?

Men. The third part then is drunk: 'Would it were all,

That it might go on wheels!

Eno. Drink thou; increase the reels.

Men. Come.

Pom. This is not yet an Alexandrian feast.

A. It ripens towards it.—Strike the vessels, Here is to Cæsar. [*ho!*]

Cæs. I could well forbear it.

It's monstrous labour when I wash my brain, And it grows fouler.

Ant. Be a child o' the time.

Cæs. Possess¹ it, I'll make answer: But I had rather fast

From all, four days, than drink so much in one.

Eno. Ha, my brave emperor! [*To Antony.*]

Shall we dance now the Egyptian Bacchanals, And celebrate our drink?

Pom. Let's ha't, good soldier.

Ant. Come, let us all take hands;

Till that the conquering wine hath steep'd our sense

In soft and delicate Lethe.

Eno. All take hands.—

Make battery to our ears with the loud musick:—

The while, I'll place you: Then the boy shall sing;

The holding² every man shall bear, as loud

As his strong sides can volley.

[*Musick plays. Enobarbus places them hand in hand.*]

SONG.

Come, thou monarch of the vine,

Plumpey Bacchus, with pink eyne³:

In thy vats our cares be drown'd;

With thy grapes our hairs be crown'd;

Cup us, till the world go round;

Cup us, till the world go round!

Cæs. What would you more?—Pompey, good night. Good brother,

Let me request you off: our graver business Frown sat this levity.—Gentle lords, let's part; You see, we have burnt our cheeks: strong Enobarbe

Is weaker than the wine; and mine own tongue Splits what it speaks: the wild disguise hath almost

Antick'd us all. What needs more words? Good night.—

Good Antony, your hand.

Pom. I'll try you o' the shore.

Ant. And shall, sir: give's your hand.

Pom. O, Antony,

1 Understand.

2 Chorus.

3 Eyes.

You have my father's house,—But what? we are friends:

Come, down into the boat.

Eno. Take heed you fall not.—

[*Exeunt Pompey, Cæsar, Antony, and Attendants.*]

Menas, I'll not on shore.

Men.

No, to my cabin.—

These drums, these trumpets, flutes! what!—
Let Neptune hear we bid a loud farewell
To these great fellows: sound, and be hang'd,
sound out.

[*A Flourish of Trumpets, with Drums.*]

Eno. Ho, says 'a!—There's my cap.

Men.

Ho!—noble captain!

Come. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A PLAIN IN SYRIA.

Enter Ventidius, as after Conquest, with Silius, and other Romans, Officers, and Soldiers; the dead body of Pacorus borne before him.

Ven. Now, darting Parthia, art thou struck;
and now

Pleas'd fortune does of Marcus Crassus' death
Make me revenger.—Bear the king's son's body
Before our army:—Thy Pacorus, Orodes,
Pays this for Marcus Crassus.

Sil. Noble Ventidius,

Whilst yet with Parthian blood thy sword is
warm,

The fugitive Parthians follow; spur through
Media,

Mesopotamia, and the shelters whither
The routed fly: so thy grand captain Antony
Shall set thee on triumphant chariots, and
Put garlands on thy head.

Ven.

O Silius, Silius,

I have done enough: A lower place, note well,
May make too great an act: For learn this,
Silius;

Better leave undone, than by our deed acquire
Too high a fame, when him we serve's away.
Cæsar, and Antony, have ever won
More in their officer, than person: Sossius,
One of my place in Syria, his lieutenant,
For quick accumulation of renown,
Which he achiev'd by the minute, lost his favour:
Who does i' the wars more than his captain can,
Becomes his captain's captain; and ambition,
The soldier's virtue, rather makes choice of loss,
Than gain, which darkens him.

I could do more to do Antonius good,
But 'twould offend him; and in his offence
Should my performance perish.

Sil.

Thou hast, Ventidius,

That without which a soldier, and his sword,
Grants scarce distinction. Thou wilt write to
Antony?

Ven. I'll humbly signify what in his name,
That magical word of war, we have effected;
How, with his banners, and his well-paid ranks,
The ne'er-yet-beaten horse of Parthia
We have jaded out o' the field.

Sil.

Where is he now?

Ven. He purposeth to Athens: whither with
what haste

The weight we must convey with us will permit,
We shall appear before him.—On, there; pass
along. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

ROME. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN CÆSAR'S HOUSE.

Enter Agrippa and Enobarbus, meeting.

Agr. What, are the brothers parted?

Eno. They have despatch'd with Pompey, he
is gone;

The other three are sealing. Octavia weeps
To part from Rome: Cæsar is sad; and Lepidus,
Since Pompey's feast, as Menas says, is troubled
With the green-sickness.

Agr. 'Tis a noble Lepidus.

Eno. A very fine one: O, how he loves Cæsar!

Agr. Nay, but how dearly he adores Mark
Antony!

E. Cæsar, why he's the Jupiter of men.

Agr. What's Antony? The god of Jupiter.

Eno. Spake you of Cæsar? How? the nonpareil!

Agr. O Antony! O thou Arabian bird!

Eno. Would you praise Cæsar, say, Cæsar;—
go no further. [*praises.*]

A. Indeed, he ply'd them both with excellent

Eno. But he loves Cæsar best;—Yet he loves
Antony: [*poets, cannot*]

Ho! hearts, tongues, figures, scribes, bards,
Think, speak, cast, write, sing, number, ho, his love
To Antony. But as for Cæsar,
Kneel down, kneel down, and wonder.

Agr. Both he loves.

Eno. They are his shards,² and he their beetle.

So. [*Trumpets.*]

This is to horse.—Adieu, noble Agrippa.

A. Good fortune, worthy soldier; and farewell.

Enter Cæsar, Antony, Lepidus, and Octavia.

Ant. No further, sir.

Cæs. You take from me a great part of myself;
Use me well in it.—Sister, prove such a wife
As my thoughts make thee, and as my furthest
band³

Shall pass on thy approof.—Most noble Antony,
Let not the piece of virtue,⁴ which is set
Betwixt us, as the cement of our love,
To keep it builded, be the ram, to batter
The fortress of it: for better might we
Have loved without this mean, if on both parts
This be not cherish'd.

Ant. Make me not offended

In your distrust.

Cæs. I have said.

Ant.

You shall not find,
Though you be therein curious,⁵ the least cause
For what you seem to fear: So, the gods keep you,
And make the hearts of Romans serve your ends!
We will here part. [*well;*]

Cæs. Farewell, my dearest sister, fare thee
The elements be kind to thee, and make
Thy spirits all of comfort! fare thee well.

Octa. My noble brother!—

1 The phoenix. 3 Bond. 5 Scrupulous.

2 Wing-sheath. 4 (Octavia.)

A. The April's in her eyes: It is love's spring,
And these the showers to bring it on.—Becheerful.
O. Sir, look well to my husband's house; and—
Cæs. What,
Octavia?

Octa. I'll tell you in your ear.

Ant. Her tongue will not obey her heart, nor can
Her heart inform her tongue: the swan's down
feather,

That stands upon the swell at full of tide,
And neither way inclines.

Eno. [*Aside to Agrippa.*] Will Cæsar weep?

Agri. He has a cloud in's face.

E. He were the worse for that, were he a horse;
So is he, being a man.

Agri. Why, Enobarbus?

When Antony found Julius Cæsar dead,
He cried almost to roaring; and he wept,
When at Philippi he found Brutus slain.

Eno. That year, indeed, he was troubled with
a rheum;

What willingly he did confound,¹ he wail'd:
Believe it, till I weep too.

Cæs. No, sweet Octavia,
You shall hear from me still: the time shall not
Out-go my thinking on you.

Ant. Come, sir, come;
I'll wrestle with you in my strength of love:
Look, here I have you; thus I let you go,
And give you to the gods.

Cæs. Adieu; be happy!

Lep. Let all the number of the stars give light
To thy fair way!

Cæs. Farewell, farewell! [*Kisses Octavia.*]

Ant. Farewell!

[*Trumpets sound. Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, Iras, and Alexas.

Cleo. Where is the fellow?

Alex. Half afeard to come.

Cleo. Go to, go to:—Come hither, sir.

Enter a Messenger.

Alex. Good majesty,
Herod of Jewry dare not look upon you,
But when you are well pleas'd.

Cleo. That Herod's head
I'll have: But how? when Antony is gone,
Through whom I might command it.—Come
thou near.

Mess. Most gracious majesty,—

Cleo. Didst thou behold
Octavia?

Mess. Ay, dread queen.

Cleo. Where?

Mess. Madam, in Rome
I look'd her in the face, and saw her led
Between her brother and Mark Antony.

Cleo. Is she as tall as me?

Mess. She is not, madam.

Cleo. Didst hear her speak? is she shrill-
tongu'd, or low?

Mess. Madam, I heard her speak; she is low-

¹ Destroy.

Cleo. That's not so good:—He cannot like her
Char. Like her! O Isis! 'tis impossible. [*long.*]
Cleo. I think so, Charmian: Dull of tongue,
and dwarfish!—

What majesty is in her gait? Remember
If e'er thou look'dst on majesty.

Mess. She creeps;

Her motion and her station¹ are as one;

She shows a body rather than a life;

A statue, than a breather.

Cleo. Is this certain?

Mess. Or I have no observance.

Char. Three in Egypt

Cannot make better note.

Cleo. He's very knowing,
I do perceive't:—There's nothing in her yet:—
The fellow has good judgment.

Char. Excellent.

Cleo. Guess at her years, I pry'thee.

Mess. Madam,
She was a widow.

Cleo. Widow?—Charmian, hark.

Mess. And I do think, she's thirty.

Cleo. Bear'st thou her face in mind? Is it
long, or round?

Mess. Round even to faultiness.

Cleo. For the most part too,
They are foolish that are so.—Her hair, what
colour?

M. Brown, madam: And her forehead is as low
As she would wish it.

Cleo. There is gold for thee.

Thou must not take my former sharpness ill:

I will employ thee back again; I find thee

Most fit for business: Go, make thee ready;

Our letters are prepar'd. [*Exit Messenger.*]

Char. A proper man.

Cleo. Indeed he is so: I repent me much,
That so I harry'd² him. Why, methinks, by him,
This creature's no such thing.

Char. O, nothing, madam.

Cleo. The man hath seen some majesty, and
should know.

Char. Hath he seen majesty? Isis else defend,
And serving you so long!

Cleo. I have one thing more to ask him yet,
good Charmian:

But 'tis no matter: thou shalt bring him to me
Where I will write: All may be well enough.

Char. I warrant you, madam. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

ATHENS. A ROOM IN ANTONY'S HOUSE.

Enter Antony and Octavia.

Ant. Nay, nay, Octavia, not only that,—
That were excusable, that, and thousands more
Of semblable import,—but he hath wag'd
New wars 'gainst Pompey; made his will, and
read it

To publick ear:

Spoke scantily of me: when perforce he could not
But pay me terms of honour, cold and sickly
He vented them; most narrow measure lent me:
When the best hint was given him, he not took't,
Or did it from his teeth.³

¹ Act of standing. ² Used roughly. ³ Bitterly.

Octa. O my good lord,
Believe not all; or, if you must believe,
Stomach¹ not all. A more unhappy lady,
If this division chance, ne'er stood between,
Praying for both parts:
And the good gods will mock me presently,
When I shall pray, *O, bless my lord and husband!*
Undo that prayer, by crying out as loud,
O, bless my brother! Husband win, win brother,
Prays, and destroys the prayer; no midway
'Twixt these extremes at all.

Ant. Gentle Octavia,
Let your best love draw to that point, which seeks
Best to preserve it: If I lose mine honour,
I lose myself: better I were not yours,
Than yours so branchless. But, as you requested,
Yourself shall go between us: The mean time,
lady,

I'll raise the preparation of a war
Shall stain² your brother; Make your soonest
So your desires are yours. [haste:]

Octa. Thanks to my lord.
The Jove of power make me most weak, most
weak,

Your reconciler! Wars 'twixt you twain would be
As if the world should cleave, and that slain men
Should solder up the rift.

A. When it appears to you where this begins,
Turn your displeasure that way; for our faults
Can never be so equal, that your love
Can equally move with them. Provide your
going;

Choose your own company, and command what
Your heart has mind to. [cost] [Exeunt.]

SCENE V.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Enobarbus and Eros, meeting.

Eno. How now, friend Eros?

Eros. There's strange news come, sir.

Eno. What, man?

Eros. Cæsar and Lepidus have made wars
upon Pompey.

Eno. This is old; What is the success³?

Eros. Cæsar, having made use of him⁴ in the
wars 'gainst Pompey, presently denied him riva-
lity⁵; would not let him partake in the glory of
the action: and not resting here, accuses him of
letters he had formerly wrote to Pompey; upon
his own appeal,⁶ seizes him: So the poor third
is up, till death enlarge his confine.

Eno. Then, world, thou hast a pair of chaps,⁷
no more;

And throw between them all the food thou hast,
They'll grind the one the other. Where's Antony?

Eros. He's walking in the garden—thus; and
spurns

The rush that lies before him; cries, *Fool,*
Lepidus!

And threatens the throat of that his officer,
That murder'd Pompey.

Eno. Our great navy's rigged.

Eros. For Italy and Cæsar. More, Domitius;
My lord desires you presently: my news
I might have told hereafter.

Eno. 'Twill be naught:
But let it be.—Bring me to Antony.
Eros. Come, sir.

SCENE VI.

ROME. A ROOM IN CÆSAR'S HOUSE.

Enter Cæsar, Agrippa, and Mecenas.

Cæs. Contemning Rome, he has done all this:
And more;

In Alexandria,—here's the manner of it,—
I' the market-place, on a tribunal silver'd,
Cleopatra and himself in chairs of gold
Were publicly enthron'd; at the feet, sat
Cæsarion, whom they call my father's son;
And all the unlawful issue, that their lust
Since then hath made between them. Unto her
He gave the 'stablishment of Egypt; made her
Of lower Syria, Cyprus, Lydia,
Absolute queen.

Mec. This in the publick eye?

Cæs. I' the common show-place, where they
exercise,

His sons he there proclaim'd, The kings of kings:
Great Media, Parthia, and, Armenia
He gave to Alexander; to Ptolemy he assigned
Syria, Cilicia, and Phœnicia: She
In the habiliments of the goddess Isis
That day appear'd; and oft before gave audience,
As 'tis reported, so.

Mec. Let Rome be thus
Inform'd.

Ag. Who, queasy¹ with his insolence
Already, will their good thoughts call from him.

Cæs. The people know it; and have now re-
His accusations. [ceiv'd]

Ag. Whom does he accuse?

Cæs. Cæsar: and that, having in Sicily
Sextus Pompeius spoil'd, we had not rated² him
His part o' the isle: then does he say, he lent me
Some shipping unresto'r'd: lastly, he frets,
That Lepidus of the triumvirate
Should be depos'd; and, being, that we detain
All his revenue.

Ag. Sir, this should be answer'd.

C. 'Tis done already, and the messenger gone.
I have told him, Lepidus was grown too cruel;
That he his high authority abus'd,
And did deserve his change; for what I have
conquer'd,

I grant him part; but then, in his Armenia,
And other of his conquer'd kingdoms, I
Demand the like.

Mec. He'll never yield to that.

Cæs. Nor must not then be yielded to in this.

Enter Octavia.

Octa. Hail, Cæsar, and my lord! hail, most
dear Cæsar!

Cæs. That ever I should call thee cast-away!

Octa. You have not call'd me so, nor have
you cause.

Cæs. Why have you stol'n upon us thus? You
come not

Like Cæsar's sister: the wife of Antony
Should have an army for an usher, and
The neighs of horse to tell of her approach,
Long ere she did appear; the trees by the way
1 Disgusted. 2 Assigned.

1 Resent.

4 i.e. Lepidus.

6 Accusation.

2 Shame.

5 Equal rank.

7 Jaws.

3 What follows.

Should have borne men; and expectation faint'd
Longing for what it had not: nay, the dust
Should have ascended to the roof of heaven,
Rais'd by your populous troops: But you are come
A market-maid to Rome; and have prevented
The ostent¹ of our love, which, left unshown,
Is often left unlov'd: we should have met you
By sea, and land; supplying every stage
With an augmented greeting.

Octa. Good, my lord,
To come thus was I not constrain'd, but did it
On my free-will. My lord, Mark Antony,
Hearing that you prepar'd for war, acquainted
My griev'd ear withal; whereon, I begg'd
His pardon for return.

Cæs. Which soon he granted,
Being an obstruct 'tween his lust and him.

Octa. Do not say so, my lord.

Cæs. I have eyes upon him,
And his affairs come to me on the wind.

Where is he now?

Octa. My lord, in Athens.

Cæs. No, my most wronged sister; Cleopatra
Hath nodded him to her. He hath given his
Up to a wanton; who now are levying [empire
The kings o' the earth for war: He hath assem-
Bocchus, the king of Libya; Archelaus, [bled
Of Cappadocia; Philadelphos, king
Of Paphlagonia; the Thracian king, Adallas:
King Malchus of Arabia: King of Pont;
Herod of Jewry; Mithridates, king
Of Comagene; Polemon and Amintas,
The kings of Mede, and Lycaonia, with a
More larger list of scepters.

Octa. Ah me, most wretched,
That have my heart parted betwix two friends,
That do afflict each other!

Cæs. Welcome hither:
Your letters did withhold our breaking forth;
Till we perceiv'd both how you were wrong led,
And we in negligent danger. Cheer your heart:
Be you not troubled with the time, which drives
O'er your content these strong necessities;
But let determin'd things to destiny
Hold unbewall'd their way. Welcome to Rome:
Nothing more dear to me. You are abus'd
Beyond the mark of thought: and the high gods,
To do you justice, make them ministers
Of us, and those that love you. Best of comfort;
And ever welcome to us.

Ag. Welcome, lady.

Mec. Welcome, dear madam.

Each heart in Rome does love and pity you:
Only the adulterous Antony, most large
In his abominations, turns you off;
And gives his potent regiment² to a trull,
That noises it against us.

Octa. Is it so, sir?

Cæs. Most certain. Sister, welcome: Pray you,
Be ever known to patience: My dearest sister!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—ANTONY'S CAMP NEAR THE
PROMONTORY OF ACTIUM.

Enter Cleopatra and Enobarbus.

Cleo. I will be even with you, doubt it not.

Eno. But why, why, why?

1 Show.

2 Government.

C. Thou hast forspoke¹ my being in these wars;
And say'st, it is not fit.

Eno. Well, is it? is it?

Cleo. Is't not? Denounce against us, why
should not we

Be there in person?

Eno. [*Aside.*] Well, I could reply:—

Cleo. What is't you say?

E. Your presence needs must puzzle Antony;
Take from his heart, take from his brain, from
his time,

What should not then be spar'd. He is already
Traduc'd for levity; and 'tis said in Rome,
That Photinus an eunuch, and your maids,
Manage this war.

Cleo. Sink Rome; and their tongues rot,
That speak against us! A charge we bear i' the
war,

And, as the president of my kingdom, will
Appear there for a man. Speak not against it;
I will not stay behind.

Eno. Nay, I have done:

Here comes the emperor.

Enter Antony and Canidius.

Ant. Is't not strange, Canidius,
That from Tarentum, and Brundisium,
He could so quickly cut the Ionian sea,
And take in² Tornyne?—You have heard on't,
sweet?

Cleo. Celerity is never more admir'd,
Than by the negligent.

Ant. A good rebuke,
Which might have well become the best of men,
To taunt at slackness.—Canidius, we
Will fight with him by sea.

Cleo. By sea? What else?

Can. Why will my lord do so?

Ant. For³ he dares us to't.

Eno. So hath my lord dar'd him to single fight.

Can. Ay, and to wage this battle at Pharsalia,
Where Cæsar fought with Pompey: But these
offers,

Which serve not for his vantage, he shakes off;
And so should you.

Eno. Your ships are not well mann'd:
Your mariners are muleteers, reapers, people
Ingross'd by swift impress⁴; in Cæsar's fleet
Are those, that often have 'gainst Pompey fought:
Their ships are yare⁵; yours, heavy. No disgrace
Shall fall you for refusing him at sea,
Being prepar'd for land.

Ant. By sea, by sea.

Eno. Most worthy sir, you therein throw away
The absolute soldiership you have by land;
Distract your army, which doth most consist
Of war-marked footmen; leave unexecuted
Your own renowned knowledge; quite forego
The way which promises assurance: and
Give up yourself merely to chance and hazard,
From firm security.

Ant. I'll fight at sea.

Cleo. I have sixty sails,⁶ Cæsar none better.

Ant. Our overplus of shipping will we burn;
And, with the rest full mann'd from the head
of Actium

Beat the approaching Cæsar. But if we fail,

1 Forbid.

3 Because.

5 Ready.

2 Subdue.

4 Compulsion.

6 Ships.

Enter a Messenger.

We then can do't at land.—Thy business?

Mess. The news is true, my lord; he is descried; Cæsar has taken Tornyne.

Ant. Can he be there in person? 'tis impossible; Strange, that his power should be.—Canidius, Our nineteen legions thou shalt hold by land, And our twelve thousand horse:—We'll to our ship;

Enter a Soldier.

Away, my Thetis!—How now, worthy soldier?

Sold. O noble emperor, do not fight by sea; Trust not to rotten planks: Do you misdoubt This sword, and these my wounds? Let the Egypt— And the Phœnicians, go a ducking; we [tians, Have used to conquer, standing on the earth, And fighting foot to foot.

Ant. Well, well, away.

[*Exeunt Antony, Cleo., and Enobarbus.*]

Sold. By Hercules, I think, I am i' the right.

Can. Soldier, thou art: but his whole action grows

Not in the power on't: So our leader's led, And we are women's men.

Sold. You keep by land The legions and the horse whole, do you not?

Can. Marcus Octavius, Marcus Justeius, Publicola, and Cælius, are for sea: But we keep whole by land. This speed of Cæsar Carries beyond belief.

Sold. While he was yet in Rome, His power went out in such distractions, as Beguil'd all spies.

Can. Who's his lieutenant, hear you?

Sold. They say, one Taurus.

Can. Well I know the man.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The emperor calls for Canidius.

Can. With news the time's with labour; and throes forth,¹ Each minute, some.

SCENE VIII.—A PLAIN NEAR ACTIUM.

Enter Cæsar, Taurus, Officers, and others.

Cæs. Taurus,—

Taur. My lord.

Cæs. Strike not by land; keep whole: Provoke not battle, till we have done at sea. Do not exceed the prescript of this scroll: Our fortune lies upon this jump.² [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Antony and Enobarbus.

A. Set we our squadrons on yon'side o' the hill, In eye of Cæsar's battle; from which place We may the number of the ships behold, And so proceed accordingly. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter Canidius, marching with his Land Army one way over the stage; and Taurus, the Lieutenant of Cæsar, the other way. After their going in, is heard the noise of a Sea-Fight.

Alarum. Re-enter Enobarbus.

Eno. Naught, naught, all naught! I can behold no longer;

¹ Brings forth.

² Hazard.

The Antoniad,¹ the Egyptian admiral, With all their sixty, fly, and turn the rudder; To see't mine eyes are blasted.

Enter Scarus.

Scar. Gods, and goddesses, All the whole synod of them!

Eno. What's thy passion?

Scar. The greater cante² of the world is lost With very ignorance; we have kiss'd away Kingdoms and provinces.

Eno. How appears the fight?

Scar. On our side like the token'd³ pestilence, Where death is sure. Yon' ribald-rid nag of Egypt,

Whom leprosy o'ertake! i' the midst o' the fight,— When vantage like a pair of twins appear'd, Both as the same, or rather ours the elder,— The brize⁴ upon her, like a cow in June, Hoists sails, and flies.

Eno. That I beheld: mine eyes Did sicken at the sight on't, and could not Endure a further view.

Scar. She once being loof'd,⁵ The noble ruin of her magic, Antony, Claps on his sea-wing, and like a doting mallard,⁶ Leaving the fight in height, flies after her: I never saw an action of such shame; Experience, manhood, honour, ne'er before Did violate so itself.

Eno. Alack, alack!

Enter Canidius.

Can. Our fortune on the sea is out of breath, And sinks most lamentably. Had our general Been what he knew himself, it had gone well: O, he has given example for our flight, Most grossly, by his own.

Eno. [*Aside.*] Ay, are you thereabouts? Why then, good night

Indeed.

Can. Towards Peloponnesus are they fled.

Scar. 'Tis easy to't; and there I will attend What further comes.

Can. To Cæsar will I render My legions, and my horse; six kings already Show me the way of yielding.

Eno. I'll yet follow The wounded chance of Antony, though my reason

Sits in the wind against me. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IX.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Antony and Attendants.

Ant. Hark, the land bids me tread no more upon't,

It is asham'd to bear me! Friends, come hither, I am so lated⁷ in the world, that I Have lost my way for ever:—I have a ship Laded with gold; take that, divide it: fly, And make your peace with Cæsar.

Att. Fly! not we.

Ant. I have fled myself; and have instructed cowards

¹ (Cleopatra's ship.) ⁵ Luffed, brought close to the

² Corner. ⁶ wind.

³ Spotted. ⁷ Wild duck.

⁴ The gadfly. ⁷ Belated.

To run, and show their shoulders.—Friends, be I have myself resolved upon a course. [gone; Which has no need of you; be gone: My treasure's in the harbour, take it.—O, I follow'd that I blush to look upon: My very hairs do mutiny; for the white Reprove the brown for rashness, and they them For fear and doting.—Friends, be gone; you shall Have letters from me to some friends, that will Sweep your way for you. Pray you, look not sad, Nor make replies of loathness: take the hint Which my despair proclaims; let that be left Which leaves itself: to the sea-side straightway: I will possess you of that ship and treasure. Leave me, I pray, a little; 'pray you now:—Nay, do so; for, indeed, I have lost command, Therefore I pray you:—I'll see you by and by.

[Sits down.]

Enter Eros, and Cleopatra, led by Charmian and Iras.

Er. Nay, gentle madam, to him:—Comfort him.

Iras. Do, most dear queen.

Char. Do! Why, what else?

Cleo. Let me sit down. O Juno!

Ant. No, no, no, no, no.

Eros. See you here, sir?

Ant. O fie, fie, fie.

Char. Madam,—

Iras. Madam; O good empress!—

Eros. Sir, sir,—

Ant. Yes, my lord, yes;—He,¹ at Philippi, kept His sword even like a dancer; while I struck The lean and wrinkled Cassius; and 'twas I, That the mad Brutus ended: he alone Dealt on lieutenant², and no practice had In the bravesquares of war: Yet now—No matter.

Cleo. Ah, stand by.

Eros. The queen, my lord, the queen.

Iras. Go to him, madam, speak to him; He is unqualified with very shame.

Cleo. Well then.—Sustain me:—O!

Eros. Most noble sir, arise; the queen approaches;

Her head's declin'd, and death will seize her; Your comfort makes the rescue. [but³

Ant. I have offended reputation; A most unnooble swerving.

Eros. Sir, the queen.

Ant. O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt? See, How I convey my shame out of thine eyes By looking back on what I have left behind 'Stroy'd in dishonour.

Cleo. O my lord, my lord!

Forgive my fearful sails! I little thought, You would have follow'd.

Ant. Egypt, thou knew'st too well, My heart was to thy rudder tied by the strings, And thou shouldst tow me after: O'er my spirit Thy full supremacy thou knew'st; and that Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods Command me.

Cleo. O, my pardon.

Ant. Now I must To the young man send humble treaties, dodge And palter in the shifts of lowness; who With half the bulk o' the world play'd as I pleas'd,

1 Caesar. 2 Fought by his officers. 3 Unless.

Making, and marring fortunes. You did know How much you were my conqueror; and that My sword, made weak by my affection, would Obey it on all cause.

Cleo. O pardon, pardon.

Ant. Fall not a tear, I say: one of them rates¹

All that is won and lost: Give me a kiss; Even this repays me.—Wesent our schoolmaster; Is he come back?—Love, I am full of lead:—Some wine, within there, and our viands:—

Fortune knows,

We scorn her most, when most she offers blows.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE X.—CÆSAR'S CAMP IN EGYPT.

Enter Cæsar, Dolabella, Thyreus, and others.

Cæs. Let him appear that's come from Antony.—Know you him?

Dol. Cæsar, 'tis his schoolmaster²; An argument that he is pluck'd, when hither He sends so poor a pinion of his wing, Which had superfluous kings for messengers, Not many moons gone by.

Enter Euphronius.

Cæs. Approach, and speak.

Eup. Such as I am, I come from Antony: I was of late as petty to his ends, As is the morn-dew on the myrtle leaf To his grand sea.

Cæs. Be it so; Declare thine office.

Eup. Lord of his fortunes he salutes thee, and

Requires to live in Egypt; which not granted, He lessens his requests, and to thee sues, To let him breathe between the heavens and earth,

A private man in Athens: This for him.

Next, Cleopatra does confess thy greatness; Submits her to thy might; and of thee craves The circle³ of the Ptolemies for her heirs, Now hazarded to thy grace.

Cæs. For Antony, I have no ears to his request. The queen Of audience, nor desire, shall fail; so she From Egypt drive her all-disgraced friend, Or take his life there: This if she perform, She shall not sue unheard. So to them both.

Eup. Fortune pursue thee!

Cæs. Bring him through the bands.

[Exit Euphronius.]

[To Thyreus.] To try thy eloquence, now 'tis time: Despatch;

From Antony win Cleopatra: promise, And in our name, what she requires; add more, From thine invention, offers: women are not, In their best fortunes, strong; but want will perjure

The ne'er touch'd vestal: Try thy cunning, Thyreus;

Make thine own edict for thy pains, which we Will answer as a law.

Thyr. Cæsar, I go.

Cæs. Observe how Antony becomes his flaw⁴;

1 Equals. 2 Diadem.

2 Tutor to Antony's children. 4 Broken fortunes.

And what thou think'st his very action speaks
In every power that moves.

Thyr. Caesar, I shall. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE XI.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Cleopatra, Enobarbus, Charmian, and Iras.

Cleo. What shall we do, Enobarbus?

Eno. Think, and die.

Cleo. Is Antony, or we, in fault for this?

Eno. Antony only, that would make his will
Lord of his reason. What although you fled
From that great face of war, whose several ranges
Frighted each other? why should he follow?
The itch of his affection should not then
Have nick'd¹ his captainship; at such a point,
When half to half the world oppos'd, he being
The mered² question: 'Twas a shame no less
Than was his loss, to course your flying flags,
And leave his navy gazing.

Cleo. Prythee, peace.

Enter Antony, with Euphronius.

Ant. Is this his answer?

Eup. Ay, my lord.

Ant. The queen

Shall then have courtesy, so she will yield
Us up.

Eup. He says so.

Ant. Let her know it.

To the boy Cæsar send this grizzled head,
And he will fill thy wishes to the brim
With principalities.

Cleo. That head, my lord?

Ant. To him again; Tell him he wears the rose
Of youth upon him; from which the world should
note

Something particular: his coin, ships, legions,
May be a coward's; whose ministers would
prevail

Under the service of a child, as soon [fore
As i' the command of Cæsar: I dare him there-
To lay his gay caparisons apart,
And answer me, declin'd³ sword against sword,
Ourselves alone: I'll write it; follow me.

[*Exeunt Antony and Euphronius.*]

Eno. Yes, like enough, high-battled Cæsar will
Unstate his happiness, and bestag'd⁴ to the show,
Against a sworder.—I see, men's judgments are
A parcel of their fortunes; and things outward
Do draw the inward quality after them,
To suffer all alike. That he should dream,
Knowing all measures, the full Cæsar will
Answer his emptiness;—Cæsar, thou hast subdu'd
His judgment too.

Enter an Attendant.

Att. A messenger from Cæsar.

Cleo. What, no more ceremony?—See, my
women!

Against the blown rose may they stop their nose,
That kneel'd unto the buds.—Admit him, sir.

Eno. [*Aside.*] Mine honesty, and I, begin to
square.⁵

¹ Stigmatised. ³ (In age and vigour.) ⁵ Quarrel.
² Mere. ⁴ Exhibited.

The loyalty, well held to fools, does make
Our faith mere folly:—Yet, he that can endure
To follow with allegiance a fallen lord,
Does conquer him that did his master conquer,
And earns a place i' the story.

Enter Thyreus.

Cleo. Cæsar's will?

Thyr. Hear it apart.

Cleo. None but friends; say boldly.

Thyr. So, haply, are they friends to Antony.

Eno. He needs as many, sir, as Cæsar has;
Or needs not us. If Cæsar please, our master
Will leap to be his friend: For us, you know,
Whose he is, we are; and that's Cæsar's.

Thyr. So.—

Thus then, thou most renown'd; Cæsar entreats,
Not to consider in what case thou stand'st,
Further than he is Cæsar.

Cleo. Go on: Right royal.

Thyr. He knows that you embrace not Antony
As you did love, but as you fear'd him.

Cleo. O!

T. The scars upon your honour, therefore, he
Does pity, as constrained blemishes
Not as deserv'd.

Cleo. He is a god, and knows
What is most right: Mine honour was not
But conquer'd merely. [*yielded,*]

Eno. [*Aside.*] To be sure of that,
I will ask Antony.—Sir, sir, thou'rt so leaky,
That we must leave thee to thy sinking, for
Thy dearest quit thee. [*Exit Enobarbus.*]

Thyr. Shall I say to Cæsar
What you require of him? for he partly begs
To be desir'd to give. It much would please him,
That of his fortunes you should make a staff
To lean upon: but it would warm his spirits,
To hear from me you had left Antony,
And put yourself under his shroud,
The universal landlord.

Cleo. What's your name?

Thyr. My name is Thyreus.

Cleo. Most kind messenger,
Say to great Cæsar this, In disputation
I kiss his conquering hand: tell him I am prompt
To lay my crown at his feet, and there to kneel:
Tell him, from his all-obeying breath I hear
The doom of Egypt.

Thyr. 'Tis your noblest course.
Wisdom and fortune combating together,
If that the former dare but what it can,
No chance may shake it. Give me grace¹ to lay
My duty on your hand.

Cleo. Your Cæsar's father
Oft, when he hath mus'd of taking kingdoms in,²
Bestow'd his lips on that unworthy place,
As it rain'd kisses.

Re-enter Antony and Enobarbus.

Ant. Favours, by Jove that thunders!—
What art thou, fellow?

Thyr. One, that but performs
The bidding of the fullest man, and worthiest
To have command obey'd.

Eno. You will be whipp'd.

Ant. Approach, there:—Ay, you kite!—Now
gods and devils!

¹ The favour. ² Conquering.

Authority melts from me: Of late, when I cry'd,
Ho!

Like boys unto a muss, I kings would start forth,
And cry, *Your will?* Have you no ears? I am

Enter Attendants.

Antony yet, Take hence this Jack,² and whip him.
Eno. 'Tis better playing with a lion's whelp,
Than with an old one dying.

Ant. Moon and stars!

Whip him:—Were't twenty of the greatest
tributaries

That do acknowledge Cæsar, should I find them
So saucy with the hand of she here, (What's
her name

Since she was Cleopatra?)—Whip him, fellows,
Till, like a boy, you see him cringe his face,
And whine aloud for mercy: Take him hence.

Thyr. Mark Antony,—

Ant. Tug him away: being whipp'd,
Bring him again:—This Jack of Cæsar's shall
Bear us an errand to him.—

[*Exeunt Attend. with Thyreus.*

You were half-blasted ere I knew you:—Ha!
Have I my pillow left unpress'd in Rome,
Forborne the getting of a lawful race,
And by a gem of women, to be abus'd
By one that looks on feeders?³

Cleo. Good my lord,—

Ant. You have been a boggler ever:—
But when we in our viciousness grow hard,
(O misery on't!) the wise gods seal⁴ our eyes;
In our own filth drop our clear judgments;
make us

Adore our errors: laugh at us, while we strut
To our confusion.

Cleo. O, is it come to this?

Ant. I found you as a morsel, cold upon
Dead Cæsar's trencher: nay, you were a fragment
Of Cneius Pompey's; besides what hotter hours,
Unregister'd in vulgar fame, you have
Luxuriously pick'd out:—For, I am sure,
Though you can guess what temperance should
You know not what it is. [be,

Cleo. Wherefore is this?

Ant. To let a fellow that will take rewards,
And say, *God quit you!* be familiar with
My playfellow, your hand; this kingly seal,
And pligher of high hearts!—O, that I were
Upon the hill of Basan, to outroar
The horned herd! for I have savage cause;
And to proclaim it civilly, were like
A halter'd neck, which does the hangman thank
For being yare⁵ about him.—Is he whipp'd?

Re-enter Attendants, with Thyreus.

1 Att. Soundly, my lord.

Ant. Cry'd he? and begg'd he pardon?

1 Att. He did ask favour.

Ant. If that thy father live, let him repent
Thou was not made his daughter; and be thou
sorry

To follow Cæsar in his triumph, since
Thou hast been whipp'd for following him:
henceforth,

The white hand of a lady fever thee,

1 Scramble. 3 Servants. 5 Ready.

2 A term of contempt. 4 Close up.

Shake thou to look on't.—Get thee back to Cæsar,
Tell him thy entertainment: Look, thou say,
He makes me angry with him: for he seems
Proud and disdainful; harping on what I am;
Not what he knew I was: He makes me angry;
And at this time most easy 'tis to do't;

When my good stars, that were my former guides,
Have empty left their orbs, and shot their fires
Into the abysm of hell. If he mislike
My speech, and what is done; tell him, he has
Hipparchus, my enfranchis'd bondman, whom
He may at pleasure whip, or hang, or torture,
As he shall like, to quit¹ me: Urge it thou:
Hence, with thy stripes, begone. [*Exit Thyreus.*

Cleo. Have you done yet?

Ant. Alack, our terrene² moon
Is now eclips'd; and it portends alone
The fall of Antony!

Cleo. I must stay his time.

Ant. To flatter Cæsar, would you mingle eyes
With one that ties his points?

Cleo. Not know me yet?

Ant. Cold-hearted toward me?

Cleo. Ah, dear, if I be so,
From my cold heart let heaven engender hail,
And poison it in the source; and the first stone
Drop in my neck: as it determines,³ so
Dissolve my life! The next, Cæsarion⁴ smite!
Till, by degrees, the memory of myself,
Together with my brave Egyptians all,
By the discanding⁵ of this pelleted storm,
Lie graveless; till the flies and gnats of Nile
Have buried them for prey!

Ant. I am satisfied.

Cæsar sits down in Alexandria; where
I will oppose his fate. Our force by land
Hath nobly held; our sever'd navy too
Have knit again, and fleet⁶ threatening most
sea-like.

Where hast thou been, my heart?—Dost thou
hear, lady?

If from the field I shall return once more
To kiss these lips, I will appear in blood;
I and my sword will earn our chronicle;
There is hope in it yet.

Cleo. That's my brave lord!

Ant. I will be treble-sinew'd, hearted, breath'd,
And fight maliciously: for when mine hours
Were nice⁷ and lucky, men did ransom lives
Of me for jests; but now, I'll set my teeth,
And send to darkness all that stop me.—Come,
Let's have one other gaudy⁸ night: call to me
All my sad captains, fill our bowls; once more
Let's mock the midnight bell.

Cleo. It is my birth-day:

I had thought to have held it poor; but, since
my lord

Is Antony again, I will be Cleopatra.

Ant. We'll yet do well.

Cleo. Call all his noble captains to my lord.

Ant. Do so, we'll speak to them; and to-night
I'll force

The wine peep through their scars.—Come on, my
queen;

There's sap in't yet. The next time I do fight,

1 Requite. 4 Her son by Julius Cæsar. 7 Trifling.

2 Earthly. 5 Melting.

3 Dissolves. 6 Float.

8 Gay.

I'll make death love me; for I will contend
Even with his pestilent scythe.

[*Exeunt Antony, Cleopatra, and Attendants.*]

Eno. Now he'll out-stare the lightning. To
be furious

Is to be frightened out of fear: and in that mood,
The dove will peck the estridge¹; and I see still,
A diminution in our captain's brain
Restores his heart: When valour preys on reason,
It eats the sword it fights with. I will seek
Some way to leave him. [*Exit.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—CÆSAR'S CAMP AT ALEXANDRIA.

*Enter Cæsar, reading a Letter; Agrippa,
Mecænas, and others.*

Cæs. He calls me, boy; and chides, as he had
power

To beat me out of Egypt: my messenger
He hath whipp'd with rods; dares me to personal
combat,

Cæsar to Antony: Let the old ruffian know,
I have many other ways to die; mean time,
Laugh at his challenge.

Mec. Cæsar must think,
When one so great begins to rage, he's hunted
Even to falling. Give him no breath, but now
Make boot² of his distraction: Never anger
Made good guard for itself.

Cæs. Let our best heads
Know, that to-morrow the last of many battles
We mean to fight:—Within our files there are,
Of those that serv'd Mark Antony but late,
Enough to fetch him in. See it be done;
And feast the army: we have store to do't,
And they have earn'd the waste. Poor Antony!
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Antony, Cleopatra, Enobarbus, Charmian, Iras, Alexas, and others.

Ant. He will not fight with me, Domitius.

Eno. No.

Ant. Why should he not?

Eno. He thinks, being twenty times of better
He is twenty men to one. [*fortune,*

Ant. To-morrow, soldier,
By sea and land I'll fight: or I will live,
Or bathe my dying honour in the blood
Shall make it live again. Woo't thou fight well?

Eno. I'll strike; and cry, *Take all.*

Ant. Well said; come on.—

Call forth my household servants; let's to-night

Enter Servants.

Be bounteous at our meal.—Give me thy hand,
Thou hast been rightly honest; so hast thou;—
And thou,—and thou,—and thou;—you have
serv'd me well,

And kings have been your fellows.

Cleo. What means this?

Eno. [*Aside.*] 'Tis one of those odd tricks,
which sorrow shoots
Out of the mind.

¹ Osprey,

² Take advantage.

Ant. And thou art honest too.

I wish I could be made so many men;
And all of you clapp'd up together in
An Antony; that I might do you service,
So good as you have done.

Serv. The gods forbid!

Ant. Well, my good fellows, wait on me to
night:

Scant not my cups; and make as much of me,
As when mine empire was your fellow too,
And suffer'd my command.

Cleo. What does he mean?

Eno. To make his followers weep.

Ant. Tend me to-night.

May be, it is the period of your duty:
Haply, you shall not see me more; or if,
A mangled shadow: perchance to-morrow
You'll serve another master. I look on you,
As one that takes his leave. Mine honest friends,
I turn you not away; but like a master
Married to your good service, stay till death:
Tend me to-night two hours, I ask no more,
And the gods yield¹ you for't!

Eno. What mean you, sir,
To give them this discomfort? Look, they weep;
And I, an ass, am onion-eyed; for shame,
Transform us not to women.

Ant. Ho, ho, ho!
Now the witch take me, if I meant it thus!
Grace grow where those drops fall! My hearty
friends,

You take me in too dolorous a sense;
I spake to you for your comfort: did desire you
To burn this night with torches: Know, my
hearts,

I hope well of to-morrow; and will lead you,
Where rather I'll expect victorious life,
Than death and honour. Let's to supper; come,
And drown consideration. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—BEFORE THE PALACE.

Enter two Soldiers to their Guards.

1 Sold. Brother, good night: to-morrow is
the day. [*well.*]

2 Sold. It will determine one way: fare you
Heard you of nothing strange about the streets?

1 Sold. Nothing: What news?

2 Sold. Belike, 'tis but a rumour:
Good night to you.

1 Sold. Well, sir, good night.

Enter two other Soldiers.

2 Sold. Soldiers,
Have careful watch.

3 Sold. And you: Good night, good night.

[*The first two place themselves at their Posts.*]

4 Sold. Here we are: [*They take their Posts.*]
and if to-morrow

Our navy thrive, I have an absolute hope
Our landmen will stand up.

3 Sold. 'Tis a brave army,

And full of purpose.

[*Musick of Hautboys under the Stage.*]

4 Sold. Peace, what noise?

1 Sold. List, list!

2 Sold. Hark!

¹ Reward.

1 Sold. Musick i' the air.

3 Sold. Under the earth.

4 Sold. It sign^s well,
Does't not?

3 Sold. No.

1 Sold. Peace, I say. What should this mean?

2 S. 'Tis the god Hercules, whom Antony lov'd,
Now leaves him.

1 Sold. Walk; let's see if other watchmen
Do hear what we do.

[*They advance to another Post.*]

2 Sold. How now, masters?

Sold. How now?

How now? do you hear this?

[*Several speaking together.*]

1 Sold. Ay; Is't not strange?

3 Sold. Do you hear, masters? do you hear?

1 S. Follow the noise so far as we have
Let's see how't will give off. [quarter.

Sold. [*Several speaking.*] Content: 'Tis
strange. [Exit.

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

*Enter Antony and Cleopatra; Charmian, and
others, attending.*

Ant. Eros! mine armour, Eros!

Cleo. Sleep a little.

A. No, my chuck.—Eros, come; mine armour,
Eros!

Enter Eros, with Armour.

Come, my good fellow, put thine iron on:—

If fortune be not ours to-day, it is

Because we brave her.—Come.

Cleo. Nay, I'll help too.
What's this for?

Ant. Ah, let be, let be! thou art
The armourer of my heart:—False, false; this,
this.

Cleo. Sooth, la, I'll help: Thus it must be.

Ant. Well, well;
We shall thrive now.—Seest thou, my good
Go put on thy defences. [fellow?

Eros. Briefly, sir.

Cleo. Is not this buckled well?

Ant. Rarely; rarely:
He that unbuckles this, till we do please
To doff't for our repose, shall hear a storm.—
Thou fumblest, Eros; and my queen's a squire
More tight^s at this than thou: Despatch.—O love,
That thou couldst see my wars to-day, and
knew'st

The royal occupation! thou shouldst see

Enter an Officer armed.

A workman in't.—Good morrow to thee; wel-
come; [charge:

Thou look'st like him that knows a warlike
To business that we love, we rise betime,
And go to it with delight.

1 Off. A thousand, sir,
Early though it be, have on their riveted trim,
And at the port expect you.

[*Shout. Trumpets. Flourish.*]

Enter other Officers, and Soldiers.

2 Off. The morn is fair.—Good morrow, general.

1 Bodes. 2 Put it off. 3 Handy.

All. Good morrow, general.

Ant. 'Tis well blown, lads.

This morning, like the spirit of a youth
That means to be of note, begins betimes.—
So, so; come, give me that: this way, well said.
Fare thee well, dame, whate'er becomes of me;
This is a soldier's kiss: rebukable [Kisses her.
And worthy shameful check it were, to stand
On more mechanick compliment; I'll leave thee,
Now, like a man of steel.—You that will fight,
Follow me close; I'll bring you to't.—Adieu.
[Exit Antony, Eros, Officers, and Soldiers.
Char. Please you, retire to your chamber?
Cleo. Lead me.

He goes forth gallantly. That he and Cæsar might
Determine this great war in single fight!

Then, Antony,—But now,—Well, on. [Exit.

SCENE V.

ANTONY'S CAMP NEAR ALEXANDRIA.

*Trumpets sound. Enter Antony and Eros;
a Soldier meeting them.*

S. The gods make this a happy day to Antony.

Ant. Would thou and those thy scars had once
To make me fight at land! [prevail'd

Sold. Hadst thou done so,

The kings that have revolted, and the soldier
That has this morning left thee, would have still
Follow'd thy heels.

Ant. Who's gone this morning?

Sold. Who?

One ever near thee: Call for Enobarbus,
He shall not hear thee; or from Cæsar's camp
Say, I am none of thine.

Ant. What say'st thou?

Sold. Sir,

He is with Cæsar.

Eros. Sir, his chests and treasure

He has not with him.

Ant. Is he gone?

Sold. Most certain.

Ant. Go, Eros, send his treasure after; do it;
Detaiⁿ no jot, I charge thee: write to him
(I will subscribe) gentle adieus, and greetings:
Say, that I wish he never find more cause
To change a master.—O, my fortunes have
Corrupted honest men;—Eros, despatch.

[Exit.

SCENE VI.

CÆSAR'S CAMP BEFORE ALEXANDRIA.

*Flourish. Enter Cæsar, with Agrippa,
Enobarbus, and others.*

Cæs. Go forth, Agrippa, and begin the fight:
Our will is, Antony be took alive;
Make it so known.

Ag. Cæsar, I shall. [Exit Agrippa.

Cæs. The time of universal peace is near:
Prove this a prosperous day, the three-nook'd
Shall bear the olive freely. [world

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Antony
Is come into the field.

Cæs. Go, charge Agrippa
Plant those that have revolted in the van,

That Antony may seem to spend his fury
Upon himself. [*Exeunt Caesar and his Train.*]

Eno. Alexas did revolt; and went to Jewry,
On affairs of Antony: there did persuade
Great Herod to incline himself to Caesar,
And leave his master Antony: for this pains,
Caesar hath hang'd him. Canidius, and the rest
That fell away, have entertainment, but
No honourable trust. I have done ill;
Of which I do accuse myself so sorely,
That I will joy no more.

Enter a Soldier of Caesar's.

Sold. Enobarbus, Antony
Hath after thee sent all thy treasure, with
His bounty overplus: The messenger
Came on my guard, and at thy tent is now,
Unloading of his mules.

Eno. I give it you.

Sold. Mock me not, Enobarbus.
I tell you true: Best that you saf'd the bringer
Out of the host; I must attend mine office,
Or would have done't myself. Your emperor
Continues still a Jove. [*Exit Soldier.*]

Eno. I am alone the villain of the earth,
And feel I am so most. O Antony,
Thou mine of bounty, how wouldst thou have paid
My better service, when my turpitude
Thou dost so crown with gold! This blows¹ my
heart:

If swift thought break it not, a swifter mean
Shall outstrike thought; but thought will do't, I
I fight against thee!—No: I will go seek [feel,
Some ditch, wherein to die; the foul'st best fits
My latter part of life. [*Exit.*]

SCENE VII.

FIELD OF BATTLE BETWEEN THE CAMPS.

Alarum. Drums and Trumpets. *Enter*
Agrippa, and others.

Ag. Retire, we have engaged ourselves too far:
Caesar himself has work, and our oppression
Exceeds what we expected. [*Exeunt.*]

Alarum. *Enter Antony and Scarus, wounded.*

Sc. O my brave emperor, this is fought indeed!
Had we done so at first, we had driven them home
With clouts about their heads.

Ant. Thou bleed'st apace.

Scar. I had a wound here that was like a T,
But now 'tis made an H.

Ant. They do retire.

Scar. We'll beat 'em into bench-holes; I have
Room for six scotches² more. [*Yet*

Enter Eros.

Eros. They are beaten, sir; and our advantage
For a fair victory. [*Antony serves*

Scar. Let us score their backs,
And snatch 'em up, as we take hares, behind;
'Tis sport to maul a runner.

Ant. I will reward thee
Once for thy spritely comfort, and ten-fold
For thy good valour. Come thee on,

Scar. I'll halt after. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ Swells.

² Cuts.

SCENE VIII.

UNDER THE WALLS OF ALEXANDRIA.

Alarum. *Enter Antony, marching; Scarus,*
and Forces.

Ant. We have beat him to his camp; Run
one before,
And let the queen know of our guests.—To-
morrow,

Before the sun shall see us, we'll spill the blood
That has to-day escap'd. I thank you all;
For doughty¹-handed are you; and have fought
Not as you serv'd the cause, but as it had been
Each man's like mine; you have shown all Hec-
Enter the city, clip² your wives, your friends, [tors
Tell them your feats; whilst they with joyful
tears [kiss

Wash the congealment from your wounds, and
The honour'd gashes whole.—[*To Scarus.*] Give
me thy hand;

Enter Cleopatra, attended.

To this great fairy I'll commend thy acts,
Make her thanks bless thee.—O thou day o' the
world,

Chain mine arm'd neck; leap thou, attire and all,
Through proof of harness³ to my heart, and there
Ride on the pants⁴ triumphing.

Cleo. Lord of lords!
O infinite virtue! com'st thou smiling from
The world's great snare uncaught?

Ant. My nightingale,
We have beat them to their beds. What, girl?
though grey [we

Do something mingle with our brown; yet have
A brain that nourishes our nerves, and can
Get goal for goal of youth. Behold this man;
Commend unto his lips thy favouring hand;
Kiss it, my warrior!—He hath fought to-day,
As if a god, in hate of mankind, had
Destroy'd in such a shape.

Cleo. I'll give thee, friend,
An armour all of gold; it was a king's.

Ant. He has deserv'd it, were it carbuncled
Like holy Phœbus' car.—Give me thy hand;
Through Alexandria make a jolly march;
Bear our hack'd targets like the men that owe⁵
Had our great palace the capacity [them.
To camp this host, we all would sup together;
And drink carouses to the next day's fate,
Which promises royal peril.—Trumpeters,
With brazen din blast you the city's ears;
Make mingle with our rattling tambourines:
That heaven and earth may strike their sounds
together,
Applauding our approach. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IX.—CESAR'S CAMP.

Sentinels on their Post. *Enter Enobarbus.*

1 Sold. If we be not reliev'd within this hour,
We must return to the court of guard: The night
Is shiny; and, they say, we shall embattle
By the second hour i' the morn.

2 Sold. This last day was
A shrewd⁶ one to us.

¹ Mighty.

² Embrace.

³ Armour of proof.

⁴ Paintings.

⁵ Owl.

⁶ Vexatious.

Eno. O, bear me witness, night,—

3 Sold. What man is this?

2 Sold. Stand close, and list to him.

Eno. Be witness to me, O thou blessed moon,
When men revolted shall upon record
Bear hateful memory, poor Enobarbus did
Before thy face repent!—

1 Sold. Enobarbus!

3 Sold.

Peace;

Hark further.

Eno. O sovereign mistress of true melancholy,
The poisonous damp of night dispense upon me;
That life, a very rebel to my will,
May hang no longer on me: Throw my heart
Against the flint and hardness of my fault;
Which, being dried with grief, will break to powder,

And finish all foul thoughts. O Antony,

Nobler than my revolt is infamous;
Forgive me in thine own particular;

But let the world rank me in register

A master-leaver, and a fugitive:

O Antony! O Antony!

[*Dies.*

2 Sold. Let's speak

To him.

1 Sold. Let's hear him, for the things he speaks
May concern Cæsar.

3 Sold. Let's do so. But he sleeps.

1 S. Swoons rather; for so bad a prayer as his
Was never yet for sleeping.

2 Sold. Go we to him.

3 Sold. Awake, awake, sir; speak to us.

2 Sold. Hear you, sir?

1 Sold. The hand of death hath rought¹ him.

Hark, the drums [Drums afar off.

Demurely wake the sleepers. Let us bear him
To the court of guard; he is of note: our hour
Is fully out.

3 Sold. Come on then;

He may recover yet. [Exeunt with the body.

SCENE X.—BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPS.

*Enter Antony and Scarus, with Forces,
marching.*

Ant. Their preparation is to-day by sea;
We please them not by land.

Scar. For both, my lord.

A. I would, they'd fight¹ the fire, or in the air;
We'd fight there too. But this it is; our foot
Upon the hills adjoining to the city,
Shall stay with us; order for sea is given;
They have put forth the haven, further on,
Where their appointment we may best discover,
And look on their endeavour. [Exeunt.

Enter Cæsar, and his Forces, marching.

Cæs. But² being charg'd, we will bestill by land,
Which, as I take't, we shall; for his best force
Is forth to man his galleys. To the vales,
And hold our best advantage. [Exeunt.

Re-enter Antony and Scarus.

Ant. Yet they're not join'd: Where yonder
pine does stand,

I shall discover all: I'll bring thee word
Straight how 'tis like to go. [Exit.

Scar. Swallows have built

1 Reached. *2 Without.*

In Cleopatra's sails their nest: the augurers
Say, they know not,—they cannot tell!—look
grimly,

And dare not speak their knowledge. Antony
Is valiant, and dejected; and, by starts,
His fretted fortunes give him hope, and fear,
Of what he has, and has not.

Alarum afar off, as at a Sea Fight.

Re-enter Antony.

Ant. All is lost;

This foul Egyptian hath betray'd me:
My fleet hath yielded to the foe: and yonder
They cast their caps up, and carouse together
Like friends long lost.—Triple-turn'd wanton!
'tis thou

Hast sold me to this novice; and my heart
Makes only wars on thee.—Bid them all fly;
For when I am reveng'd upon my charm,
I have done all:—Bid them all fly, begone.

[*Exit Scarus.*

O sun, thy uprise shall I see no more:
Fortune and Antony part here; even here
Do we shake hands.—All come to this?—The hearts
That spaniel'd me at heels, to whom I gave
Their wishes, do discandy,¹ melt their sweets
On blossoming Cæsar; and this pine is bark'd,
That over-topp'd them all. Betray'd I am:
O this false soul of Egypt! this grave charm,
Whose eye beck'd forth my wars, and call'd
them home;

Whose bosom was my crownet,² my chief end,
Like a right gipsy, hath, at fast and loose,³
Beguil'd me to the very heart of loss.—
What, Eros, Eros!

Enter Cleopatra.

Ah! thou spell! Avaunt.

Cleo. Why is my lord enrag'd against his love?
A. Vanish: or I shall give thee thy deserving,
And blemish Cæsar's triumph. Let him take
thee,

And hoist thee up to the shouting plebeians:
Follow his chariot, like the greatest spot
Of all thy sex; most monster-like, be shown
For poor'st diminutives,⁴ to dolts; and let
Patient Octavia plough thy visage up
With her prepared nails. [*Exit Cleo.*] 'Tis well
thou'rt gone,

If it be well to live: But better 'twere
Thou fell'st into my fury, for one death
Might have prevented many.—Eros, ho!—
The shirt of Nessus is upon me: Teach me,
Alcides, thou mine ancestor, thy rage:
Let me lodge Lichas⁵ on the horns of the moon;
And with those hands that grasp'd the heaviest
club,

Subdue my worthiest self. The witch shall die:
To the Roman boy she hath sold me, and I fall
Under this plot: she dies for't.—Eros, ho! [*Exit.*

SCENE XI.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, Iras, and Mardian.

Cleo. Help me, my women! O, he is more mad

1 Dissolve. *3 A cheating game.*

2 Coronet.

4 Smallest piece of money.

5 (Who brought the poisoned shirt to Hercules.)

Than Telamon¹ for his shield; the boar of Theseus
Was never so emboss'd.² [sally
Char. To the monument;
There lock yourself, and send him word you
are dead.
The soul and body rive not more in parting,
Than greatness going off.
Cleo. To the monument:—
Mardian, go tell him I have slain myself;
Say, that the last I spoke was, Antony,
And word it, prythee, piteously: Hence
Mardian; and bring me how he takes my death.—
To the monument. [Exeunt.

SCENE XII.—ANOTHER ROOM.

Enter Antony and Eros.

Ant. Eros, thou yet behold'st me!
Eros. Ay, noble lord.
A. Sometime, we see a cloud that's dragonish;
A vapour, sometime, like a bear, or lion,
A tower'd citadel, a pendant rock,
A forked mountain, or blue promontory
With trees upon't, that nod unto the world,
And mock our eyes with air: Thou hast seen
these signs;
They are black vespers' pageants.
Eros. Ay, my lord.
Ant. That which is now a horse, even with a
thought,
The rack³ dislimns⁴: and makes it indistinct,
As water is in water.
Eros. It does, my lord.
Ant. My good knave, Eros, now thy captain is
Even such a body: here I am Antony;
Yet cannot hold this visible shape, my knave.
I made these wars for Egypt; and the queen,—
Whose heart, I thought, I had, for she had mine;
Which, whilst it was mine, had annex'd unto't
A million more, now lost,—she, Eros, has
Pack'd cards with Cæsar, and false play'd my
Unto an enemy's triumph.— [glory
Nay, weep not, gentle Eros; there is left us
Ourselves to end ourselves.—O, thy vile lady!

Enter Mardian.

She has robb'd me of my sword.

Mar. No, Antony;
My mistress lov'd thee, and her fortunes mingled
With thine entirely.

Ant. Hence, saucy eunuch; peace;
She hath betray'd me, and shall die the death.

Mar. Death of one person can be paid but once;
And that she has discharg'd: What thou wouldst
Is done unto thy hand: the last she spake [do,
Was, Antony! most noble Antony!
Then in the midst a tearing groan did break
The name of Antony; it was divided
Between her heart and lips: she render'd life,
Thy name so buried in her.

Ant. Dead then?
Mar. Dead.
Ant. Eros, unarm; the long day's task is done,
And we must sleep:—That thou depart'st hence
safe,

Does pay thy labour richly; Go.—Off, pluck
off;— [Exit Mardian.
The seven-fold shield of Ajax cannot keep
The battery from my heart. O, cleave, my sides!
Heart, once be stronger than thy continent,¹
Crack thy frail case!—Apace, Eros, apace.—
No more a soldier:—bruise'd pieces, go;
You have been nobly borne.—From me a while.
[Exit Eros.

I will o'ertake thee, Cleopatra, and
Weep for my pardon. So it must be, for now
All length is torture:—Since the torch is out,
Lie down, and stray no further: Now all labour
Mars what it does; yea, very force entangles
Itself with strength: Seal then, and all is done.—
Eros!—I come, my queen:—Eros! Stay for me:
Where souls do couch on flowers, we'll hand in
hand,
And with our sprightly port make the ghosts
Dido and her Æneas shall want troops, [gaze:
And all the haunt be ours.—Come, Eros, Eros!

Re-enter Eros.

Eros. What would my lord?

Ant. Since Cleopatra died,
I have liv'd in such dishonour, that the gods
Detest my baseness. I, that with my sword
Quarter'd the world, and o'er green Neptune's
back

With ships made cities, condemn myself, to lack
The courage of a woman; less noble mind
Than she, which, by her death, our Cæsar tells,
I am conqueror of myself. Thou art sworn, Eros,
That, when the exigent should come, (which now
Is come, indeed,) when I should see behind me
The inevitable prosecution of
Disgrace and horror, that, on my command,
Thou then wouldst kill me: do't; the time is come;
Thou strik'st not me, 'tis Cæsar thou defeat'st.
Put colour in thy cheek.

Eros. The gods withhold me!
Shall I do that, which all the Parthian darts,
Though enemy, lost aim, and could not?

Ant. Eros,
Wouldst thou be window'd in great Rome, and see
Thy master thus with pleach'd² arms, bending
down

His corrigible neck, his face subdued
To penetrative shame; whilst the wheel'd seat
Of fortunate Cæsar, drawn before him, branded
His baseness that ensued?

Eros. I would not see't.
A. Come then; for with a wound I must be cur'd.
Draw that thy honest sword, which thou hast
Most useful for thy country. [worn

Eros. O, sir, pardon me. [then
A. When I did make thee free, swor'st thou not
To do this when I bade thee! Do it at once;
Or thy precedent services are all
But accidents unpurpos'd. Draw, and come.

E. Turn from me then that noble countenance,
Wherein the worship³ of the whole world lies.
Ant. Lo thee! [Turning from him.

Eros. My sword is drawn.
Ant. Then let it do at once
The thing why thou hast drawn it.

Eros. My dear master,
1 What contains thee. 2 Folded. 3 Dignity.

1 (Ajax Telamon for the shield of Achilles.)

2 Foaming at the mouth.

3 The fleeting clouds. 4 Destroys the picture.

My captain, and my emperor! let me say,
Before I strike this bloody stroke, Farewell.
Ant. 'Tis said, man;—and farewell.
Eros. Farewell, great chief. Shall I strike now?
Ant. Now, Eros.
Eros. Why, there then:—[*Falls on his sword.*]

Thus do I escape the sorrow
Of Antony's death.
Ant. Thrice nobler than myself!
Thou teachest me, O valiant Eros, what
I should, and thou couldst not. My queen and
Eros

Have, by their brave instruction, got upon me
A nobleness in record: But I will be
A bridegroom in my death, and run into't
As to a lover's bed. Come then; and, Eros,
Thy master dies thy scholar; to do thus

[*Falling on his sword.*
I learn'd of thee. How! not yet dead? not dead?—
The guard!—ho!—O, despatch me.

Enter Dercetas and Guard.

1 *G.* What's the noise?
A. I have done my work ill, friends: O, make
Of what I have begun. [an end
2 *G.* The star is fallen.
1 *G.* And time is at his period.

All. Alas, and woe!
Ant. Let him that loves me strike me dead.
1 *G.* Not I.
2 *G.* Nor I.
3 *G.* Nor any one. [*Exeunt Guard.*
Der. Thy death and fortunes bid thy followers
fly.

This sword but shown to Cæsar, with this tid-
Shall enter me with him. [ings,
Enter Diomedes.
Dio. Where's Antony?
Der. There, Diomed, there.
Dio. Lives he?
Wilt thou not answer, man? [*Exit Dercetas.*
Ant. Art thou there, Diomed? Draw thy
sword, and give me
Sufficient strokes for death.

Dio. Most absolute lord,
My mistress Cleopatra sent me to thee.
Ant. When did she send thee?
Dio. Now, my lord.
Ant. Where is she?
Dio. Lock'd in her monument. She had a
prophesying fear
Of what hath come to pass: for when she saw
(Which never shall be found,) you did suspect
She had dispos'd with Cæsar, and that your rage
Would not be purg'd, she sent you word she
was dead;

But, fearing since how it might work, hath sent
Me to proclaim the truth: and I am come,
I dread, too late.
Ant. Too late, good Diomed:—Call my guard,
I pry'thee.
Dio. What, ho! the emperor's guard! The
guard, what, ho!
Come, your lord calls.

Enter some of the Guard.

Ant. Bear me, good friends, where Cleopatra
bides;

'Tis the last service that I shall command you.
1 *G.* Woe are we, sir, you may not live to wear
All your true followers out.

All. Most heavy day!
Ant. Nay, good, my fellows, do not please
sharp fate

To grace it with your sorrows: bid that welcome
Which comes to punish us, and we punish it
Seeming to bear it lightly. Take me up.
I have led you oft; carry me now, good friends,
And have my thanks for all.

[*Exeunt, bearing Antony.*

SCENE XIII.—A MONUMENT.

Enter above, Cleopatra, Charmian, and Iras.

Cleo. O, Charmian, I will never go from hence.
Char. Be comforted, dear madam.

Cleo. No, I will not;
All strange and terrible events are welcome,
But comforts we despise; our size of sorrow,
Proportion'd to our cause, must be as great

Enter Diomedes.

As that which makes it.—How now? is he dead?
Dio. His death's upon him, but not dead.
Look out o' the other side your monument,
His guard have brought him hither.

Enter Antony, borne by the Guard

Cleo. O thou sun,
Burn the great sphere thou mov'st in!—dark-
ling stand

The varying shore o' the world!—O Antony!
Antony, Antony!—Charmian, help; help, Iras;
Help, friends below: Let's draw him hither.

Ant. Peace:
Not Cæsar's valour hath o'erthrown Antony,
But Antony's hath triumph'd on itself.

Cleo. So it should be, that none but Antony
Should conquer Antony; but woe 'tis so!

Ant. I am dying, Egypt, dying; only
I here impertune death, awhile, until
Of many thousand kisses the poor last
I lay upon thy lips.

Cleo. I dare not, dear
(Dear my lord, pardon,) I dare not,
Lest I be taken: not the imperious show
Of the full-forc'd Cæsar ever shall
Be brooch'd¹ with me; if knives, drugs, serpents,
have

Edge, sting, or operation, I am safe:
Your wife Octavia, with her modest eyes,
And still conclusion,² shall acquire no honour
Demuring³ upon me.—But come, come, Antony,—
Help me, my women,—we must draw thee up;—
Assist, good friends.

Ant. O, quick, or I am gone.
Cleo. Here's sport indeed!—How heavy weighs
my lord!

Our strength is all gone into heaviness,
That makes the weight: Had I great Juno's
power,

The strong-wing'd Mercury should fetch thee up,
And set thee by Jove's side. Yet come a little,
Wishers were ever fools;—O, come, come, come;
[*They draw Antony up.*

1 Ornamented. 2 Silent resolution.

3 Looking with affected modesty.

And welcome, welcome! die, where thou hast liv'd:

Quicken with kissing; had my lips that power, Thus would I wear them out.

All. A heavy sight.

Ant. I am dying, Egypt, dying:

Give me some wine, and let me speak a little.

Cleo. No, let me speak; and let me rail so high, That the false housewife fortune break her Provok'd by my offence. [wheel,

Ant. One word, sweet queen: Of Cæsar seek your honour, with your safety.—O!

Cleo. They do not go together.

Ant. Gentle, hear me:

None about Cæsar trust, but Proculeius.

Cleo. My resolution, and my hands, I'll trust; None about Cæsar.

Ant. The miserable change now at my end, Lament nor sorrow at: but please your thoughts, In feeding them with those my former fortunes Wherein I liv'd, the greatest prince o' the world, The noblest: and do now not basely die, Nor cowardly; put off my helmet to My countryman, a Roman, by a Roman Valiantly vanquish'd. Now, my spirit is going, I can no more. [Dies.

Cleo. Noblest of men, woo't die? Hast thou no care of me? Shall I abide In this dull world, which in thy absence is No better than a sty?—O, see, my women, The crown o' the earth doth melt:—My lord!—O, wither'd is the garland of the war, The soldier's pole is fallen; young boys, and girls Are level now with men; the odds is gone, And there is nothing left remarkable Beneath the visiting moon. [She faints.

Char. Quietness, lady!

Iras. She is dead too, our sovereign.

Char. Lady,—

Iras. Madam,—

Char. O madam, madam, madam!

Iras. Royal Egypt! Empress!

Char. Peace, peace, Iras, [manded

Cleo. No more, but e'en a woman; and com- By such poor passion as the maid that milks, And does the meanest chares. It were for me To throw my sceptre at the injurious gods; To tell them, that this world did equal theirs, Till they had stolen our jewel. All's but naught; Patience is sottish; and impatience does Become a dog that's mad: Then is it sin, To rush into the secret house of death, Ere death dare come to us?—How do you, women? What, what? good cheer! Why, how now, Charmian?

My noble girls!—Ah, women, women, look!

Our lamp is spent, it's out:—Good sirs, take heart:— [To the Guard below.

We'll bury him: and then what's brave, what's noble,

Let's do it after the high Roman fashion, And make death proud to take us. Come away: This case of that huge spirit now is cold.

Ah, women, women! come; we have no friend But resolution, and the briefest end.

Reeunt; those above bearing off Antony's body.

1 Task work.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.

CÆSAR'S CAMP BEFORE ALEXANDRIA.

Enter Cæsar, Agrippa, Dolabella, Mæcnas, Gallus, Proculeius, and others.

Cæs. Go to him, Dolabella, bid him yield; Being so frustrate, tell him, he mocks us by The pauses that he makes.

Dol. Cæsar, I shall. [Exit Dolabella.

Enter Decretas, with the Sword of Antony.

Cæs. Wherefore is that? and what art thou, Appear thus to us? [that dar'st

Der. I am call'd Decretas;

Mark Antony I serv'd, who best was worthy, Best to be serv'd: whilst he stood up and spoke, He was my master: and I wore my life, To spend upon his haters: If thou please To take me to thee, as I was to him I'll be to Cæsar; If thou pleasest not, I yield thee up my life.

Cæs. What is't thou say'st?

Der. I say, O Cæsar, Antony is dead.

C. The breaking of so great a thing should make A greater crack: The round world should have Lions into civil streets, [shook And citizens to their dens.—The death of Antony Is not a single doom; in the name lay A moiety of the world.

Der. He is dead, Cæsar;

Not by a public minister of justice, Nor by a hired knife; but that self hand, Which writ his honour in the acts it did, Hath, with the courage which the heart did lend Splitted the heart.—This is his sword, [it, I robb'd his wound of it; behold it stain'd With his most noble blood.

Cæs. Look you sad, friends?

The gods rebuke me, but it is a tidings To wash the eyes of kings.

Ag. And strange it is,

That nature must compel us to lament Our most persisted deeds.

Mec. His taints and honours

Waged equal with him.

Ag. A rarer spirit never

Did steer humanity: but you gods will give us Some faults to make us mend. Cæsar is touch'd.

Mec. When such a spacious mirror's set before He needs must see himself. [him,

Cæs. O Antony!

I have follow'd thee to this:—But we do lance Diseases in our bodies: I must perforce Have shown to thee such a declining day, Or look on thine; we could not stall together In the whole world: but yet let me lament, With tears as sovereign as the blood of hearts, That thou, my brother, my competitor In top of all design, my mate in empire, Friend and companion in the front of war, The arm of mine own body, and the heart Where mine his thoughts did kindle,—that our Unreconcilable, should divide [stars, Our equalness to this.—Hear me, good friends,— But I will tell you at some meetest season;

1 (Its.)

Enter a Messenger.

The business of this man looks out of him,
We'll hear him what he says.—Whence are you?

Mess. A poor Egyptian yet. The queen my mistress,

Confin'd in all she has, her monument,
Of thy intents desires instruction;
That she preparedly may frame herself
To the way she's forc'd to.

Cæs. Bid her have good heart;
She soon shall know of us, by some of ours,
How honourable and how kindly we
Determine for her: for Cæsar cannot live
To be ungentle.

Mess. So the gods preserve thee! [*Exit.*

Cæs. Come hither, Proculeius; Go, and say,
We purpose her no shame; give her what com-
The quality of her passion shall require; [forts
Lest, in her greatness, by some mortal stroke
She do defeat us: for her life in Rome
Would be eternal in our triumph: Go,
And, with your speediest, bring us what she
And how you find of her. [*says,*

Pro. Cæsar, I shall. [*Exit Proculeius.*
C. Gallus, go you along.—Where's Dolabella,
To second Proculeius? [*Exit Gallus.*

Agr. Mec. Dolabella!
Cæs. Let him alone, for I remember now
How he's employed; he shall in time be ready.
Go with me to my tent; where you shall see
How hardly I was drawn into this war;
How calm and gentle I proceeded still
In all my writings: Go with me and see
What I can show in this. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

ALEXANDRIA. A ROOM IN THE MONUMENT.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmian, and Iras.

Cleo. My desolation does begin to make
A better life: 'Tis paltry to be Cæsar;
Not being fortune, he's but fortune's knave, I
A minister of her will; And it is great
To do that thing that ends all other deeds;
Which shackles accidents; and bolts up change;
Which sleeps and never palates more the dung,
The beggar's nurse and Cæsar's.

*Enter, to the Gates of the Monument, Proculeius,
Gallus, and Soldiers.*

P. Cæsar sends greeting to the queen of Egypt;
And bids thee study on what fair demands
Thou mean'st to have him grant thee.

Cleo. [*Within.*] What's thy name?

Pro. My name is Proculeius.

Cleo. [*Within.*] Antony
Did tell me of you, bade me trust you; but
I do not greatly care to be deceiv'd,
That have no use for trusting. If your master
Would have a queen his beggar, you must tell
That majesty, to keep decorum, must [him,
No less beg than a kingdom: if he please
To give me conquer'd Egypt for my son,
He gives me so much of mine own, as I
Will kneel to him with thanks.

Pro. Be of good cheer;

1 Serrant.

You are falling into a princely hand, fear nothing;
Make your full reference freely to my lord,
Who is so full of grace, that it flows over
On all that need: Let me report to him
Your sweet dependancy: and you shall find
A conqueror, that will pray in aid for kindness,
Where he for grace is kneel'd to.

Cleo. [*Within.*] Pray you, tell him
I am his fortune's vassal, and I send him
The greatness he has got. I hourly learn
A doctrine of obedience; and would gladly
Look him i' the face.

Pro. This I'll report, dear lady.
Have comfort; for, I know, your plight is pitied
Of him that caus'd it.

Gal. You see how easily she may be surpris'd
[*Here Proculeius, and two of the Guard,
ascend the Monument by a Ladder placed
against a Window, and having descended,
come behind Cleopatra. Some of the
Guard unbar and open the Gates.*

[*To Proc. and the Guard.*] Guard her till Cæsar
come. [*Exit Gallus.*

Iras. Royal queen!

Char. O Cleopatra! thou art taken, queen!—
Cleo. Quick, quick, good hands.

[*Drawing a Dagger.*
Pro. Hold, worthy lady, hold:
[*Seizes and disarms her.*

Do not yourself such wrong, who are in this
Reliev'd, but not betray'd.

Cleo. What, of death too
That rids our dogs of languish?

Pro. Cleopatra,
Do not abuse my master's bounty, by
The undoing of yourself: let the world see
His nobleness well acted, which your death
Will never let come forth.

Cleo. Where art thou, death?
Come hither, come! come, come, and take
Worth many babes and beggars! [*Queen.*

Pro. O, temperance, lady!

Cleo. Sir, I will eat no meat, I'll not drink, sir;
If idle talk will once be necessary,
I'll not sleep neither: This mortal house I'll ruin.
Do Cæsar what he can. Know, sir, that I
Will not wait pinion'd at your master's court:
Nor once be chāstis'd with the sober eye
Of dull Octavia. Shall they hoist me up,
And show me to the shouting varletry
Of censuring Rome? Rather a ditch in Egypt
Be gentle grave to me! rather on Nilus' mud
Lay me stark naked, and let the water-flies
Blow me into abhorring! rather make
My country's high pyramides my gibbet,
And hang me up in chains!

Pro. You do extend
These thoughts of horror further than you shall
Find cause in Cæsar.

Enter Dolabella.

Dol. Proculeius,
What thou hast done thy master Cæsar knows,
And he hath sent for thee: as for the queen,
I'll take her to my guard.

Pro. So, Dolabella,
It shall content me best: be gentle to her.—

1 Rabble.

[To Cleopatra.] To Cæsar I will speak what you shall please,
If you'll employ me to him.

Cleo. Say, I would die.

[Exeunt Proculeius and Soldiers.]

D. Most noble empress, you have heard of me?

Cleo. I cannot tell.

Dol. Assuredly, you know me.

C. No matter, sir, what I have heard or known.

You laugh, when boys, or women, tell their
Is't not your trick? [dreams;

Dol. I understand not, madam.

Cleo. I dream'd, there was an emperor Antony;
O, such another sleep, that I might see
But such another man!

Dol. If it might please you,—

Cleo. His face was as the heavens; and therein
stuck

A sun, and moon; which kept their course, and
The little O, the earth. [lighted

Dol. Most sovereign creature,—

Cleo. His legs bestrid the ocean: his rear'd arm
Crested the world: his voice was property
As all the tuned spheres, and that to friends;
But when he meant to quail¹ and shake the orb,
He was as rattling thunder. For his bounty,
There was no winter in't; an autumn 'twas,
That grew the more by reaping: His delights
Were dolphin-like: they show'd his back above
The element they liv'd in: In his livery
Walk'd crowns, and crowns: realms and islands
As plates² dropp'd from his pocket. [were

Dol. Cleopatra,—

Cleo. Think you, there was, or might be, such
As this I dream'd of? [a man

Dol. Gentle madam, no.

Cleo. You lie up to the hearing of the gods.
But, if there be, or ever were one such,
It's past the size of dreaming: Nature wants stuff
To vie strange forms with fancy; yet, to imagine
An Antony, were nature's piece 'gainst fancy,
Condemning shadows quite.

Dol. Hear me, good madam:

Your loss is as yourself, great: and you bear it
As answering to the weight: Would I might never
O'ertake pursu'd success, but I do feel,
By the rebound of yours, a grief that shoots
My very heart at root.

Cleo. I thank you, sir.

Know you what Cæsar means to do with me?

Dol. I am loath to tell you what I would you

Cleo. Nay, pray you, sir,— [knew.

Dol. Though he be honourable,—

Cleo. He'll lead me then in triumph?

Dol. Madam; he will;

I know it.

[Within.] Make way there,—Cæsar.

Enter Cæsar, Gallus, Proculeius, Mecænas,
Seleucus, and Attendants.

Cæs. Which is the queen

Of Egypt?

Dol. 'Tis the emperor, madam.

[Cleopatra kneels.

Cæs. Arise,

You shall not kneel—

I pray you, rise; rise, Egypt.

1 Frighten.

2 Coronets.

3 Silver money.

Cleo. Sir, the gods
Will have it thus: my master and my lord
I must obey.

Cæs. Take to you no hard thoughts:
The record of what injuries you did us,
Though written in our flesh, we shall remember
As things but done by chance.

Cleo. Sole sir o' the world,
I cannot project¹ mine own cause so well
To make it clear; but do confess, I have
Been laden with like frailties, which before
Have often sham'd our sex.

Cæs. Cleopatra, know,
We will extenuate rather than enforce²:
If you apply yourself to our intents, [find
(Which towards you are most gentle,) you shall
A benefit in this change; but if you seek
To lay on me a cruelty, by taking
Antony's course, you shall bereave yourself
Of my good purposes, and put your children
To that destruction which I'll guard them from,
If thereon you rely. I'll take my leave.

Cl. And may; through all the world; 'tis yours:
and we [shall
Your scutcheons, and your signs of conquest,
Hang in what place you please. Here, my good
lord.

Cæs. You shall advise me in all for Cleopatra.
Cl. This is the brief of money, plate, and jewels,
I am possess'd of: 'tis exactly valued:

Not petty things admitted.—Where's Seleucus?

Sel. Here, madam.

Cleo. This is my treasurer; let him speak, my
Upon his peril, that I have reserv'd [lord,
To myself nothing. Speak the truth, Seleucus.

Sel. Madam,

I had rather seal³ my lips, than, to my peril,
Speak that which is not.

Cleo. What have I kept back?

Sel. Enough to purchase what you have made
known.

Cæs. Nay, blush not, Cleopatra; I approve
Your wisdom in the deed.

Cleo. See, Cæsar! O, behold,
How pomp is follow'd! mine will now be yours;
And, should we shift estates, yours would be mine.
The ingratitude of this Seleucus does
Even make me wild;—O slave, of no more trust
Than love that's hired!—What, goest thou back?
thou shalt

Go back, I warrant thee; but I'll catch thine eyes,
Though they had wings! Slave, soulless villain,
dog!

O rarely base!

Cæs. Good queen, let us entreat you.

Cleo. O Cæsar, what a wounding shame is this;
That thou, vouchsafing here to visit me,
Doing the honour of thy lordliness
To one so meek, that mine own servant should
Parcel⁴ the sum of my disgraces by
Addition of his envy! Say, good Cæsar,
That I some lady trifles have reserv'd,
Immoment⁵ toys, things of such dignity
As we greet modern⁶ friends withal; and say,
Some nobler token I have kept apart
For Livia,⁷ and Octavia, to induce

1 Shape.

2 Exaggerate.

3 Sew up.

4 Sum up.

5 Trifling.

6 Common.

7 Cæsar's

wife.

Their mediation; must I be unfolded [me
With one that I have bred? The gods! It smites
Beneath the fall I have. Pr'ythee, go hence;

[To Seleucus.]

Or I shall show the cinders of my spirits
Through the ashes of my chance.—Wert thou a
Thou wouldst have mercy on me. [Man,

Cæs. Forbear, Seleucus. [Exit Seleucus.]

Cleo. Be it known, that we, the greatest, are
misthought

For things that others do; and, when we fall,
We answer others' merits in our name,
Are therefore to be pitied.

Cæs. Cleopatra,

Not what you have reserv'd, nor what acknow-
ledg'd,

Put we i' the roll of conquest: still be it yours,
Bestow it at your pleasure; and believe,
Cæsar's no merchant, to make prize with you
Of things that merchants sold. Therefore be
cheer'd;

Make not your thoughts your prisons: no, dear
For we intend so to dispose you, as [queen;
Yourself shall give us counsel. Feed, and sleep:
Our care and pity is so much upon you,
That we remain your friend; And so, adieu.

Cleo. My master, and my lord!

Cæs. Not so: Adieu.

[Exit Cæsar and his Train.]

Cleo. He words me, girls, he words me, that
I should not

Be noble to myself; but hark thee, Charmian.
[Whispers Charmian.]

Iras. Finish, good lady; the bright day is done,
And we are for the dark.

Cleo. Hie thee again:
I have spoke already, and it is provided;
Go, put it to the haste.

Char. Madam, I will.

Re-enter Dolabella.

Dol. Where is the queen?

Char. Behold, sir. [Exit Charmian.]

Cleo. Dolabella?

D. Madam, as thereto sworn by your command,
Which my love makes religion to obey,
I tell you this: Cæsar through Syria
Intends his journey; and, within three days,
You with your children will he send before:
Make your best use of this: I have perform'd
Your pleasure and my promise.

Cleo. Dolabella,
I shall remain your debtor.

Dol. I your servant.

Adieu, good queen; I must attend on Cæsar.

Cleo. Farewell, and thanks. [Exit Dol.] Now,

Iras, what think'st thou?

Thou, an Egyptian puppet, shall be shown
In Rome as well as I: mechanick slaves
With greasy aprons, rules, and hammers, shall
Uplift us to the view; in their thick breaths,
Rank of gross diet, shall we be enclouded,
And forc'd to drink their vapour.

Iras. The gods forbid!

Cleo. Nay, 'tis most certain, Iras: Saucy lictors
Will catch at us, like wantons: and scald' rhymers
Ballad us out o' tune: the quick comedians

1 Fithv.

2 Lively.

Extemporally will stage us, and present
Our Alexandria revels; Antony
Shall be brought drunken forth, and I shall see
Some squeaking Cleopatra, boy¹ my greatness.

Iras. O the good gods!

Cleo. Nay, that is certain.

Iras. I'll never see it; for, I am sure my nails
Are stronger than mine eyes.

Cleo. Why, that's the way
To fool their preparation, and to conquer
Their most absurd intents.—Now, Charmian?—

Enter Charmian.

Show me, my women, like a queen.—Go fetch
My best attires;—I am again for Cydnus,
To meet Mark Antony;—Sirrah, Iras, go.—
Now, noble Charmian, we'll despatch indeed:
And, when thou hast done this chare,² I'll give
thee leave

To play till doomsday.—Bring our crown and all.
Wherefore's this noise?

[Exit Iras. A noise within.]

Enter one of the Guard.

Guard. Here is a rural fellow,
That will not be denied your highness' presence;
He brings you figs.

Cleo. Let him come in. [Exit Guard.] How
poor an instrument

May do a noble deed! he brings me liberty.
My resolution's plac'd, and I have nothing
Of woman in me: Now from head to foot
I am marble-constant: now the fleeting moon
No planet is of mine.

Re-enter Guard, with a Clown bringing a Basket.

Guard. This is the man.

Cleo. Avoid, and leave him. [Exit Guard.]
Hast thou the pretty worm of Nilus there,
That kills and pains not?

Clown. Truly I have him: but I would not be
the party that should desire you to touch him,
for his biting is immortal; those, that do die of
it, do seldom or never recover. [on't?

Cleo. Remember'st thou any that have died

Clown. Very many, men and women too. I
heard of one of them no longer than yesterday:
a very honest woman, but something given to
lie; as a woman should not do, but in the way
of honesty: how she died of the biting of it,
what pains she felt.—Truly, she makes a very
good report o' the worm: But he that will be-
lieve all that they say, shall never be saved by
half that they do: But this is most fallible, the
worm's an odd worm.

Cleo. Get thee hence; farewell.

Clown. I wish you all joy of the worm.

Cleo. Farewell. [Clown sets down the Basket.]

Clown. You must think this, look you, that
the worm will do his kind.³

Cleo. Ay, ay; farewell.

Clown. Look you, the worm is not to be trusted,
but in the keeping of wise people; for, indeed,
there is no goodness in the worm.

Cleo. Take thou no care; it shall be heeded.

Clown. Very good: give it nothing, I pray
you, for it is not worth the feeding.

1 Female characters were played by boys.

2 Task. 3 Act according to his nature.

Cleo. Will it eat me?

Clown. You must not think I am so simple, but I know the devil himself will not eat a woman: I know, that a woman is a dish for the gods, if the devil dress her not. But, truly, these same devils do the gods great harm in their women; for in every ten that they make, the devils mar five.

Cleo. Well, get thee gone; farewell.

Clown. Yes, forsooth; I wish you joy of the worm. *[Exit.]*

Re-enter Iras, with a Robe, Crown, &c.

Cleo. Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have

Immortal longings in me: Now no more
The juice of Egypt's grapes shall moist this lip:—
Yare, yare, good Iras; quick.—Methinks, I hear
Antony call; I see him rouse himself
To praise my noble act; I hear him mock
The luck of Cæsar, which the gods give men
To excuse their after wrath: Husband, I come:
Now to that name my courage prove my title!
I am fire, and air; my other elements
I give to baser life.—So,—have you done?
Come then, and take the last warmth of my lips.
Farewell, kind Charmian;—Iras, long farewell.

[Kisses them. Iras falls and dies.]

Have I the aspick in my lips? Dost fall?
If thou and nature can so gently part,
The stroke of death is as a lover's pinch,
Which hurts, and is desir'd. Dost thou lie still?
If thus thou vanishest, thou tell'st the world
It is not worth leave-taking.

Char. Dissolve, thick cloud, and rain; that
I may say,
The gods themselves do weep!

Cleo. This proves me base:
If she first meet the curled Antony,
He'll make demand of her; and spend that kiss,
Which is my heaven to have. Come, mortal
wretch,

[To the Asp, which she applies to her Breast.]
With thy sharp teeth this knot intrinsic²
Of life at once untie: poor venomous fool,
Be angry and despatch. O, couldst thou speak!
That I might hear thee call great Cæsar, ass
Unpolitic³!

Char. O eastern star!

Cleo. Peace, peace!

Dost thou not see my baby at my breast,
That sucks the nurse asleep?

Char. O, break! O, break!

Cleo. As sweet as balm, as soft as air, as gentle—
O Antony!—Nay, I will take thee too:—

[Applying another Asp to her Arm.]
What should I stay—*[Falls on a Bed and dies.]*

Char. In this wild world?—So, fare thee
well.—

Now, boast thee, death! in thy possession lies
A lass unparallel'd.—Downy windows close;
And golden Phœbus never be beheld
Of eyes again so royal! Your crown's awry;
I'll mend it, and then play.

Enter the Guard, rushing in.

1 *Guard.* Where is the queen?

1 Make haste.

2 Perplexed or tangled.

3 Unpolitic to leave me to myself.

Char. Speak softly, wake her not.

1 *Guard.* Cæsar hath sent—

Char. Too slow a messenger.

[Applies the Asp.]
O, come: apace, despatch: I partly feel thee.

1 *Guard.* Approach, ho! All's not well:
Cæsar's beguil'd.

2 *Guard.* There's Dolabella sent from Cæsar;
—call him.

1 *Guard.* What work is here?—Charmian, is
this well done?

Char. It is well done, and fitting for a princess
Descended of so many royal kings.

Ah, soldier! *[Dies.]*

Enter Dolabella.

Dol. How goes it here?

2 *Guard.* All dead.

Dol. Cæsar, thy thoughts
Touch their effects in this: Thyself art coming
So see perform'd the dreaded act, which thou
So sought'st to hinder.

[Within.] A way there, way for Cæsar!

Enter Cæsar, and Attendants.

Dol. O, sir, you are too sure an augurer:
That you did fear, is done.

Cæs. Bravest at the last:
She levell'd¹ at our purposes, and, being royal,
Took her own way.—The manner of their deaths?
I do not see them bleed.

Dol. Who was last with them?

1 *Guard.* A simple countryman, that brought
her figs;

This was his basket.

Cæs. Poison'd then.

1 *Guard.* O Cæsar,
This Charmian liv'd but now; she stood, and
I found her trimming up the diadem. *[Spoke:]*
On her dead mistress; trembling she stood,
And on the sudden dropp'd.

Cæs. O noble weakness!
If they had swallow'd poison, 'twould appear
By external swelling; but she looks like sleep,
As she would catch another Antony
In her strong toil of grace.²

Dol. Here, on her breast,
There is a vent of blood, and something blown:
The like is on her arm.

1 *Guard.* This is an aspick's trail: and these
fig leaves

Have slime upon them, such as the aspick leaves
Upon the caves of Nile.

Cæs. Most probable,
That so she died; for her physician tells me,
She hath pursu'd conclusions infinite
Of easy ways to die.—Take up her bed;
And bear her women from the monument:—
She shall be buried by her Antony;
No grave upon the earth shall clip³ in it
A pair so famous. High events as these
Strike those that make them: and their story is
No less in pity than his glory, which
Brought them to be lamented. Our army shall,
In solemn show, attend this funeral;
And then to Rome.—Come, Dolabella, see
High order in this great solemnity. *[Exit.]*

1 Guessed.

2 Graceful toils.

3 Enfold.

King Lear.

Persons Represented.

LEAR, *King of Britain.*
 KING OF FRANCE.
 DUKE OF BURGUNDY.
 DUKE OF CORNWALL.
 DUKE OF ALBANY.
 EARL OF KENT.
 EARL OF GLOSTER.
 EDGAR, *Son to Gloster.*
 EDMUND, *Bastard Son to Gloster.*
 CURAN, *a Courtier.*
 Old Man, *Tenant to Gloster.*
 Physician.

Fool.
 OSWALD, *Steward to Goneril.*
An Officer, employed by Edmund.
Gentleman, Attendant on Cordelia.
 A Herald.
 Servants to Cornwall.
 GONERIL,
 REGAN, } *Daughters to LEAR.*
 CORDELIA, }

Knights attending on the King, Officers, Messengers, Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE.—Britain.

Act First.

SCENE I.

A ROOM OF STATE IN KING LEAR'S PALACE.

Enter Kent, Gloster, and Edmund.

Kent. I thought, the king had more affected the duke of Albany, than Cornwall.

Glo. It did always seem so to us; but now, in the division of the kingdom, it appears not which of the dukes he values most; for equalities are so weigh'd that curiosity¹ in neither can make choice of either's moiety.

Kent. Is this your son, my lord?

Glo. His breeding, sir, hath been at my charge: I have so often blush'd to acknowledge him, that now I am brazed² to it.

Kent. I cannot conceive you.

Glo. Sir, this young fellow's mother had a son for her cradle, ere she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a fault?

Kent. I cannot wish the fault undone, the issue of it being so proper.

Glo. But I have, sir, a son by order of law, some year elder than this, who yet is no dearer in my account: though this knave came somewhat saucily into the world, yet was his mother fair, and he must be acknowledged.—Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?

Edm. No, my lord.

Glo. My lord of Kent: remember him hereafter as my honourable friend.

Edm. My services to your lordship.

Kent. I must love you, and sue to know you better.

Edm. Sir, I shall study deserving.

Glo. He hath been out nine years, and away he shall again:—The king is coming.

[*Trumpets sound within.*]

Enter Lear, Cornwall, Albany, Goneril, Regan, Cordelia, and Attendants.

Lear. Attend the lords of France and Burgundy, Gloster.

Glo. I shall, my liege.

[*Exeunt Gloster and Edmund.*]

Lear. Meantime we shall express our darker¹ purpose.

[*divided.*]
 Give me the map there.—Know, that we have in three, our kingdom: and 'tis our fast intent To shake all cares and business from our age: Conferring them on younger strengths, while we Unburden'd crawl toward death.—Our son of Cornwall,

And you, our no less loving son of Albany, We have this hour a constant will to publish Our daughters' several dowers, that future strife May be prevented now. The princes, France, and Burgundy,

Great rivals in our youngest daughters' love, Long in our court have made their amorous sojourn,

[*daughters.*]
 And here are to be answer'd.—Tell me, my (Since now we will divest us, both of rule, Interest of territory, cares of state,)

Which of you, shall we say, doth love us most? That we our largest bounty may extend Where merit doth most challenge it.—Goneril, Our eldest-born, speak first.

Gon. [*Aside.*] Sir, I

Do love you more than words can wield the matter—Dearer than eyesight, space and liberty; [ter, Beyond what can be valued, rich or rare; [our: No less than life, with grace, health, beauty, honour—As much as child e'er lov'd, or father found. A love that makes breath poor, and speech un-

Beyond all manner of so much I love you. [able; Cor. [*Aside.*] What shall Cordelia do? love and be silent.

[*this,*]
 L. Of all these bounds, even from this line to With shadowy forests and with champains² rich'd,

With plenteous rivers and wide-skirted meads, We make thee lady: To thine and Albany's issue Be this perpetual.—What says our second daughter,

Our dearest Regan, wife to Cornwall? Speak.

1 Scrutiny.

2 Hardened.

1 Secret.

2 Plains.

Reg. I am made of that self metal as my sister,
And prize me at her worth. In my true heart
I find, she names my very deed of love;
Only she comes too short,—that I profess
Myself an enemy to all other joys,
Which the most precious square¹ of sense pos-
And find, I am alone felicitate [sesses;
In your dear highness' love.

Cor. [*Aside.*] Then poor Cordelia!
And yet not so; since, I am sure, my love's
More richer than my tongue.

Lear. To thee, and thine hereditary ever,
Remain this ample third of our fair kingdom:
No less in space, validity,² and pleasure,
Than that confirm'd on Goneril.—Now, our joy,
Although the last, not least; to whose young love
The vines of France, and milk of Burgundy,
Strive to be interest'd: what can you say, to draw
A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.

Cor. Nothing, my lord.

Lear. Nothing?

Cor. Nothing.

L. Nothing can come of nothing: speak again.

Cor. Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth: I love your majesty
According to my bond; nor more nor less.

Lear. How, how, Cordelia? mend your speech a
Lest it may mar your fortunes. [little,

Cor. Good, my lord,
You have begot me, bred me, lov'd me: I
Return those duties back as are right fit,
Obey you, love you, and most honour you.
Why have my sisters husbands, if they say,
They love you, all? Haply, when I shall wed,
That lord, whose hand must take my plight, shall
carry

Half my love with him, half my care, and duty:
sure, I shall never marry like my sisters,
To love my father all.

Lear. But goes this with thy heart?

Cor. Ay, good my lord.

Lear. So young, and so untender?

Cor. So young, my lord, and true.

L. Let it be so,—Thy truth then be thy dower:
For, by the sacred radiance of the sun;
The mysteries of Hecate, and the night;
By all the operations of the orbs,
From whom we do exist, and cease to be;
Here I disclaim all my paternal care,
Propinquity, and property of blood,
And as a stranger to my heart and me [thian,
Hold thee, from this³ for ever. The barbarous Scy-
Or he that makes his generation⁴ messes
To gorge his appetite, shall to my bosom
Be as well neighbour'd, pitied, and reliev'd,
As thou my sometime daughter.

Kent. Good my liege,—

Lear. Peace, Kent!

Come not between the dragon and his wrath:
I lov'd her most, and thought to set my rest
On her kind nursery.—[*To Cordelia.*] Hence,
and avoid my sight!—

So be my grave my peace, as here I give
Her father's heart from her!—Call France;—Who
Call Burgundy.—Cornwall, and Albany, [stirs?
With my two daughters' dowers digest this third:

Let pride, which she calls plainness, marry her.
I do invest you jointly with my power,
Pre-eminence, and all the large effects [course,
That troop with majesty.—Ourself, by monthly
With reservation of an hundred knights,
By you to be sustain'd, shall our abode
Make with you by due turns. Only we still retain
The name, and all the additions¹ to a king;
The sway,
Revenue, execution of the rest,
Beloved sons, be yours: which to confirm,
This coronet part between you.

[*Giving the Crown.*
Kent. Royal Lear,
Whom I have ever honour'd as my king,
Lov'd as my father, as my master follow'd,
As my great patron thought on in my prayers,—

Lear. The bow is bent and drawn, make from
the shaft.

Kent. Let it fall rather, though the fork invade
The region of my heart: be Kent unmannerly,
When Lear is mad. What would'st thou do,
old man? [speak,

Think'st thou that duty shall have dread to
When power to flattery bows? To plainness
honour's bound,

When majesty stoops to folly. Reverse thy doom;
And, in thy best consideration, check [ment,
This hideous rashness: answer my life my judg-
Thy youngest daughter does not love thee least;
Nor are those empty-hearted, whose low sound
Reverbs no hollowness.

Lear. Kent, on thy life, no more.

Kent. My life I never held but as a pawn
To wage against thine enemies; nor fear to lose it,
Thy safety being the motive.

Lear. Out of my sight!

Kent. See better, Lear; and let me still remain
The true blank² of thine eye.

Lear. Now, by Apollo,—

Kent. Now, by Apollo, king,

Thou swear'st thy gods in vain.

Lear. [*Laying his hand on his Sword.*] O,
vassal, miscreant!

Alb. Corn. Dear sir, forbear.

Kent. Do;

Kill thy physician, and the fee bestow
Upon the foul disease: Revoke thy gift;
Or whilst I can vent clamour from my throat,
I'll tell thee, thou dost evil.

Lear. Hear me, recreant!

On thine allegiance hear me!—
Since thou hast sought to make us break our vow,
(Which we durst never yet,) and, with strain'd
pride,

To come betwixt our sentence and our power;
(Which nor our nature nor our place can bear,)
Our potency make good, take thy reward.
Five days we do allot thee, for provision
To shield thee from diseases of the world:
And, on the sixth, to turn thy hated back
Upon our kingdom: if, on the tenth day following,
Thy banish'd trunk be found in our dominions,
The moment is thy death: Away! By Jupiter,
This shall not be revok'd. [appear,

Kent. Fare thee well, king: since thou wilt
Freedom lives hence, and banishment is here.—

1 Complement.

2 Vain.

3 (From this time.)

4 His children.

1 Titles.

2 Mark.

[To Cordelia.] The gods to their dear shelter
take thee, maid,
That justly think'st, and hast most rightly said!—
[To Regan and Goneril.] And your largespeeches
may your deeds approve,
That good effects may spring from words of love.—
Thus Kent, O princes, bids you all adieu;
He'll shape his old course in a country new. [Exit.

Re-enter Gloucester; with France, Burgundy, and Attendants.

G. Here's France and Burgundy, my noble lord.

Lear. My lord of Burgundy,
We first address towards you, who with this king
Hath rivall'd for our daughter; What, in the least,
Will you require in present dower with her,
Or cease your quest of love?

Bur. Most royal majesty,
I crave no more than hath your highness offer'd,
Nor will you tender less.

Lear. Right noble Burgundy,
When she was dear to us, we did hold her so;
But now her price is fall'n: Sir, there she stands;
If aught within that little, seeming substance,
Or all of it, with our displeasure piec'd,
And nothing more, may fitly like your grace,
She's there, and she is yours.

Bur. I know no answer.

Lear. Sir,
Will you, with those infirmities she owes,¹
Unfriended, new-adapted to our hate,
Dower'd with our curse, and stranger'd with our
Take her, or leave her?

Bur. Pardon me, royal sir;
Election makes not up on such conditions.

Lear. Then leave her, sir; for, by the power
that made me,

I tell you all her wealth.—[To France.] For
you, great king,

I would not from your love make such a stray,
To match you where I hate: therefore beseech
To avert your liking a more worthier way, [you
Than on a wretch whom nature is asham'd
Almost to acknowledge hers.

France. This is most strange!
That she, that even but now was your best object,
The argument of your praise, balm of your age,
Most best, most dearest, should in this trice of
time

Commit a thing so monstrous, to dismantle
So many folds of favour! Sure, her offence
Must be of such unnatural degree,
That monsters it, or your fore-vouch'd affection
Fall into taint: which to believe of her,
Must be a faith, that reason without miracle
Could never plant in me.

Cor. I yet beseech your majesty,
(If for² I want that glib and oily art, [tend,
To speak and purpose not; since what I well in-
I'll do't before I speak,) that you make known
It is no vicious blot, murder, or foulness,
No unchaste action or dishonour'd step,
That hath depriv'd me of your grace and favour;
But even for want of that, for which I am richer:
A still-soliciting eye, and such a tongue
That I am glad I have not, though not to have it,
Hath lost me in your liking.

¹ Owns, is possessed of. ² Because.

Lear. Better thou
Hast not been born, than not to have pleas'd
me better.

France. Is it but this? a tardiness in nature,
Which often leaves the history unspoke,
That it intends to do?—My lord of Burgundy,
What say you to the lady? Love is not love,
When it is mingled with respects, that stand
Aloof from the entire point. Will you have her?
She is herself a dowry.

Bur. Royal Lear,
Give but that portion which yourself propos'd,
And here I take Cordelia by the hand,
Duchess of Burgundy.

Lear. Nothing: I have sworn; I am firm.

Bur. I am sorry then, you have so lost a father,
That you must lose a husband.

Cor. Peace be with Burgundy!
Since that respects of fortune are his love,
I shall not be his wife.

France. Fairest Cordelia, thou art most rich,
being poor;

Most choice, forsaken; and most lov'd, despis'd!
Thee and thy virtues here I seize upon:
Be it lawful, I take up what's cast away.

Gods, gods! 'tis strange, that from their cold'st
neglect

My love should kindle to inflam'd respect.—
Thy dowerless daughter, king, thrown to my
chance,

Is queen of us, of ours, and our fair France:
Not all the dukes of wat'rish Burgundy
Shall buy this unpriz'd precious maid of me.—
Bid them farewell, Cordelia, though unkind:
Thou lovest here, a better where to find.

Lear. Thou hast her, France: let her be thine;
for we

Have no such daughter, nor shall ever see
That face of hers again:—Therefore be gone,
Without our grace, our love, our benison.¹—
Come, noble Burgundy.

[Flourish. Enter Lear, Burgundy, Cornwall, Albany, Gloucester, and Attendants.

France. Bid farewell to your sisters.

Cor. The jewels of our father, with wash'd eyes
Cordelia leaves you; I know you what you are;
And, like a sister, am most loath to call
Your faults, as they are nam'd. Use well our
father:

To your professed bosoms I commit him:
But yet, alas! stood I within his grace,
I would prefer him to a better place.
So farewell to you both.

Gon. Prescribe not us our duties.

Reg. Let your study
Be, to content your lord; who hath receiv'd you
At fortune's alms. You have obedience scant'd,
And well are worth the want that you have
wanted.

Cor. Time shall unfold what plaited cunning
Who cover faults, at last shame them derides
Well may you prosper!

France. Come, my fair Cordelia.
[Exit France and Cordelia.

Gon. Sister, it is not a little I have to say, of
what most nearly appertains to us both. I
think, our father will hence to-night.

¹ Blessing.

Reg. That's most certain, and with you; next month with us.

Gon. You see how full of changes his age is: the observation we have made of it hath not been little: he always lov'd our sister most; and with what poor judgment he hath now cast her off appears too grossly.

Reg. 'Tis the infirmity of his age: yet he hath ever but slenderly known himself.

Gon. The best and soundest of his time hath been but rash; then must we look to receive from his age, not alone the imperfections of long-engrafted condition,¹ but therewithal, the unruly waywardness that infirm and choleric years bring with them.

Reg. Such unconstant starts are we like to have from him, as this of Kent's banishment.

Gon. There is further compliment of leaving-taking between France and him. Pray you, let us hit² together: If our father carry authority with such dispositions as he bears, this last surrender of his will but offend us.

Reg. We shall further think of it.

Gon. We must do something, and i' the heat.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

A HALL IN THE EARL OF GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Edmund, with a Letter.

Edm. Thou, nature, art my goddess; to thy law My services are bound: Wherefore should I Stand in the plague³ of custom; and permit The curiosity⁴ of nations to deprive me, [shines For that I am some twelve or fourteen moon-Lap⁵ of a brother? Why bastard? wherefore base? When my dimensions are as well compact, My mind as generous, and my shape as true, As honest madam's issue. Why brand they us With base? with baseness? bastardy? base? base?

Well then,

Legitimate Edgar, I must have your land: Our father's love is to the bastard Edmund. As to the legitimate: Fine word,—legitimate! Well, my legitimate, if this letter speed, And my invention thrive, Edmund the base Shall top the legitimate. I grow; I prosper:—Now, gods, stand up for bastards!

[*Enter Gloster.*]

Glo. Kent banish'd thus! And France in choler parted!

And the king gone to-night! subscribed⁶ his Confin'd to exhibition! All this done Upon the gad⁷!—Edmund! How now? what news?

Edm. So please your lordship, none.

[*Putting up the Letter.*]

Glo. Why so earnestly seek you to put up that letter?

Edm. I know no news, my lord.

Glo. What paper were you reading?

Edm. Nothing, my lord.

Glo. No? What needed then that terrible despatch of it into your pocket? the quality of nothing hath not such need to hide itself. Let's

see: Come, if it be nothing I shall not need spectacles.

Edm. I beseech you, sir, pardon me: it is a letter from my brother, that I have not all o'er read; for so much as I have perused, I find it not fit for your over-looking.

Glo. Give me the letter, sir.

Edm. I shall offend, either to detain or give it. The contents, as in part I understand them, are to blame.

Glo. Let's see, let's see.

Edm. I hope, for my brother's justification, he wrote this but as an essay¹ or taste of my virtue.

Glo. [Reads.] *This policy, and reverence of age, makes the world bitter to the best of our times; keeps our fortunes from us, till our oldness cannot relish them. I begin to find an idle and fond² bondage in the oppression of aged tyranny; who sways, not as it hath power, but as it is suffered. Come to me, that of this I may speak more. If our father would sleep till I waked him, you should enjoy half his revenue for ever, and live the beloved of your brother, Edgar.*—Humph—Conspiracy!—Sleep till I waked him—you should enjoy half his revenue.—My son Edgar! Had he a hand to write this? a heart and brain to breed it in?—When came this to you? Who brought it?

Edm. It was not brought me; my lord, there's the cunning of it; I found it thrown in at the casement of my closet.

Glo. You know the character to be your brother's?

Edm. If the matter were good, my lord, I durst swear it were his; but in respect of that, I would fain think it were not.

Glo. It is his.

Edm. It is his hand, my lord; but, I hope, his heart is not in the contents.

Glo. Hath he never heretofore sounded you in this business?

Edm. Never, my lord: But I have often heard him maintain it to be fit, that, sons at perfect age, and fathers declining, the father should be as ward to the son, and the son manage his revenue.

Glo. O villain, villain!—His very opinion in the letter!—Abhorred villain! Unnatural, detested, brutish villain! worse than brutish!—Go, sirrah, seek him; I'll apprehend him;—Abominable villain!—Where is he?

Edm. I do not well know, my lord. If it shall please you to suspend your indignation against my brother, till you can derive from him better testimony of his intent, you shall run a certain course; where,³ if you violently proceed against him, mistaking his purpose, it would make a great gap in your own honour, and shake in pieces the heart of his obedience. I dare pawn down my life for him, that he hath writ this to feel my affection to your honour, and to no other pretence of danger.

Glo. Think you so?

Edm. If your honour judge it meet, I will place you where you shall hear us confer of this, and by an auricular assurance have your satis-

1 Qualities.

2 Agree.

3 Injustices.

4 Fastidiousness.

5 Coming behind.

6 Surrendered.

7 Allowance.

8 Suddenly.

1 Trial. 2 Weak and foolish. 3 Whereas.

fraction; and that without any further delay than this very evening.

Glo. He cannot be such a monster.

Edm. Nor is not, sure.

Glo. To his father, that so tenderly and entirely loves him.—Heaven and earth!—Edmund, seek him out; wind me into him, I pray you: frame the business after your own wisdom: I would unstate myself, to be in a due resolution.

Edm. I will seek him, sir, presently; convey¹ the business as I shall find means, and acquaint you withal.

Glo. These late eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us: Though the wisdom of nature can reason it thus and thus, yet nature finds itself scourged by the sequent effects: love cools, friendship falls off, brothers divide: in cities, mutinies; in countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond cracked between son and father. This villain of mine comes under the prediction; there's son against father: the king falls from bias of nature; there's father against child. We have seen the best of our time: Machinations, hollowiness, treachery, and all ruinous disorders, follow us disquietly to our graves!—Find out this villain, Edmund, it shall lose thee nothing; do it carefully:—And the noble and true-hearted Kent banished! his offence, honesty! Strange! strange! [*Exit.*]

Edm. This is the excellent foppery of the world! that when we are sick in fortune (often the surfeit of our own behaviour,) we make guilty of our disasters, the sun, the moon, and the stars: as if we were villains by necessity; fools, by heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and treachers,² by spherical predominance; drunkards, liars, and adulterers, by an enforced obedience of planetary influence; and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on: An admirable evasion of man, to lay his goatish disposition to the charge of a star; my nativity was under *ursa major*; so that it follows, I am rough and lecherous.—Tut, I should have been that I am, had the maidenliest star in the firmament twinkled on me. Enter *Edgar*—

Enter Edgar.

and pat he comes, like the catastrophe of the old comedy: My cue is villainous melancholy, with a sigh like Tom o' Bedlam.—O, these eclipses do portend these divisions! fa, sol, la, mi.

Edg. How now, brother Edmund? What serious contemplation are you in?

Edm. I am thinking, brother, of a prediction I read this other day, what should follow these eclipses.

Edg. Do you busy yourself with that?

Edm. I promise you, the effects he writes of, succeed unhappily; as of unnaturalness between the child and the parent; death, dearth, dissolutions of ancient amities; divisions in state, menaces and maledictions against king and nobles; needless diffidences, banishment of friends, dissipation of cohorts, nuptial breaches, and I know not what.

Edg. How long have you been a sectary astronomical?

Edm. Come, come: when saw you my father last?

Edg. Why, the night gone by.

Edm. Spake you with him?

Edg. Ay, two hours together.

Edm. Parted you in good terms? Found you no displeasure in him, by word or countenance?

Edg. None at all.

Edm. Bethink yourself, wherein you may have offended him: and at my entreaty, forbear his presence, till some little time hath qualified the heat of his displeasure; which at this instant so rageth in him, that with the mischief of your person it would scarcely allay.

Edg. Some villain hath done me wrong.

Edm. That's my fear. I pray you, have a continent¹ forbearance, till the speed of his rage goes slower; and, as I say, retire with me to my lodging, from whence I will fitly bring you to hear my lord speak: Pray you, go; there's my key:—If you do stir abroad, go armed.

Edg. Armed, brother?

Edm. Brother, I advise you to the best: go armed; I am no honest man, if there be any good meaning towards you: I have told you what I have seen and heard, but faintly; nothing like the image and horror of it: Pray you, away.

Edg. Shall I hear from you anon?

Edm. I do serve you in this business.

[*Exit Edgar.*]

A credulous father, and a brother noble,
Whose nature is so far from doing harms,
That he suspects none; on whose foolish honesty
My practices ride easy!—I see the business.—
Let me, if not by birth, have lands by wit:
All with me's meet, that I can fashion fit. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.

A ROOM IN THE DUKE OF ALBANY'S PALACE.

Enter Goneril and Steward.

Gon. Did my father strike my gentleman for chiding of his fool?

Stew. Ay, madam. [*hour*]

G. By day and night! he wrongs me; every He flashes into one gross crime or other, That sets us all at odds: I'll not endure it: [us His knights grow riotous, and himself upbraids On every trifle:—When he returns from hunting, I will not speak with him; say, I am sick:— If you come slack of former services, You shall do well; the fault of it I'll answer.

Stew. He's coming, madam; I hear him.

[*Horns within.*]

Gon. Put on what weary negligence you please, You and your fellows; I'd have it come to ques- If he dislike it, let him to my sister, [tion: Whose mind and mine, I know, in that are one, Not to be over-ru'd. Idle old man, That still would manage those authorities, That he hath given away!—Now, by my life, Old fools are babes again; and must be us'd With checks, as flatterers,—when they are seen Remember what I have said, [abus'd.]

Stew. Very well, madam.

Gon. And let his knights have colder looks among you;

¹ Manage.

² Traitors.

¹ Temperate.

What grows of it, no matter; advise your fellows so:

I would breed from hence occasions, and I shall, That I may speak.—I'll write straight to my sister, To hold my very course;—Prepare for dinner.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—A HALL IN THE SAME.

Enter Kent, disguised.

Kent. If but as well I other accents borrow, That can my speech diffuse,¹ my good intent May carry through itself to that full issue For which I raz'd² my likeness.—Now, banish'd

Kent, [dem'd,
If thou canst serve where thou dost stand con- (So may it come!) thy master, whom thou lov'st, Shall find thee full of labours.

Horns within. *Enter Lear, Knights, and Attendants.*

Lear. Let me not stay a jot for dinner: go, get it ready. [*Exit an Attendant.*] How now, what art thou?

Kent. A man, sir.

Lear. What dost thou profess? What wouldst thou with us?

Kent. I do profess to be no less than I seem; to serve him truly, that will put me in trust; to love him that is honest; to converse with him that is wise, and says little; to fear judgment; to fight, when I cannot choose; and to eat no fish.

Lear. What art thou?

Kent. A very honest-hearted fellow, and as poor as the king.

Lear. If thou be as poor for a subject, as he is for a king, thou art poor enough. What wouldst thou?

Kent. Service.

Lear. Who wouldst thou serve?

Kent. You.

Lear. Dost thou know me, fellow?

Kent. No, sir; but you have that in your countenance, which I would fain call master.

Lear. What's that?

Kent. Authority.

Lear. What services canst thou do?

Kent. I can keep honest counsel, ride, run, mar a curious tale in telling it, and deliver a plain message bluntly: that which ordinary men are fit for, I am qualified in; and the best of me is diligence.

Lear. How old art thou?

Kent. Not so young, sir, to love a woman for singing; nor so old, to dote on her for any thing: I have years on my back forty-eight.

Lear. Follow me; thou shalt serve me: if I like thee no worse after dinner, I will not part from thee yet.—Dinner, ho, dinner!—Where's my knave? my fool? Go you, and call my fool hither:

Enter Steward.

You, you, sirrah, where's my daughter?

Stew. So please you,— [Exit.]

Lear. What says the fellow there? Call the clotpoll back.—Where's my fool, ho?—I think the world's asleep.—How now, where's that mongrel?

¹ Disguise.

² Effaced.

Knight. He says, my lord, your daughter is not well.

Lear. Why came not the slave back to me, when I call'd him?

Knight. Sir, he answer'd me in the roundest manner, he would not.

Lear. He would not!

Knight. My lord, I know not what the matter is; but, to my judgment, your highness is not entertain'd with that ceremonious affection as you were wont; there's a great abatement of kindness appears, as well in the general dependants, as in the duke himself also, and your daughter.

Lear. Ha! say'st thou so?

Knight. I beseech you, pardon me, my lord, if I be mistaken; for my duty cannot be silent, when I think your highness is wrong'd.

Lear. Thou but remember'st me of mine own conception; I have perceived a most faint neglect of late; which I have rather blamed as mine own jealous curiosity,¹ than as a very pretence² and purpose of unkindness: I will look further into't.—But where's my fool? I have not seen him this two days.

Knight. Since my young lady's going into France, sir, the fool hath much pin'd away.

Lear. No more of that; I have noted it well.—Go, you, and tell my daughter I would speak with her.—Go you, call hither my fool.—

Re-enter Steward.

O, you sir, you sir, come you hither: Who am I, sir?

Stew. My lady's father.

Lear. My lady's father! my lord's knave: you slave! you cur!

Stew. I am none of this, my lord; I beseech you, pardon me.

Lear. Do you bandy looks with me, you rascal? [Striking him.]

Stew. I'll not be struck, my lord.

Kent. Nor tripped neither; you base foot-ball player. [Tripping up his heels.]

Lear. I thank thee, fellow; thou servest me, and I'll love thee.

Kent. Come, sir, arise, away; I'll teach you differences; away, away: If you will measure your lubber's length again, tarry; but away; go to: Have you wisdom? so.

[Pushes the Steward out.]

Lear. Now, my friendly knave, I thank thee; there's earnest of thy service.

[Giving Kent money.]

Enter Fool.

Fool. Let me hire him too;—Here's my coxcomb. [Giving Kent his cap.]

Lear. How now, my pretty knave? how dost thou?

Fool. Sirrah, you were best take my coxcomb.

Kent. Why, fool?

Fool. Why, for taking one's part that is out of favour: Nay, an thou canst not smile as the wind sits, thou'lt catch cold shortly: There, take my coxcomb: Why, this fellow has banish'd two of his daughters, and did the third a blessing

¹ Punctiliousness.

² Design.

against his will; if thou follow him, thou must needs wear my coxcomb.—How now, nuncle? 'Would I had two coxcombs, and two daughters!

Lear. Why, my boy?

Fool. If I give them all my living, I'd keep my coxcombs myself: There's mine; beg another of thy daughters.

Lear. Take heed, sir; the whip.

Fool. Truth's a dog that must to kennel; he must be whipp'd out, when Lady, the brach,¹ may stand by the fire.

Lear. A pestilent gall to me!

Fool. Sirrah, I'll teach thee a speech.

Lear. Do.

Fool. Mark it, nuncle:—

Have more than thou showest,

Speak less than thou knowest,

Lend less than thou owest,²

Ride more than thou goest,

Learn more than thou trowest,³

Set less than thou throwest;

And thou shalt have more

Than two tens to a score.

Lear. This is nothing, fool.

Fool. Then 'tis like the breath of an unfee'd lawyer; you gave me nothing for't: Can you make no use of nothing, nuncle?

Lear. Why, no, boy; nothing can be made out of nothing.

F. [To Kent.] Pr'ythee, tell him, so much the rent of his land comes to; he will not believe a fool.

Lear. A bitter fool!

Fool. Dost thou know the difference, my boy, between a bitter fool and a sweet fool?

Lear. No, lad; teach me.

Fool. That lord, that counsell'd thee,

To give away thy land,

Come place him here by me,—

Or do thou for him stand:

The sweet and bitter fool

Will presently appear;

The one in motley here,

The other found out there.

Lear. Dost thou call me fool, boy?

Fool. All thy other titles thou hast given away; that thou wast born with.

Kent. This is not altogether fool, my lord.

Fool. No, 'faith, lords and great men will not let me; if I had a monopoly out, they will not let me have all fool to myself; they'll be snatching.—Give me an egg, nuncle, and I'll give thee two crowns.

Lear. What two crowns shall they be?

Fool. Why, after I have cut the egg i' the middle, and eat up the meat, the two crowns of the egg. When thou clovest thy crown i' the middle and gavest away both parts, thou borest thine ass on thy back over the dirt: Thou hadst little wit in thy bald crown, when thou gavest thy golden one away. If I speak like myself in this, let him be whipp'd that first finds it so.

Fools had ne'er less grace⁴ in a year; [Singing.]

For wise men are grown foppish;

And know not how their wits to wear,

Their manners are so apish.

1 Bitch-hound. 2 Ownest. 3 Believest. 4 Favour.

Lear. When were you wont to be so full of songs, sirrah?

Fool. I have used it, nuncle, ever since thou madest thy daughters thy mother.

Then they for sudden joy did weep, [Singing.]

And I for sorrow sung,

That such a king should play bo-peep,

And go the fools among.

Pr'ythee, nuncle, keep a schoolmaster that can teach thy fool to lie; I would fain learn to lie.

Lear. If you lie, sirrah, we'll have you whipp'd.

F. I marvel, what kin thou and thy daughters are: they'll have me whipp'd for speaking true, thou'lt have me whipp'd for lying; and, sometimes, I am whipp'd for holding my peace. I had rather be any kind of thing, than a fool: and yet I would not be thee, nuncle; thou hast pared thy wit o' both sides, and left nothing in the middle: Here comes one o' the parings.

Enter Goneril.

Lear. How now, daughter! what makes that frontlet on? Methinks, you are too much of late i' the frown.

Fool. Thou wast a pretty fellow, when thou hadst no need to care for her frowning; now thou art an O¹ without a figure: I am better than thou art now; I am a fool, thou art nothing.—Yes, forsooth, I will hold my tongue; so your face [To Gon.] bids me, though you say nothing. Mum, mum,

He that keeps nor crust nor crum,

Weary of all, shall want some.—

[Pointing to Lear.] That's a sheal'd peascod.²

Gon. Not only, sir, this your all-licens'd fool,

But other of your insolent retinue,

Do hourly carp and quarrel; breaking forth

In rank and not-to-be-endured riots. Sir,

I had thought, by making this well known unto you,

To have found a safer redress; but now grow fear-

By what yourself too late have spoke and done,

That you protect this course, and put it on³

By your allowance; which if you should, the fault

Would not scape censure, nor the redresses sleep;

Which, in the tender⁴ of a wholesome weal,⁵

Might in their working do you that offence,

Which else were shame, that then necessity

Will call discreet proceeding.

Fool. For you trow, nuncle,

The hedge-sparrow fed the cuckoo so long,

That it had its head bit off by its young.

So, out went the candle, and we were left dark—

Lear. Are you our daughter? [ling.]

Gon. Come, sir, I would, you would make use

of that good wisdom whereof I know you are

fraught⁶; and put away these dispositions, which

of late transform you from what you rightly are.

Fool. May not an ass know when the cart draws

the horse? Whoop, Jug! I love thee.

Lear. Does any here know me?—Why this is

not Lear: does Lear walk thus? speak thus?

Where are his eyes? Either his notion weakens,

or his discernings are lethargied.—Sleeping or

1 A cipher.

2 Empty husk.

3 Promote it.

4 Caring for.

5 Welfare of state.

6 Stored.

waking?—Ha! sure 'tis not so.—Who is it that can tell me who I am?—Lear's shadow? I would learn that; for by the marks of sovereignty, knowledge, and reason, I should be false persuaded I had daughters.

Fool. Which they will make an obedient father.

Lear. Your name, fair gentlewoman?

Gon. Come, sir;

This admiration is much o' the favour¹
Of other your new pranks. I do beseech you
To understand my purposes aright:
As you are old and reverend, you should be wise;
Here do you keep a hundred knights and squires:
Men so disorder'd, so debauch'd, and bold,
That this our court, infected with their manners,
Shows like a riotous inn: epicurism and lust
Make it more like a tavern or a brothel,
Than a grac'd palace. The shame itself doth
For instant remedy: Be then desir'd [speak
By her, that else will take the thing she begs,
A little to disquantity your train;
And the remainder, that shall still depend,²
To be such men as may besort your age,
And know themselves and you.

Lear. Darkness and devils!—
Saddle my horses; call my train together.
Degenerate bastard! I'll not trouble thee;
Yet have I left a daughter.

G. You strike my people; and your disorder'd
Make servants of their betters. [rabble

Enter Albany.

Lear. Woe, that too late repents,—O, sir, are
you come?
Is it your will? [To *Alb.*] Speak, sir.—Prepare
my horses?

Ingratitude! thou marble-hearted fiend,
More hideous, when thou show'st thee in a child,
Than the sea-monster!

Alb. Pray, sir, be patient.

Lear. [To *Goneril.*] Detested kite! thou liest:
My train are men of choice and rarest parts,
That all particulars of duty know;
And in the most exact regard support
The worship of their name.—O most small fault,
How ugly didst thou in Cordelia show! [ture
Which, like an engine,³ wrench'd my frame of na-
From the fix'd place; drew from my heart all love,
And added to the gall. O Lear, Lear, Lear!
Beat at this gate that let thy folly in,

[*Striking his head.*

And thy dear judgment out!—Go, go, my people.
Alb. My lord, I am guiltless, as I am ignorant
Of what hath mov'd you.

L. It may be so, my lord.—Hear, nature, hear;
Dear goddess, hear! Suspend thy purpose, if
Thou didst intend to make this creature fruitful!
Into her womb convey sterility!
Dry up in her the organs of increase;
And from her derogate⁴ body never spring
A babe to honour her! If she must teem,
Create her child of spleen; that it may live,
And be a thwart disnatur'd torment to her!
Let it stamp wrinkles in her brow of youth;
With cadent⁵ tears fret channels in her cheeks;
Turn all her mother's pains, and benefits,

To laughter and contempt; that she may feel
How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
To have a thankless child!—Away, away! [*Exit.*

Alb. Now gods, that we adore, whereof comes
this?

Gon. Never afflict yourself to know the cause;
But let his disposition have that scope
That dotage gives it.

Re-enter Lear.

Lear. What, fifty of my followers, at a clap!
Within a fortnight?

Alb. What's the matter, sir?

Lear. I'll tell thee;—Life and death! I am
asham'd

[To *Goneril.*] That thou hast power to shake my
manhood thus:

That these hot tears, which break from me per-
force,
Should make thee worth them.—Blasts and fogs
upon thee!

The untended¹ woundings of a father's curse
Pierce every sense about thee!—Old fond eyes,
Bewep this cause again, I'll pluck you out;
And cast you, with the waters that you lose,
To temper clay.—Ha! is it come to this?
Let it be so:—Yet have I left a daughter,
Who, I am sure, is kind and comfortable;
When she shall hear this of thee, with her nails
She'll flay thy wolfish visage. Thou shalt find,
That I'll resume the shape which thou dost think
I have cast off for ever; thou shalt, I warrant thee.

[*Exit Lear, Kent, and Attendants.*

Gon. Do you mark that, my lord?

Alb. I cannot be so partial, *Goneril*,

To the great love I bear you,—

Gon. Pray you, content.—What, *Oswald*, ho!
[To the *Fool.*] You, sir, more knave than fool,
after your master.

Fool. Nuncle Lear, nuncle Lear, tarry, and
take the fool with thee.

*A fox, when one has caught her,
And such a daughter,
Should sure to the slaughter,
If my cap would buy a halter;
So the fool follows after.* [*Exit.*

Gon. This man hath had good counsel:—A
hundred knights?

'Tis politick, and safe, to let him keep [dream,
At point,² a hundred knights. Yes, that, on every
Each buz, each fancy, each complaint, dislike,
He may enguard his dotage with their powers,
And hold our lives in mercy.—*Oswald*, I say!—

Alb. Well, you may fear too far.

Gon. Safer than trust:

Let me still take away the arms I fear,
Not fear still to be taken. I know his heart:
What he hath utter'd, I have writ my sister;
If she sustain him, and his hundred knights,
When I have show'd the unfitness,—How now,
Oswald?

Enter Stewart.

What, have you writ that letter to my sister?

Stew. Ay, madam.

G. Take you some company, and away to horse

1 Unstopped.

2 Armed.

1 Complexion. 3 The rack. 5 Falling.

2 Continue in service. 4 Degraded.

Inform her full of my particular fear;
And thereto add such reasons of your own,
As may compact it more. Get you gone;
And hasten your return. [*Exit Stew.*] No, no,
my lord,

This milky gentleness, and course of yours,
Though I condemn it not, yet, under pardon,
You are much more attack'd¹ for want of wisdom,
Than prais'd for harmful mildness.

Alb. How far your eyes may pierce, I cannot
Striving to better, oft we mar what's well. [*tell;*

Gon. Nay, then—

Alb. Well, well; the event. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—COURT BEFORE THE SAME.

Enter Lear, Kent, and Fool.

Lear. Go you before to Gloster with these
letters: acquaint my daughter no further with
any thing you know, than comes from her de-
mand out of the letter: If your diligence be not
speedy, I shall be there before you.

Kent. I will not sleep, my lord, till I have
delivered your letter. [*Exit.*

Fool. If a man's brains were in his heels,
wer'e not in danger of kibes²?

Lear. Ay, boy.

Fool. Then, I pry'thee, be merry; thy wit
shall not go slipshod.

Lear. Ha, ha, ha!

Fool. Shalt see, thy other daughter will use
thee kindly: for though she's as like this as a
crab is like an apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.

Lear. Why, what canst thou tell, my boy?

Fool. She will taste as like this, as a crab
does to a crab. Thou canst tell, why one's
nose stands i' the middle of his face?

Lear. No.

Fool. Why, to keep his eyes on either side
of his nose; that what a man cannot smell out,
he may spy into.

Lear. I did her wrong:—

Fool. Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell?

Lear. No.

Fool. Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail
has a house.

Lear. Why?

Fool. Why, to put his head in; not to give
it away to his daughters, and leave his horns
without a case.

Lear. I will forget my nature.—So kind a
father!—Be my horses ready?

Fool. Thy asses are gone about 'em. The
reason why the seven stars are no more than
seven, is a pretty reason.

Lear. Because they are not eight?

Fool. Yes, indeed: Thou wouldest make a
good fool.

Lear. To take it again perforce!—Monster
ingratitude!

Fool. If thou wert my fool, nuncle, I'd have
thee beaten for being old before thy time.

Lear. How's that?

Fool. Thou shouldst not have been old, be-
fore thou hadst been wise.

Lear. O let me not be mad, not mad, sweet hea-
ven! Keep me in temper; I would not be mad!—

¹ Taxed.

² Being chapped.

Enter Gentleman.

How now! Are the horses ready?

Gent. Ready, my lord.

Lear. Come, boy.

[*Exeunt.*

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A COURT WITHIN THE CASTLE OF THE EARL OF GLOSTER.

Enter Edmund and Curan, meeting.

Edm. Save thee, Curan.

Cur. And you, sir. I have been with your
father; and given him notice, that the duke of
Cornwall, and Regan his duchess, will be here
with him to-night.

Edm. How comes that?

Cur. Nay, I know not: You have heard of the
news abroad; I mean, the whispered ones, for
they are yet but ear-kissing arguments?

Edm. Not I; 'Pray you, what are they?

Cur. Have you heard of no likely wars toward,
'twixt the dukes of Cornwall and Albany?

Edm. Not a word.

Cur. You may then, in time. Fare you well,
sir. [*Exit.*

Edm. The duke be here to-night? The better!
Best!

This weaves itself perforce into my business!
My father hath set guard to take my brother;
And I have one thing, of a queazy¹ question,
Which I must act:—Briefness, and fortune,
work!—

Brother, a word; descend:—Brother, I say;

Enter Edgar.

My father watches:—O sir, fly this place;
Intelligence is given where you are hid;
You have now the good advantage of the night:—
Have you not spoken 'gainst the duke of Corn-
wall?

He's coming hither; now, i' the night, i' the
And Regan with him; Have you nothing said
Upon his party 'gainst the duke of Albany?
Advise² yourself.

Edg. I am sure on't, not a word.

Edm. I hear my father coming,--Pardon me:--
In cunning, I must draw my sword upon you:--
Draw: Seem to defend yourself: Now quit you
well.

Yield:--come before my father:--Light, ho here!--
Fly, brother;--Torches! torches!--So farewell.---

[*Exit Edgar.*

Some blood drawn on me would beget opinion
[*Wounds his arm.*

Of my more fierce endeavour: I have seen
drunkards

Do more than this in sport.—Father! father!
Stop, stop! No help?

Enter Gloster, and Servants with Torches.

Glo. Now, Edmund, where's the villain?

Edm. Here stood he in the dark, his sharp
sword out,

Mumbling of wicked charms, conjuring the moon
To stand his aspicuous mistress:—

Glo.

But where is he?

¹ Delicate.

² Recollect.

Edm. Look, sir, I bleed.

Glo. Where is the villain, Edmund?

Edm. Fled this way, sir. When by no means he could—

Glo. Pursue him, ho!—Go after.—[*Exit Serv.*]
By no means,—what?

E. Persuade me to the murder of your lordship; But that I told him, the revenging gods 'Gainst parricides did all their thunders bend; Spoke, with how manifold and strong a bond The child was bound to the father;—Sir, in fine, Seeing how loathly opposite I stood To his unnatural purpose, in fell motion, With his prepared sword, he charges home My unprovided body, lanc'd mine arm: But when he saw my best alarm'd spirits, Bold in the quarrel's right, rous'd to the encounter, Or whether gasted¹ by the noise I made, Full suddenly he fled.

Glo. Let him fly far:
Not in this land shall he remain uncaught;
And found—Despatch.—The noble duke my master,

My worthy arch² and patron, comes to-night:
By his authority I will proclaim it, [thanks,
That he, which finds him, shall deserve our
Bringing the murderous coward to the stake;
He, that conceals him, death.

Edm. When I dissuaded him from his intent,
And found him pight³ to do it, with curst⁴ speech
I threaten'd to discover him: He replied,
*Thou unpossessing bastard! dost thou think,
If I would stand against thee, would the reposal
Of any trust, virtue, or worth, in thee
Make thy words faith'd? No: what I should deny,
(As this I would; ay, though thou didst produce
My very character,) I'd turn it all
To thy suggestion, plot, and damned practice:
And thou must make a dullard of the world,
If they not thought the profits of my death
Were very pregnant and potential spurs
To make thee seek it.*

Glo. Strong and fasten'd villain!
Would he deny his letter?—I never got him.

[*Trumpets within.*]

Hark, the duke's trumpets! I know not why he comes:—

All ports I'll bar; the villain shall not 'scape;
The duke must grant me that: besides, his picture
I will send far and near, that all the kingdom
May have due note of him; and of my land,
Loyal and natural boy, I'll work the means
To make thee capable.⁵

Enter Cornwall, Regan, and Attendants.

Corn. How now, my noble friend? since I came hither, [news.]

(Which I can call but now,) I have heard strange
Reg. If it be true, all vengeance comes too short,
Which can pursue the offender. How dost, my lord?

G. O. madam, my old heart is crack'd, is crack'd!
R. What, did my father's godson seek your life?

He whom my father nam'd? your Edgar?

Glo. O, lady, lady, shame would have it hid!

Reg. Was he not companion with the riotous
That tend upon my father? [knights

¹ Frighted. ² Fixed. ³ i.e. Of succeeding to my land.
⁴ Chief. ⁵ Harsh,

Glo. I know not, madam:
It is too bad, too bad.—

Edm. Yes, madam, he was.
Reg. No marvel then, though he were ill affected,
'Tis they have put him on the old man's death,
To have the waste and spoil of his revenues.
I have this present evening from my sister
Been well inform'd of them; and with such
cautions,

That, if they come to sojourn at my house,
I'll not be there.

Corn. Nor I, assure thee, Regan.
Edmund, I hear that you have shown your father
A child-like office.

Edm. 'Twas my duty, sir.

Glo. He did bewray his practice; and receiv'd
This hurt you see, striving to apprehend him.

Corn. Is he pursued?

Glo. Ay, my good lord, he is.
Corn. If he be taken, he shall never more
Be fear'd of doing harm: make your own purpose,
How in my strength you please.—For you,
Edmund,

Whose virtue and obedience doth this instant
So much commend itself, you shall be ours;
Natures of such deep trust we shall much need;
You we first seize on.

Edm. I shall serve you, sir,
Truly, however else.

Glo. For him, I thank your grace.

Corn. You know not why we came to visit you,—
Reg. Thus out of season; threading dark-ey'd
night.

Occasions, noble Gloster, of some poize,²
Wherein we must have use of your advice:—
Our father he hath writ, so hath our sister,
Of differences, which I best thought it fit
To answer from our home; the several messengers
From hence attend despatch. Our good old friend,
Lay comforts to your bosom; and bestow
Your needful counsel to our business,
Which craves the instant use.

Glo. I serve you, madam:
Your graces are right welcome. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—BEFORE GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Kent and Steward, severally.

Stew. Good dawning to thee, friend: Art of
Kent. Ay, [the house?]

Stew. Where may we set our horses?

Kent. I' the mire.

Stew. Pr'ythee, if thou love me, tell me.

Kent. I love thee not.

Stew. Why, then I care not for thee.

Kent. If I had thee in Lipsbury pinfold, I
would make thee care for me.

Stew. Why dost thou use me thus? I know
thee not.

Kent. Fellow, I know thee.

Stew. What dost thou know me for?

Kent. A knave; a rascal, an eater of broken
meats; a base, proud, shallow, beggarly, three-
suited, hundred-pound, worsted-stocking knave;
a lily-liver'd, action-taking knave; a glass-gazing,
superserviceable, finical rogue; one-trunk-in-
heriting slave; one that art nothing but the

¹ Wicked purpose. ² Weight.

composition of a knave, beggar, and coward: one whom I will beat into clamorous whining, if thou deny'st the least syllable of thy addition.¹

Stew. Why, what a monstrous fellow art thou, thus to rail on one, that is neither known of thee, nor knows thee?

Kent. What a brazen-faced varlet art thou, to deny thou know'st me? Is it two days ago, since I tripp'd up thy heels, and beat thee, before the king? Draw, you rogue: for, though it be night, the moon shines; I'll make a sop o' the moonshine of you: Draw, you barber-monger, draw. [*Drawing his sword.*]

Stew. Away; I have nothing to do with thee.

Kent. Draw, you rascal: you come with letters against the king; and take vanity² the puppet's part, against the royalty of her father: Draw, you rogue, or I'll so carbonado³ your shanks:—draw, you rascal; come your ways.

Stew. Help, ho! murder! help!

Kent. Strike, you slave; stand, rogue, stand; you neat⁴ slave, strike. [*Beating him.*]

Stew. Help, ho! murder! murder!

Enter Edmund, Cornwall, Regan, Gloster, and Servants.

Edm. How now? What's the matter! Part.

Kent. With you, Goodman boy, if you please; come, I'll flesh you; come on, young master.

Glo. Weapons! arms! What's the matter here?

Corn. Keep peace, upon your lives;

He dies, that strikes again: What is the matter?

R. The messengers from our sister and the king.

Corn. What is your difference? speak.

Stew. I am scarce in breath, my lord.

Kent. No marvel, you have so bestir'd your valour. You cowardly rascal, nature disclaims in thee; a tailor made thee.

Corn. Thou art a strange fellow: a tailor make a man?

Kent. Ay, a tailor, sir; a stone-cutter, or a painter, could not have made him so ill, though they had been but two hours at the trade.

Corn. Speak yet, how grew your quarrel?

Stew. This ancient ruffian, sir, whose life I have At suit of his grey beard,— [*spar'd,*]

K. Thou zed! thou unnecessary letter!—My lord, if you will give me leave, I will tread this unbolted⁵ villain into mortar, and daub the wall with him.—Spare my grey beard, you wagtail!

Corn. Peace, sirrah!

You beastly knave, know you no reverence?

Kent. Yes, sir; but anger has a privilege.

Corn. Why art thou angry?

Kent. That such a slave as this should wear a sword, [*these,*]

Who wears no honesty. Such smiling rogues as Like rats, oft bite the holy cords atwain Which are too intrinsic⁶ t' unloose: smooth every passion

That in the natures of their lords rebels; Bring oil to fire, snow to their colder moods; Renege,⁷ affirm, and turn their halcyon⁸ beaks With every gale and vary of their masters,

As knowing nought, like dogs, but following.— A plague upon your epileptic visage!

Smile you my speeches, as I were a fool?

Goose, if I had you upon Sarum plain, I'd drive ye cackling home to Camelot.¹

Corn. What, art thou mad, old fellow?

Glo. How fell you out?

Say that.

Kent. No contraries hold more antipathy, Than I and such a knave.

C. Why dost thou call him knave? What's his

K. His countenance likes me not. [*offence!*]

C. No more, perchance, does mine, or his, or

K. Sir, 'tis my occupation to be plain; [*hers.*]

I have seen better faces in my time, Than stands on any shoulder that I see Before me at this instant.

Corn. This is some fellow, Who, having been praised for bluntness, doth affect A saucy roughness; and constrains the garb, Quite from his nature: He cannot flatter, he!— An honest mind and plain,—he must speak truth: And they will take it, so; if not, he's plain. These kind of knaves I know, which in this plainness

Harbour more craft, and more corrupter ends, Than twenty silly ducking observants, That stretch their duties nicely.

Kent. Sir, in good sooth, in sincere verity, Under the allowance of your grand aspect, Whose influence, like the wreath of radiant fire On flickering Phœbus' front,—

Corn. What mean'st by this?

Kent. To go out of my dialect, which you commend so much. I know, sir, I am no flatterer: he that beguil'd you, in a plain accent, was a plain knave; which, for my part, I will not be, though I should win your displeasure to treat me to it.

Corn. What was the offence you gave him?

Stew. Never any:

It pleas'd the king his master, very late, To strike at me, upon his misconstruction: When he, conjunct, and flattering his displeasure, Tripp'd me behind: being down, insulted, rail'd, And put upon him such a deal of man, That worthy'd him,² got praises of the king For him attempting who was self-subdu'd: And, in the fleshment of this dread exploit, Drew on me here.

Kent. None of these rogues, and cowards, But Ajax is their fool.³

Corn. Fetch forth the stocks, ho! You stubborn ancient knave, you reverend brag— We'll teach you— [*gart,*]

Kent. Sir, I am too old to learn; Call not your stocks for me: I serve the king; On whose employment I was sent to you: You shall do small respect, show too bold malice Against the grace and person of my master, Stocking his messenger.

Corn. Fetch forth the stocks: As I've life and honour, there shall he sit till noon.

Reg. Till noon! till night, my lord; and all night too.

Kent. Why, madam, if I were your father's dog, You should not use me so.

1 (Famed for geese.) 2 (Said sarcastically.)
3 A fool compared to them.

1 Titles.
2 A character in the old shows.
3 Mark with blows.
4 Very.
5 Unsifted.
6 Entangled.
7 Disown.
8 A stuffed kingfisher used as a weathercock.

Reg. Sir, being his knave, I will.

[*Stocks brought out.*]

Corn. This is a fellow of the self-same colour
Our sister speaks of:—Come, bring away the
stocks.

Glo. Let me beseech your grace not to do so:
His fault is much, and the good king his master
Will check him for't: your purpos'd low correc-
tion, as basest and contemned 'st wretches, [tion
For pilferings and most common trespasses,
Are punish'd with: the king must take it ill,
That he's so slightly valued in his messenger,
Should have him thus restrain'd.]

Corn. I'll answer that.

Reg. My sister may receive it much more worse,
To have her gentleman abus'd, assaulted,
For following her affairs.—Put in his legs.—

[*Kent is put in the Stocks.*]

Come, my good lord, away.

[*Exeunt Regan and Cornwall.*]

Glo. I am sorry for thee, friend; 'tis the duke's
pleasure,

Whose disposition, all the world well knows,
Will not be rubb'd, nor stopp'd: I'll entreat
for thee.

Kent. Pray, do not, sir; I have watch'd, and
travell'd hard;

Some time I shall sleep out, the rest I'll whistle.
A good man's fortune may grow out at heels:
Give you good morrow!

Glo. The duke's to blame in this: 'twill be ill
taken. [Exit.]

K. Good king, that must approve the common
Thou out of heaven's benediction com'st [saw!
To the warm sun!

Approach, thou beacon to this under globe,
That by thy comfortable beams I may
Peruse this letter!—Nothing almost sees miracles,
But misery;—I know 'tis from Cordelia;
Who hath most fortunately been inform'd
Of my obscured course; and shall find time
From this enormous state,—seeking to give
Losses their remedies:—All weary and o'er-
watch'd;

Take vantage, heavy eyes, not to behold
This shameful lodging.

Fortune, good night; smile once more; turn thy
wheel! [He sleeps.]

SCENE III.—A PART OF THE HEATH.

Enter Edgar.

Edg. I heard myself proclaim'd;
And, by the happy hollow of a tree,
Escap'd the hunt. No port is free; no place,
That guard, and most unusual vigilance,
Does not attend my taking. While I may 'scape,
I will preserve myself: and am bethought
To take the basest and most poorest shape,
That ever penury, in contempt of man, [filth;
Brought near to beast: my face I'll grime with
Blanket my loins: elf² all my hair in knots;
And with presented nakedness outface
The winds, and persecutions of the sky.
The country gives me proof and precedent
Of Bedlam beggars, who, with roaring voices,
Strike in their numb'd and mortif'd bare arms,

1 Saying. 2 Knot.

Pins, wooden pricks,¹ nails, sprigs of rosemary;
And with this horrible object, from low farms,
Poor pelting² villages, sheep-cotes and mills,
Sometime with lunatic bans,³ sometime with
prayers, [Tom!
Enforce their charity.—Poor Turlygood! poor
That's something yet;—Edgar I nothing am. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.—BEFORE GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Lear, Fool, and Gentleman.

Lear. 'Tis strange, that they should so depart
from home,

And not send back my messenger.

Gent. As I learn'd,

The night before there was no purpose in them
Of this remove.

Kent. Hail to thee, noble master!

Lear. How!

Mak'st thou this shame thy pastime?

Kent. No, my lord.

Fool. Ha, ha; look! he wears cruel⁴ garters!
Horses are tied by the heads; dogs and bears,
by the neck; monkeys by the loins; and men
by the legs; when a man is over-lusty at legs,
then he wears wooden nether-stocks.⁵

Lear. What's he, that hath so much thy place
To set thee here? [mistook]

Kent. It is both he and she,
Your son and daughter.

Lear. No.

Kent. Yes.

Lear. No, I say.

Kent. I say, yea.

Lear. No, no; they would not.

Kent. Yes, they have.

Lear. By Jupiter, I swear, no.

Kent. By Juno, I swear, ay.

Lear. They durst not do't.

They could not, would not do't; 'tis worse than
murder,

To do upon respect such violent outrage:
Resolve me, with all modest haste, which way
Thou might'st deserve, or they impose, this usage,
Coming from us.

Kent. My lord, when at their home
I did commend your highness' letters to them,
Ere I was risen from the place that show'd
My duty kneeling, came there a reeking post,
Stew'd in his haste, half breathless, panting forth
From Goneril his mistress, salutations;
Deliver'd letters, spite of intermission,
Which presently they read: on whose contents,
They summon'd up their meiny,⁶ straight took
Commanded me to follow, and attend [horse;
The leisure of their answer: gave me cold looks:
And meeting here the other messenger,
Whose welcome, I perceiv'd, had poison'd mine,
(Being the very fellow that of late
Display'd so saucily against your highness,)
Having more man than wit about me, drew:
He raised the house with loud and coward cries:
Your son and daughter found this trespass worth
The shame which here it suffers.

1 Skewers.

2 Paltry.

3 Curses.

4 A quibble on *crowl*—worsted.

5 The old word for stockings.

6 People.

Fool. Winter's not gone yet, if the wild geese fly that way.

*Fathers, that wear rags,
Do make their children blind;
But fathers, that bear bags,
Shall see their children kind.*

But, for all this, thou shalt have as many dolours¹ for thy daughters, as thou canst tell in a year.

Lear. O, how this mother² swells up toward my heart!

Hysterica passio! down, thou climbing sorrow, Thy element's below!—Where is this daughter?

Kent. With the earl, sir, here within.

Lear. Follow me not;
Stay here. *[Exit.]*

Gent. Made you no more offence than what you speak of?

Kent. None.

How chance the king comes with so small a train?

Fool. And thou hadst been set i' the stocks for that question, thou hadst well deserved it.

Kent. Why, fool!

Fool. We'll set thee to school to an ant, to teach thee there's no labouring in the winter. All that follow their noses are led by their eyes, but blind men; and there's not a nose among twenty, but can smell him that's stinking. Let go thy hold, when a great wheel runs down a hill, lest it break thy neck with following it; but the great one that goes up the hill, let him draw thee after. When a wise man gives thee better counsel, give me mine again: I would have none but knaves follow it, since a fool gives it.

That, sir, which serves and seeks for gain,

And follows but for form,

Will pack, when it begins to rain,

And leave thee in the storm.

But I will tarry, the fool will stay,

And let the wise man fly,

The knave turns fool, that runs away;

The fool no knave, perdy.

Kent. Where learned you this, fool?

Fool. Not i' the stocks, fool.

Re-enter Lear, with Gloucester.

Lear. Deny to speak with me? They are sick? they are weary?

They have travell'd hard to-night? Mere fetches³; The images of revolt and flying off!

Fetch me a better answer.

Glo. My dear lord,
You know the fiery quality of the duke;
How unremoveable and fixed he is
In his own course.

Lear. Vengeance! plague! death! confusion! Fiery? what quality? Why, Gloucester, Gloucester, I'd speak with the duke of Cornwall, and his wife.

G. Well, my good lord, I have inform'd them so.

L. Inform'd them! Dost thou understand me,

Glo. Ay, my good lord. *[man!]*

Lear. The king would speak with Cornwall;
the dear father *[service:]*

Would with his daughter speak, commands her
Are they inform'd of this?—My breath and blood!

Fiery? the fiery duke?—Tell the hot duke that—

¹ A quibble between *dolours* and *dollars*. ² Tricks.

³ *Hysterica passio* was then called so.

No, but not yet:—may be he is not well:
Infirmity doth still neglect all office, *[selves]*
Whereto our health is bound; we are not our-
When nature, being oppress'd, commands the
To suffer with the body: I'll forbear *[mind]*
And am fallen out with my more headier will,
To take the indispos'd and sickly fit
For the sound man.—Death on my state! where-
fore *[Looking on Kent.]*

Should he sit here? this act persuades me,
That this remotion¹ of the duke and her

Is practice² only. Give me my servant forth:
Go, tell the duke and his wife, I'd speak with

them, *[me,*

Now, presently: bid them come forth and hear
Or at their chamber door I'll beat the drum,

Till it cry—*Sleep to death.*

Glo. I'd have all well betwixt you. *[Exit.]*

L. O me, my heart, my rising heart!—but, down.

Fool. Cry to it, nuncle, as the cockney did to the eels, when she put them i' the paste alive; she rapp'd 'em o' the coxcombs with a stick, and cry'd, *Down, wantons, down:* 'Twas her brother, that in pure kindness to his horse, butter'd his hay.

Enter Cornwall, Regan, Gloucester, and Servants.

Lear. Good morrow to you both.

Cor. Hail to your grace! *[Kent is set at liberty.]*

Reg. I am glad to see your highness.

L. Regan, I think you are; I know what reason I have to think so: if thou shouldst not be glad, I would divorce me from thy mother's tomb, Sepulchring an adulteress.—*[To Kent.]* O, are you Some other time for that.—Beloved Regan, *[free?]* Thy sister's naught: O, Regan, she hath tied Sharp-tooth'd unkindness, like a vulture here.—

[Points to his heart.]

I can scarce speak to thee; thou'lt not believe, Of how depriv'd a quality.—O, Regan!

Reg. I pray you, sir, take patience; I have hope, You less know how to value her desert, Than she to scant her duty.

Lear. Say, how is that?

Reg. I cannot think, my sister in the least Would fail her obligation: If, sir, perchance, She have restrain'd the riots of your followers, 'Tis on such ground, and to such wholesome end, As clears her from all blame.

Lear. My curses on her!

Reg. O, sir, you are old; Nature in you stands on the very verge Of her confine; you should be rul'd, and led By some discretion, that discerns your state Better than you yourself: Therefore, I pray you, That to our sister you do make return; Say, you have wrong'd her, sir.

Lear. Ask her forgiveness?

Do you but mark how this becomes the house: *Dear daughter, I confess that I am old; Age is unnecessary: on my knees I beg, kneeling. That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food.*

R. Good sir, no more; these are unsightly tricks: Return you to my sister.

Lear. Never, Regan: She hath abated me of half my train; *[tongue, Look'd black upon me; struck me with her Most serpent-like, upon the very heart:—]*

All the stor'd vengeance of heaven fall
On her ingrateful top! Strike her young bones,
You taking airs, with lameness!

Corn. Fie, fie, fie!

L. You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding
Into her scornful eyes! Infect her beauty, [flames
You fen-suck'd fogs, drawn by the powerful sun,
To fall and blast her pride!

Reg. O the blest gods!

So will you wish on me, when the rash mood's on.

L. No, Regan, thou shalt never have my curse;
Thy tender-hefted nature shall not give [thine
Thee o'er to harshness; her eyes are fierce, but
Do comfort, and not burn: 'Tis not in thee
To grudge my pleasures, to cut off my train,
To bandy hasty words, to scant my sizes,¹
And, in conclusion, to oppose the bolt
Against my coming in: thou better know'st
The offices of nature, bond of childhood,
Effects of courtesy, dues of gratitude;
Thy half o' the kingdom hast thou not forgot,
Wherein I thee endow'd.

Reg. Good sir, to the purpose.

[*Trumpets within.*]

Lear. Who put my man i' the stocks?

Corn. What trumpet's that?

Enter Steward.

R. I know't, my sister's: this approves her letter,
That she would soon be here.—Is your lady come?

L. This is a slave, whose easy borrow'd pride
Dwells in the fickle grace of her he follows:—
Out, varlet, from my sight!

Corn. What means your grace?

Lear. Who stock'd my servant? Regan, I have
good hope [heavens,
Thou didst not know of't.—Who comes here? O

Enter Goneril.

If you do love old men, if your sweet sway
Allow² obedience, if yourselves are old,
Make it your cause; send down, and take my
part!— [beard?—

[*To Goneril.*] Art not asham'd to look upon this
O, Regan, wilt thou take her by the hand?

Gon. Why not by the hand, sir? How have
I offended?

All's not offence, that indiscretion finds,
And dotage terms so.

Lear. O, sides, you are too tough!
Will you yet hold?—How came my man i' the
stocks?

Corn. I set him there, sir: but his own dis-
Deserv'd much less advancement. [orders

Lear. You! did you?

Reg. I pray you, father, being weak, seem so.
If, till the expiration of your month,
You will return and sojourn with my sister,
Dismissing half your train, come then to me;
I am now from home, and out of that provision
Which shall be needful for your entertainment.

Lear. Return to her, and fifty men dismiss'd?
No, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose
To wage against the enmity o' the air;
To be a comrade with the wolf and owl,—
Necessity's sharp pinch!—Return with her?
Why, the hot-blooded France, that dowerless
took

1 Allowances.

2 Approve.

Our youngest born, I could as well be brought
To kneel his throne, and, squire-like, pension beg
To keep base life afoot:—Return with her?
Persuade me rather to be slave and sumpter¹
To this detested groom. [*Looking on the Steward.*]

Gon. At your choice, sir.

L. I pr'ythee, daughter, do not make me mad
I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell:
We'll no more meet, no more see one another:—
But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter;
Or, rather, a disease that's in my flesh,
Which I must needs call mine: thou art a boil,
A plague-sore, an embossed carbuncle,
In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide thee.
Let shame come when it will, I do not call it:
I do not bid the thunder-bearer shoot,
Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging Jove:
Mend when thou canst; be better at thy leisure:
I can be patient; I can stay with Regan,
I, and my hundred knights.

Reg. Not altogether so, sir;
I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided
For your fit welcome: Give ear, sir, to my sister,
For those that mingle reason with your passion,
Must be content to think you old, and so—
But she knows what she does.

Lear. Is this well spoken now?

R. I dare avouch it, sir: What, fifty followers?
Is it not well? What should you need of more!
Yea, or so many? sith² that both charge and
danger

[house,
Speak 'gainst so great a number? How, in one
Should many people, under two commands,
Hold amity? 'Tis hard; almost impossible.

Gon. Why might not you, my lord, receive
attendance

From those that she calls servants, or from mine?

Reg. Why not, my lord? If then they chanc'd
to slack you,

We could control them: If you will come to me,
(For now I spy a danger,) I entreat you
To bring but five and twenty; to no more
Will I give place or notice.

Lear. I gave you all—

Reg. And in good time you gave it.

L. Made you my guardians, my depositaries;
But kept a reservation to be follow'd
With such a number: What, must I come to you
With five and twenty, Regan? said you so?

Reg. And speak it again, my lord; no more
with me. [favour'd,

Lear. Those wicked creatures yet do look well-
When others are more wicked; not being the
worst,

Stands in some rank of praise:—I'll go with thee;
[*To Goneril.*]

Thy fifty yet doth double five and twenty,
And thou art twice her love.

Gon. Hear me, my lord;

What need you five and twenty, ten, or five,
To follow in a house, where twice so many
Have a command to tend you?

Reg. What need one?

L. O, reason not the need: our basest beggars
Are in the poorest thing superfluous:
Allow not nature more than nature needs,
Man's life is cheap as beast's; thou art a lady;

1 Burden bearer.

2 Since.

You cataracts, and hurricanoes, spout
Till you have drench'd our steeples, drown'd
the cocks!

You sulphurous and thought-executing¹ fires,
Vaunt couriers² to oak-cleaving thunder-bolts,
Sing me my white head! And thou, all-shaking
thunder,

Strike flat the thick rotundity o' the world!
Crack nature's moulds, all germins spill at once,
That make ingrateful man!

Fool. O nuncle, court holy-water³ in a dry
house, is better than this rain-water out o' door.
Good nuncle, in, and ask thy daughters' blessing;
here's a night pities neither wise men nor fools.

Lear. Rumble thy belly-full! Spit, fire! spout,
rain!

Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness,
I never gave you kingdom, call'd you children,
You owe me no subscription⁴; why then let fall
Your horrible pleasure; here I stand your slave,
A poor infirm, weak, and despis'd old man;—
But yet I call you servile ministers,
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd
Your high engender'd battles 'gainst a head
So old and white as this. O! O! 'tis foul!

Fool. He that has a house to put his head in,
has a good head-piece.

The man that makes his toe

What he his heart should make,

Shall of a corn cry woe,

And turn his sleep to wake

—for there was never yet fair woman, but she
made mouths in a glass.

Enter Kent.

Lear. No, I will be the pattern of all patience,
I will say nothing.

Kent. Who's there?

Fool. Marry, here's a wise man and a fool.

K. Alas, sir, are you here? things that love night,
Love not such nights as these: the wrathful skies
Gallow⁵ the very wanderers of the dark,
And make them keep their caves. Since I was man,
Such sheets of fire, such bursts of horrid thunder,
Such groans of roaring wind and rain, I never
Remember to have heard: man's nature cannot
The affliction, nor the fear. [carry

Lear.

Let the great gods,

That keep this dreadful pother⁶ o'er our heads,
Find out their enemies now. Tremble, thou wretch,
That hast within thee undivulged crimes,
Unwhipp'd of justice: Hide thee, thou bloody

hand;

Thou perjur'd, and thou simular⁷ man of virtue,
Thou art incestuous: Caitiff, to pieces shake,
That under covert and convenient seeming
Hast practis'd on man's life: Close pent-up guilts
Rive your concealing continents,⁸ and cry
Those dreadful summoners grace.⁹—I am a man.
More sinn'd against, than sinning.

Kent.

Alack, bare-headed!

Gracious my lord, hard by here is a hovel; [peet;
Some friendship will it lend you 'gainst the tem-

Repose you there: while I to this hard house,
(More hard than is the stone whereof 'tis rais'd;
Which even but now, demanding after you,
Denied me to come in,) return, and force
Their scantied courtesy.

Lear. My wits begin to turn,—
Come on, my boy: How dost, my boy? Art
cold?

I am cold myself.—Where is this straw, my
fellow?

The art of our necessities is strange,
That can make vile things precious. Come,
your hovel,

Poor fool and knave, I have one part in my heart
That's sorry yet for thee.

Fool. He that has a little tiny wit.—

*With heigh, ho, the wind and the rain,—
Must make content with his fortune's fit;
For the rain it raineth every day.*

Lear. True, my good boy.—Come, bring us to
this hovel. [Exeunt Lear and Kent.

Fool. This is a brave night.—

I'll speak a prophecy ere I go:

*When priests are more in word than matter;
When brewers mar their malt with water;
When every case in law is right;
No squire in debt, nor no poor knight;
When slanders do not live in tongues;
Nor cutpurses come not to throngs;
Then shall the realm of Albion
Come to great confusion.
Then comes the time, who lives to see't,
That going shall be us'd with feet.*

This prophecy Merlin shall make: for I live be-
fore his time. [Exit.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Gloster and Edmund.

Glo. Alack, alack, Edmund, I like not this
unnatural dealing: When I desired their leave
that I might pity him, they took from me the
use of mine own house; charged me on pain of
their perpetual displeasure, neither to speak of
him, entreat for him, nor any way sustain him.

Edm. Most savage, and unnatural!

Glo. Go to; say you nothing: There is divi-
sion between the dukes; and a worse matter than
that: I have received a letter this night;—'tis
dangerous to be spoken; I have locked the letter
in my closet: these injuries the king now bears
will be revenged home; there is part of a power
already footed: we must incline to the king. I
will seek him, and privily relieve him: go you,
and maintain talk with the duke, that my charity
be not of him perceived: If he ask for me, I am
ill, and gone to bed. If I die for it, as no less
is threatened me, the king my old master must
be relieved. There is some strange thing toward.¹
Edmund: pray you, be careful. [Exit.

Edm. This courtesy, forbid thee, shall the duke
Instantly know; and of that letter too:—
This seems a fair deserving, and must draw me
That which my father loses; no less than all:
The younger rises, when the old doth fall. [Exit.

1 Near.

1 Quick as thought.

2 Avant couriers.

3 Fair words.

4 Obedience.

5 Scare.

6 Disturbance.

7 Counterfeit.

8 That which hides.

9 For favour.

SCENE IV.

A PART OF THE HEATH, WITH A HOVEL.

Enter Lear, Kent, and Fool.

K. Here is the place, my lord; good my lord, enter;

The tyranny of the open night's too rough
For nature to endure. *[Storm still.]*

Lear. Let me alone.

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Wilt break my heart?

Kent. I'd rather break mine own: Good my lord, enter.

Lear. Thou think'st 'tis much, that this contentious storm

Invades us to the skin: so 'tis to thee;
But where the greater malady is fix'd,
The lesser is scarce felt. Thou'dst shun a bear:
But if thy flight lay toward the raging sea,
Thou'dst meet the bear i' the mouth. When the mind's free,

The body's delicate: the tempest in my mind
Doth from my senses take all feeling else,
Save what beats there.—Filiial ingratitude!
Is it not as this mouth should tear this hand,
For lifting food to't?—But I will punish home:—
No, I will weep no more.—In such a night
To shut me out!—Pour on; I will endure:
In such a night as this! O Regan, Goneril!—
Your old kind father, whose frank heart gave all,—
O, that way madness lies; let me shun that:
No more of that.—

Kent. Good my lord, enter here.

Lear. Pr'ythee, go in thyself; seek thine own ease;

This tempest will not give me leave to ponder
On things would hurt me more.—But I'll go in:
[To the Fool.] In, boy; go first.—You houseless poverty,—

Nay, get thee in. I'll pray, and then I'll sleep.—
[Fool goes in.]

Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are,
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,
How shall your houseless heads, and unfed sides,
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness, defend you
From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en
Too little care of this! Take physick, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel;
That thou may'st shake the superflux to them,
And show the heavens more just.

Edg. *[Within.]* Fathom and half, fathom and half! Poor Tom!

[The Fool runs out from the Hovel.]

Fool. Come not in here, nuncle, here's a spirit.
Help me, help me!

Kent. Give me thy hand.—Who's there?

Fool. A spirit, a spirit; he says his name's poor Tom.

Kent. What art thou that dost grumble there i' the straw?

Come forth.

Enter Edgar, disguised as a Madman.

Edg. Away! the foul fiend follows me!—
Through the sharp hawthorn blows the cold wind.—

Humph! go to thy cold bed, and warm thee.

Lear. Hast thou given all to thy two daughters
And art thou come to this? *[ters?]*

Edg. Who gives anything to poor Tom? whom
the foul fiend hath led through fire and through
flame, through ford and whirlpool, over bog and
quagmire; that hath laid knives under his pillow,
and halters in his pew; set ratsbane by his por-
ridge; made him proud of heart, to ride on a bay
trotting-horse over four-inch bridges, to course
his own shadow for a traitor:—Bless thy five
wits! Tom's a-cold,—O, do de, do de, do de.—
Bless thee from whirlwinds, star-blasting, and
taking!! Do poor Tom some charity, whom the
foul fiend vexes: There could I have him now,
—and there,—and there,—and there again, and
there. *[Storm continues.]*

Lear. What, have his daughters brought him
to this pass?— *[all?]*

Couldst thou save nothing? Didst thou give them
Fool. Nay, he reserved a blanket, else we had
been all shamed. *[air]*

L. Now, all the plagues that in the pendulous
Hang fated o'er men's faults, light on thy daughter—
Kent. He hath no daughters, sir. *[ters!]*

Lear. Death, traitor! nothing could have sub-
dued nature

To such a lowliness, but his unkind daughters.—
Is it the fashion, that discarded fathers
Should have thus little mercy on their flesh?
Judicious punishment! 'twas this flesh begot
Those pelican daughters.

Edg. Pillicock sat on pillicock's hill;—

Halloo, halloo, loo, loo!

Fool. This cold night will turn us all to fools
and madmen.

Edg. Take heed o' the foul fiend: obey thy
parents; keep thy word justly; swear not; com-
mit not with man's sworn spouse; set not thy
sweet heart on proud array: Tom's a-cold.

Lear. What hast thou been?

Edg. A serving-man, proud in heart and mind;
that curled my hair; wore gloves in my cap;
swore as many oaths as I spake words, and broke
them in the sweet face of heaven: Wine loved I
deeply; dice dearly; and in woman out-para-
mour'd the Turk: False of heart, light of ear,
bloody of hand: Hog in sloth, fox in stealth,
wolf in greediness, dog in madness, lion in prey.
Let not the creaking of shoes, nor the rustling of
silks, betray thy poor heart to women: Keep
thy pen from lenders' books, and defy the foul
fiend.—Still through the hawthorn blows the
cold wind: Says sunn, mun, ha no nonny, dol-
phin my boy, my boy, sessa; let him trot by.

[Storm still continues.]

Lear. Why, thou wert better in thy grave,
than to answer with thy uncovered body this
extremity of the skies.—Is man no more than
this? Consider him well: Thou owest the worm
no silk, the beast no hide, the sheep no wool, the
cat no perfume.—Ha! here three of us are sophis-
ticated!—Thou art the thing itself: unaccom-
modated man is no more but such a poor, bare,
forked animal as thou art.—Off, off, you lendings:
—Come; unbutton here. *[Tearing off his Clothes.]*

Fool. Pr'ythee, nuncle, be contented; this is a
naughty night to swim in.—Now a little fire in a

1 Malignant influence.

wild field were like an old lecher's heart; a small spark, all the rest of his body cold.—Look, here comes a walking fire.

Edg. This is the foul fiend Flibbertigibbet; he begins at curfew, and walks till the first cock; he gives the web and the pin,¹ squints the eye, and makes the hare-lip: mildews the white wheat, and hunts the poor creature of earth.

Saint Withold footed thrice the wold.²

He met the night-mare, and her nine-fold;

Bid her alight,

And her troth plight,

And, aroint³ thee, witch, aroint thee!

Kent. How fares your grace?

Enter Gloster, with a Torch.

Lear. What's he?

Kent. Who's there? What is't you seek?

Glo. What are you there? Your names?

E. Poor Tom; that eats the swimming frog, the toad, the tadpole, the wall-newt, and the water;⁴ that in the fury of his heart, when the foul fiend rages, swallows the old rat, and the ditch-dog: drinks the green mantle of the standing-pool; who is whipped from tything to tything,⁵ and stock'd, punished, and imprisoned; who hath had three suits to his back, six shirts to his body, horse to ride, and weapon to wear.

But mice, and rats, and such small deer,

Have been Tom's food for seven long year.

Beware my follower:—Peace, Smolkin; peace, thou fiend!

G. What, hath your grace no better company?

Edg. The prince of darkness is a gentleman; Modo he's call'd, and Mahu.

Glo. Our flesh and blood, my lord, is grown That it doth hate what gets it. [so vile,

Edg. Poor Tom's a-cold.

Glo. Go in with me; my duty cannot suffer To obey in all your daughter's hard commands: Though their injunction be to bar my doors, And let this tyrannous night take hold upon you; Yet have I ventur'd to come seek you out, And bring you where both fire and food is ready.

L. First let me talk with this philosopher.—What is the cause of thunder?

Kent. Good my lord, take his offer;

Go into the house.

Lear. I'll talk a word with this same learned What is your study? [Theban.—

Edg. How to prevent the fiend, and to kill vermin.

Lear. Let me ask you one word in private.

K. Impörtune him once more to go, my lord; His wits begin to unsettle.

Glo. Canst thou blame him? His daughters seek his death:—Ah, that good Kent!—

Hesaid it would be thus:—Poor banish'd man!—Thou say'st the king grows mad; I'll tell thee, friend,

I am almost mad myself: I had a son, [life, Now outlaw'd from my blood; he sought my But lately, very late; I lov'd him, friend,—

No father his son dearer: true to tell thee,

[*Storm continues.*

The grief hath craz'd my wits. What a night's I do beseech your grace,— [this!

Lear. O, cry you mercy:

Noble philosopher, your company.

Edg. Tom's a-cold.

Glo. In, fellow, there, to the hovel: keep thee

Lear. Come, let's in all. [warm.

Kent. This way, my lord.

Lear. With him;

I will keep still with my philosopher.

Kent. Good, my lord, soothe him; let him take the fellow.

Glo. Take him you on.

Kent. Sirrah, come on; go along with us.

Lear. Come, good Athenian.

Glo. No words, no words: Hush.

Edg. Child¹ Rowland to the dark tower came,

His word was still,—Fie, foh, and fum,

I smell the blood of a British man.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Cornwall and Edmund.

Corn. I will have my revenge, ere I depart his house.

Edm. How, my lord, I may be censured, that nature thus gives way to loyalty, something fears me to think of.

Corn. I now perceive, it was not altogether your brother's evil disposition made him seek his death; but a provoking merit, set a-work by a reproveable badness in himself.

Edm. How malicious is my fortune, that I must repent to be just! This is the letter he spoke of, which approves him an intelligent party to the advantages of France. O heavens! that this treason were not, or not I the detector!

Corn. Go with me to the duchess.

Edm. If the matter of this paper be certain, you have mighty business in hand.

Corn. True, or false, it hath made thee earl of Gloster. Seek out where thy father is, that he may be ready for our apprehension.

Edm. [Aside.] If I find him comforting the king, it will stuff his suspicion more fully.—I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood.

Corn. I will lay trust upon thee; and thou shalt find a dearer father in my love. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—A CHAMBER IN A FARM-HOUSE, ADJOINING THE CASTLE.

Enter Gloster, Lear, Kent, Fool, and Edgar.

Glo. Here is better than the open air; take it thankfully; I will piece out the comfort with what addition I can: I will not be long from you.

Kent. All the power of his wits has given way to his impatience:—The gods reward your kindness! [Exit Gloster.

Edg. Frateretto calls me; and tells me, Nero is an angler in the lake of darkness. Pray, innocent,² and beware the foul fiend.

1 Knight.

2 (The fool.)

1 Diseases of the eye. 4 The water-newt.

2 Wild downs. 6 A division of a county.

3 Avaunt.

Fool. Pr'ythee, nuncle, tell me, whether a madman be a gentleman, or a yeoman?

Lear. A king, a king!

Fool. No; he's a yeoman, that has a gentleman to his son: for he's a mad yeoman, that sees his son a gentleman before him.

L. To have a thousand with red burning spits Come hissing in upon them:—

Edg. The foul fiend bites my back.

Fool. He's mad, that trusts in the tameness of a wolf.

Lear. It shall be done, I will arraign them straight:—

[*To Edgar.*] Come, sit thou here, most learned justicer:—

[*To the Fool.*] Thou, sapient sir, sit here.—Now, you she foxes!—

Edg. Look, where he stands and glares!—Wantest thou eyes at trial, madam?

Come o'er the bourn,¹ Bessy, to me:—

Fool. *Her boat hath a leak,
And she must not speak*

Why she dares not come over to thee.

Edg. The foul fiend haunts poor Tom in the voice of a nightingale. *Hopdance* cries in Tom's belly for two white herring. Croak not, black angel; I have no food for thee.

K. How do you, sir? Stand you not so amaz'd? Will you lie down and rest upon the cushions?

Lear. I'll see their trial first:—Bring in the evidence.—

[*To Edgar.*] Thou robed man of justice, take thy place:

[*To the Fool.*] And thou, his yoke-fellow of equity, Bench by his side:—[*To Kent.*] You are of the commission.

Sit you too.

Edg. Let us deal justly.

Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd?

Thy sheep be in the corn;

And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,

Thy sheep shall take no harm.

Pur! the cat is grey.

Lear. Arraign her first; 'tis Goneril. I here take my oath before this honourable assembly, she kick'd the poor king her father.

Fool. Come hither, mistress; Is your name Goneril?

Lear. She cannot deny it.

Fool. Cry your mercy, I took you for a joint-stool. [proclaim]

Lear. And here's another, whose warp'd looks What store her heart is made of.—Stop her there! Arms, arms, sword, fire!—Corruption in the place!

False justicer, why hast thou let her 'scape?

Edg. Bless thy five wits!

Kent. O pity!—Sir, where is the patience now, That you so oft have boasted to retain?

Edg. [*Aside.*] My tears begin to take his part so They'll mar my counterfeiting. [much,

Lear. The little dogs and all, Tray, Blanch, and Sweet-heart, see, they bark at me.

Edg. Tom will throw his head at them:—Avant, you curs!

*Be thy mouth or black or white,
Tooth that poisons if it bite;
Mastiff, greyhound, mongrel grim,
Hound, or spaniel, brach, or lym;²
Or bobtail tyke, or trundle-tail;
Tom will make them weep and wail:
For, with throwing thus my head,
Dogs leap the hatch, and all are fled.*

Do de, do de. Sessa. Come, march to wakes and fairs, and market towns:—Poor Tom, thy horn is dry.

Lear. Then let them anatomize Regan, see what breeds about her heart: Is there any cause in nature that makes these hard hearts?—[*To Edgar.*] You, sir, I entertain you for one of my hundred; only, I do not like the fashion of your garments: you will say, they are Persian attire; but let them be changed.

K. Now, good my lord, lie here, and rest awhile.

Lear. Make no noise, make no noise; draw the curtains: So, so, so: We'll go to the supper i' the morning: So, so, so.

Fool. And I'll go to bed at noon.

Re-enter Gloucester.

Glo. Come hither, friend: Where is the king my master?

Kent. Here, sir; but trouble him not, his wits are gone.

G. Good friend, I pr'ythee take him in thy arms; I have overheard a plot of death upon him:

There is a litter ready; lay him in't, And drive towards Dover, friend, where thou shalt meet [master:

Both welcome and protection. Take up thy If thou shouldst dally half an hour, his life With thine, and all that offer to defend him, Stand in assured loss: Take up, take up; And follow me, that will with some provision Give thee quick conduct.

Kent. Oppress'd nature sleeps:—This rest might yet have balm'd thy broken senses,

Which, if convenience will not allow, Stand in hard cure.—[*To the Fool.*] Come, help to bear thy master;

Thou must not stay behind.

Glo. Come, come, away.

[*Exeunt Kent, Gloucester, and the Fool, bearing off the King.*

Edg. When we our betters see bearing our woes, We scarcely think our miseries our foes.

Who alone suffers, suffers most i' the mind; Leaving free things, and happy shows, behind: But then the mind much sufferance doth o'erskip, When grief hath mates, and bearing fellowship. How light and portable my pain seems now, When that which makes me bend, makes the king bow;

He childed, as I father'd!—Tom, away; Mark the high noises²; and thyself bewray, When false opinion, whose wrong thought defiles thee,

In thy just proof, repeats, and reconciles thee. What wilt hap more to-night, safe 'scape the king! Lurk, lurk. [Exit.

¹ A blood-hound.

² The great events that are approaching.

SCENE VII.—A ROOM IN GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Cornwall, Regan, Goneril, Edmund, and Servants.

Corn. Post speedily to my lord, your husband; show him this letter:—the army of France is landed:—Seek out the villain Gloster.

[Exeunt some of the Servants.]

Reg. Hang him instantly.

Gon. Pluck out his eyes.

Corn. Leave him to my displeasure.—Edmund, keep you our sister company; the revenges we are bound to take upon your traitorous father are not fit for your beholding. Advise the duke, where you are going, to a most festinate¹ preparation; we are bound to the like. Our posts shall be swift, and intelligent betwixt us. Farewell, dear sister;—farewell, my lord of Gloster.²

Enter Steward.

How now? Where's the king?

Stew. My lord of Gloster hath convey'd him hence:

Some five or six and thirty of his knights, Hot questrists³ after him, met him at gate; Who, with some other of the lord's dependants, Are gone with him towards Dover, where they To have well armed friends. *[boast]*

Corn. Get horses for your mistress.

Gon. Farewell, sweet lord, and sister.

[Exeunt Goneril and Edmund.]

Corn. Edmund, farewell.—Go, seek the traitor Gloster,

Pinion him like a thief; bring him before us:

[Exeunt other Servants.]

Though well we may not pass upon his life Without the form of justice; yet our power Shall do a courtesy⁴ to our wrath, which men May blame, but not control. Who's there? The traitor.

Re-enter Servants, with Gloster.

Reg. Ingrateful fox! 'tis he.

Corn. Bind fast his corky⁵ arms.

Glo. What mean your graces?—Good my friends, consider

You are my guests: do me no foul play, friends.

Corn. Bind him, I say. *[Servants bind him.]*

Reg. Hard, hard:—O filthy traitor!

Glo. Unmerciful lady as you are, I am none.

Corn. To this chair bind him:—Villain, thou shalt find— *[Regan plucks his beard.]*

Glo. By the kind gods 'tis most ignobly done To pluck me by the beard.

Reg. So white, and such a traitor!

Glo. Naughty lady,

These hairs, which thou dost ravish from my chin, Will quicken⁶ and accuse thee: I am your host; With robbers' hands, my hospitable favours⁷ You should not ruffle thus. What will you do?

Corn. Come, sir, what letters had you late from France? *[truth.]*

Reg. Be simple-answer'd, for we know the Cor. And what confederacy have you with the Late footed in the kingdom? *[traitors]*

R. To whose hands have you sent the lunatick Speak. *[king?]*

1 Hasty.

2 (Meaning Edmund.)

3 Seekers.

4 Bend to.

5 Withered.

6 Live.

7 Features.

Glo. I have a letter guessingly set down, Which came from one that's of a neutral heart, And not from one oppos'd.

Corn. Cunning.

Reg. And false.

Corn. Where hast thou sent the king?

Glo. To Dover.

Reg. Wherefore

To Dover? Wast thou not charg'd at thy peril—

Corn. Wherefore to Dover? Let him first answer that. *[course.]*

Glo. I am tied to the stake, and I must stand the

Reg. Wherefore to Dover?

Glo. Because I would not see thy cruel nails Pluck out his poor old eyes; nor thy fierce sister In his anointed flesh stick boarish fangs.

The sea, with such a storm as his bare head [up, In hell-black night endur'd, would have buoy'd And quench'd the stelled¹ fires: yet, poor old He help the heavens to rain. *[heart.]*

If wolves had at thy gate howl'd that stern time, Thou should'st have said, *Good porter, turn the* All cruels else subscrib'd²:—But I shall see [key; The winged vengeance overtake such children.

C. See it shalt thou never:—Fellows, hold the Upon these eyes of thine I'll set my foot. *[chair:]*

[Gloster is held down in his Chair, while

Cornwall plucks out one of his Eyes, and sets his Foot on it.

Glo. He, that will think to live till he be old, Give me some help:—O cruel! O ye gods!

Reg. Oneside will mock another; the other too.

Corn. If you see vengeance,—

Serv. Hold your hand, my lord:

I have serv'd you ever since I was a child: But better service have I never done you, Than now to bid you hold.

Reg. How now, you dog?

Serv. If you did wear a beard upon your chin, I'd shake it on this quarrel: What do you mean?

Corn. My villain! *[Draws, and runs at him.]*

Serv. Nay, then come on, and take the chance of anger.

[Draws. They fight. Cornwall is wounded.]

Reg. *[To another Serv.]* Give me thy sword.— A peasant stand up thus!

[Snatches a Sword, comes behind, and stabs him.]

Serv. O, I am slain!—My lord, you have one eye left

To see some mischief on him:—O! *[Dies.]*

C. Lest it see more, prevent it:—Out, vile jelly!

Where is thy lustre now?

[Tears out Gloster's other Eye, and throws it on the Ground.]

Glo. All dark and comfortless.—Where's my son Edmund!

Edmund, enkindle all the sparks of nature, To quit⁴ this horrid act.

Reg. Out, treacherous villain!

Thou call'st on him that hates thee: it was he That made the overture⁵ of thy treasons to us; Who is too good to pity thee.

Glo. O my follies!

Then Edgar was abus'd—

Kind gods, forgive me that, and prosper him!

1 Starred.

2 i.e. All other cruel ones would have yielded.

3 Serf.

4 Requite.

5 Laid open.

Reg. Go, thrust him out at gates, and let him smell [you?] His way to Dover.—How is't, my lord? How look
C. I have receiv'd a hurt:—Follow me, lady.—
 Turn out that eyeless villain; throw his slave
 Upon the dunghill.—*Regan*, I bleed apace:
 Untimely comes this hurt: Give me your arm.

[*Exit Cornwall, led by Regan; Servants unbind Gloster, and lead him out.*]

1 Serv. I'll never care what wickedness I do,
 If this man comes to good.

2 Serv. If she live long,
 And, in the end, meet the old course of death,
 Women will all turn monsters.

1 S. Let's follow the old earl, and get the Bedlam¹
 To lead him where he would; his roguish madness
 Allows itself to any thing. [of eggs,

2 S. Go thou; I'll fetch some flax, and whites
 To apply to his bleeding face. Now, heaven help
 him! [*Exeunt severally.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE HEATH.

Enter Edgar.

Edg. Yet better thus, and known to be con-
 temn'd,
 Than still contemn'd and flatter'd. To be worst,
 The lowest and most dejected thing of fortune,
 Stands still in esperance,² lives not in fear:
 The lamentable change is from the best;
 The worst returns to laughter. Welcome, then,
 Thou unsubstantial air, that I embrace!
 The wretch, that thou hast blown unto the worst,
 Owes nothing to thy blasts.—But who comes here?

Enter Gloster, led by an old Man.

My father, poorly led?—World, world, O world!
 But that thy strange mutations make us hate
 Life would not yield to age. [thee,

Old Man. O my good lord, I have been your
 tenant, and your father's tenant, these fourscore
 years.

Glo. Away, get thee away; good friend, be gone:
 Thy comforts can do me no good at all,
 Thee they may hurt.

Old Man. Alack, sir, you cannot see your way.

Glo. I have no way, and therefore want no eyes;
 I stumbled when I saw: Full oft 'tis seen,
 Our mean secures us; and our mere defects
 Prove our commodities.—Ah, dear son *Edgar*,
 The food of thy abused father's wrath!
 Might I but live to see thee in my touch,
 I'd say, I had eyes again!

Old Man. How now? Who's there?

Edg. [*Aside.*] O gods! Who is't can say, I
 am at the worst?

I am worse than e'er I was.

Old Man. 'Tis poor mad Tom.

Edg. [*Aside.*] And worse I may be yet: The
 worst is not,

So long as we can say, *This is the worst.*

Old Man. Fellow, where goest?

Glo. Is it a beggar man?

Old Man. Madman, and beggar too.

Glo. He has some reason, else he could not beg.

1 Madman.

2 Hope.

I' the last night's storm I such a fellow saw;
 Which made me think a man a worm: My son
 Came then into my mind; and yet my mind
 Was then scarce friends with him: I have heard
 more since.

As flies to wanton boys, are we to the gods;
 They kill us for their sport.

Edg.

How should this be?—

Bad is the trade must play the fool to sorrow,
 Ang'ring itself and others. [*Aside.*]—Bless thee,
Glo. Is that the naked fellow? [master?

Old Man.

Ay, my lord.

G. Then, pr'ythee, get thee gone: If, for my sake,
 Thou wilt o'ertake us, hence a mile or twain,
 I' the way to Dover, do it for ancient love;
 And bring some covering for this naked soul,
 Whom I'll entreat to lead me.

Old Man.

Alack, sir, he's mad.

Glo. 'Tis the time's plague, when madmen
 lead the blind.

Do as I bid thee, or rather do thy pleasure;
 Above the rest, be gone.

Old M. I'll bring him the best 'parel that I have,
 Come on't what will. [*Exit.*

Glo. Sirrah, naked fellow.

Edg. Poor Tom's a-cold: [*Aside.*] I cannot
 daub¹ it further.

Glo. Come hither, fellow.

Edg. [*Aside.*] And yet I must.—Bless thy
 sweet eyes, they bleed.

Glo. Know'st thou the way to Dover?

Edg. Both stile and gate, horse-way and foot-
 path. Poor Tom hath been scared out of his good
 wits: Bless the good man from the foul fiend!
 Five fiends have been in poor Tom at once; of
 lust, as *Obidicut*; *Hobbididance*, prince of dumb-
 ness; *Mahu*, of stealing; *Modo*, of murder, and
Flibertigibbet, of moping and mowing; who
 since possesses chambermaids and waiting-
 women. So, bless thee, master!

Glo. Here, take this purse, thou whom the
 heaven's plagues

Have humbled to all strokes: that I am wretched,
 Makes thee the happier:—Heavens, deal so still!
 Let the superfluous, and lust-dieted man,
 That slaves your ordinance, that will not see
 Because he doth not feel, feel your power quickly;
 So distribution should undo excess,
 And each man have enough.—Dost thou know

Edg. Ay, master. [*Dover?*

G. There is a cliff, whose high and bending head
 Looks fearfully in the confined deep;
 Bring me but to the very brim of it,
 And I'll repair the misery thou dost bear,
 With something rich about me: from that place
 I shall no leading need.

Edg.

Give me thy arm;

Poor Tom shall lead thee. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

BEFORE THE DUKE OF ALBANY'S PALACE.

*Enter Goneril and Edmund; Steward meeting
 them.*

Gon. Welcome, my lord: I marvel, our mild
 husband [master?
 Not met us on the way:—Now, where's your

1 Disguise.

Ste. Madam, within; but never man so chang'd:
I told him of the army that was landed;
He smil'd at it: I told him you were coming;
His answer was, *The worse*: of Gloster's treach-
And of the loyal service of his son, [cry,
When I inform'd him, then he call'd me sot;
And told me, I had turn'd the wrong side out:—
What most he should dislike, seems pleasant to
What like, offensive. [him;

Gon. [To *Edm.*] Then shall you go no further.
It is the cowish terror of his spirit,
That dares not undertake: he'll not feel wrongs,
Which tie him to an answer; Our wishes on the
way,

May prove effects. ¹Back, Edmund, to my brother:
Hasten his musters, and conduct his powers:
I must change arms at home, and give the distaff
Into my husband's hands. This trusty servant
Shall pass between us: ere long you are like to
If you dare venture in your own behalf, [hear,
A mistress's command. Wear this; spare speech;
[Giving a Favour.

Decline your head: this kiss, if it durst speak,
Would stretch thy spirits up into the air;—
Conceive, and fare thee well.

Edm. Yours in the ranks of death.

Gon. My most dear Gloster! [Exit *Edmund*.
O, the difference of man, and man! To thee
A woman's services are due; my fool
Usurps my bed.

Stew. Madam, here comes my lord.

[Exit *Steward*.]

Enter Albany.

Gon. I have been worth the whistle.²

Alb. O Goneril,

You are not worth the dust which the rude wind
Blows in your face.—I fear your disposition:
That nature, which contemns its origin,
Cannot be border'd certain in itself;
She that herself will sliver³ and disbranch
From her material sap, perforce must wither,
And come to deadly use.

Gon. No more; the text is foolish.

Alb. Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile:
Filths savour but themselves. What have you
done?

Tigers, not daughters, what have you perform'd?
A father, and a gracious aged man, [lick,
Whose reverence the head-lugg'd⁴ bear would
Most barbarous, most degenerate! have you
madded.

Could my good brother suffer you to do it?
A man, a prince, by him so benefited?
If that the heavens do not their visible spirits
Send quickly down to tame these vile offences,
'Twill come,
Humanity must perforce prey on itself,
Like monsters of the deep.

Gon. Milk-liver'd man!

Thou bear'st a cheek for blows, a head for wrongs;
Who hast not in thy brows an eye discerning
Thine honour from thy suffering; that not know'st,
Fools do those villains pity, who are punish'd
Ere they have done their mischief. Where's
thy drum?

France spreads his banners in our noiseless land;

¹ Be accomplished.

² Calling for.

³ Tear off.

⁴ Head-dragged.

With plumed helm thy slayer begins threats;
Whilst thou, a moral fool, sitt'st still, and cry'st,
Alack! why does he so?

Alb. See thyself, devil!

Proper deformity seems not in the fiend
So horrid, as in woman.

Gon. O vain fool!

Alb. Thou chang'd and self-cover'd thing, for
shame,
Be-monster not thy feature. Were it my fitness
To let these hands obey my blood,
They are apt enough to dislocate and tear
Thy flesh and bones:—Howe'er thou art a fiend,
A woman's shape doth shield thee.

Gon. Marry, your manhood now!

Enter a Messenger.

Alb. What news?

Mess. O, my good lord, the duke of Corn-
wall's dead!

Slain by his servant, going to put out
The other eye of Gloster.

Alb. Gloster's eyes!

Mess. A servant that he bred, thrill'd with
remorse,

Opposed against the act, bending his sword
To his great master; who, thereat enrag'd,
Flew on him, and amongst them fell'd him dead:
But not without that harmful stroke, which since,
Hath pluck'd him after.

Alb. This shows you are above,
You justicers, that these our nether crimes
So speedily can venge!—But, O poor Gloster!
Lost he his other eye?

Mess. Both, both, my lord.—
This letter, madam, craves a speedy answer;
'Tis from your sister.

Gon. [Aside.] One way I like this well;
But being widow, and my Gloster with her,
May all the building in my fancy pluck
Upon my hateful life: Another way,
The news is not so tart.—I'll read, and answer.

[Exit.

Alb. Where was his son, when they did take
his eyes?

Mess. Come with my lady hither.

Alb. He is not here.

Mess. No, my good lord; I met him back again.

Alb. Knows he the wickedness.

Mess. Ay, my good lord; 'twas he inform'd
against him; [ishment

And quit the house on purpose, that their pun-
Might have the freer course.

Alb. Gloster, I live
To thank thee for the love thou show'st the king,
And to revenge thine eyes.—Come hither, friend:
Tell me what more thou knowest. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

THE FRENCH CAMP NEAR DOVER.

Enter Kent, and a Gentleman.

Kent. Why the king of France is so suddenly
gone back know you the reason?

Gent. Something he left imperfect in the state,
Which since his coming forth is thought of;
which

Imports to the kingdom so much fear and danger,
That his personal return was most requir'd,
And necessary.

Kent. Who hath he left behind him general?
G. The Mareschal of France, Monsieur le Fer.

Kent. Did your letters pierce the queen to
any demonstration of grief?

Gent. Ay, sir; she took them, read them in
my presence;

And now and then an ample tear trill'd down
Her delicate cheek: it seem'd, she was a queen
Over her passion; who, most rebel-like,
Sought to be king o'er her.

Kent. O, then it mov'd her.

Gent. Not to a rage: patience and sorrow strove
Whoshould express her goodliest. You have seen
Sunshine and rain at once: her smiles and tears
Were like a better day: Those happy smiles,
That play'd on her ripe lip, seem'd not to know
What guest were in her eyes; which parted
thence,

As pearls from diamonds dropp'd.—In brief, sor-
Would be a rarity most belov'd, if all [row
Could so become it.

Kent. Made she no verbal question?

Gent. Faith, once, or twice, she heav'd the
name of *Father*

Pantingly forth, as if it press'd her heart;
Cried, *Sisters! sisters!—Shame of ladies! sisters!*
Kent! father! sisters! What? & the storm?
& the night?

*Let pity not be believed!*¹—There she shook
The holy water from her heavenly eyes,
And clamour moisten'd: then away she started
To deal with grief alone.

Kent. It is the stars,
The stars above us, govern our conditions²;
Else one self mate and mate could not beget
Such different issues. You spoke not with her

Gent. No, [since?

Kent. Was this before the king returned?

Gent. No, since.

Kent. Well, sir; The poor distress'd Lear is
i' the town:

Who sometime, in his better tune, remembers
What we are come about, and by no means
Will yield to see his daughter.

Gent. Why, good sir?

Kent. A sovereign shame so elbows him: his
own unkindness,
That stripp'd her from his benediction, turn'd
her

To foreign casualties, gave her dear rights
To his dog-hearted daughters,—these things sting
His mind so venomously, that burning shame
Detains him from Cordelia.

Gent. Alack, poor gentleman!

Kent. Of Albany's and Cornwall's powers you
heard not?

Gent. 'Tis so; they are afoot.

Kent. Well, sir, I'll bring you to our master
Lear,

And leave you to attend him: some dear cause,
Will in concealment wrap me up a while;
When I am known aright, you shall not grieve
Lending me this acquaintance. I pray you, go
Along with me. [Exeunt.

1 (To exist)

2 Dispositions.

SCENE IV.—THE SAME. A TENT.

Enter Cordelia, Physician, and Soldiers.

Cor. Alack, tis he; why, he was met even now
As mad as the vex'd sea: singing aloud;
Crown'd with rank fumiter, and furrow weeds,
With harlocks, hemlocks, nettles, cuckoo-flowers,
Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow
In our sustaining corn.—A century sent forth;
Search every acre in the high-grown field,
And bring him to our eye. [Exit an Officer.]—

What can man's wisdom do,
In the restoring his bereaved sense?
He, that helps him, take all my outward worth.

Phys. There is means, madam:
Our foster-nurse of nature is repose,
The which he lacks; that to provoke in him,
Are many simples operative, whose power
Will close the eye of anguish.

Cor. All blessed secrets,
All you unpublish'd virtues of the earth,
Spring with my tears! be aidant, and remediate,
In the good man's distress!—Seek, seek for him;
Lest his ungonern'd rage dissolve the life
That wants the means to lead it.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Madam, news;
The British powers are marching hitherward.

C. 'Tis known before; our preparation stands
In expectation of them.—O dear father,
It is thy business that I go about;
Therefore great France
My mourning, and important tears, hath pitied.
No blown² ambition doth our arms incite,
But love, dear love, and our ag'd father's right:
Soon may I hear, and see him. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN GLOSTER'S CASTLE.

Enter Regan and Steward.

Reg. But are my brother's powers set forth?
Stew. Ay, madam.

Reg. Himself
In person there?

Stew. Madam, with much ado:
Your sister is the better soldier.

Reg. Lord Edmund spake not with your lord
at home?

Stew. No, madam.

Reg. What might import my sister's letter to
Stew. I know not, lady. [him?

Reg. Faith, he is posted hence on serious
matter.

It was great ignorance, Gloster's eyes being out,
To let him live; where he arrives, he moves
All hearts against us: Edmund, I think, is gone,
In pity of his misery, to despatch
His nighted life; moreover, to descry
The strength o' the enemy.

Stew. I must needs after him, madam, with
my letter.

R. Our troops set forth to-morrow; stay with
The ways are dangerous. [us;

Stew. I may not, madam;
My lady charg'd my duty in this business.

1 Importunate.

2 Swelling.

Reg. Why should she write to Edmund? Might not you

Transport her purposes by word? Belike, Something—I know not what:—I'll love thee Let me unseal the letter. [much,

Stew. Madam, I had rather—

Reg. I know, your lady does not love her husband;

I am sure of that: and, at her late being here, She gave strange o'liads,¹ and most speaking looks

To noble Edmund: I know you are of her bosom. *Stew.* I, madam?

R. I speak in understanding; you are, I know it, Therefore, I do advise you, take this note²: My lord is dead; Edmund and I have talk'd; And more convenient is he for my hand, Than for your lady's:—You may gather more. If you do find him, pray you, give him this: And when your mistress hears thus much from I pray, desire her call her wisdom to her. [you, So, fare you well.

If you do chance to hear of that blind traitor, Preferment fall on him that cuts him off.

Stew. 'Would I could meet him, madam; I would show

What party I do follow.

Reg. Fare thee well. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.—THE COUNTRY NEAR DOVER.

Enter Gloster and Edgar dressed like a Peasant.

Glo. When shall we come to the top of that same hill?

E. You do climb up it now: look, how we labour.

Glo. Methinks, the ground is even.

Edg. Horrible steep;

Hark, do you hear the sea?

Glo. No, truly.

E. Why, then your other senses grow imperfect. By your eyes' anguish.

Glo. So may it be, indeed:

Methinks, thy voice is alter'd; and thou speak'st In better phrase, and matter, than thou didst.

Edg. You are much deceiv'd; in nothing am I But in my garments. [chang'd,

Glo. Methinks, you are better spoken.

Edg. Come on, sir; here's the place:—stand still.—How fearful

And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low! [air, The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway Show scarce so gross as beetles: Half way down Hangs one that gathers samphire³; dreadful trade!

Methinks, he seems no bigger than his head: The fishermen, that walk upon the beach, Appear like mice; and yon⁴ tall anchoring bark, Diminish'd to her cock⁵; her cock, her buoy Almost too small for sight: The murmuring surge,

That on the unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes, Cannot be heard so high:—I'll look no more; Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight Topple⁶ down headlong.

Glo. Set me where you stand.

¹ Glances of the eye. ³ A vegetable. ⁵ Tumble.
² Remark. ⁴ Cock-boat.

Edg. Give me your hand: You are now within a foot

Of the extreme verge: for all beneath the moon Would I not leap upright.

Glo. Let go my hand.

Here, friend, is another purse; in it a jewel Well worth a poor man's taking: Fairies, and gods,

Prosper it with thee! Go thou further off;

Bid me farewell, and let me hear thee going.

E. Now fare you well, good sir. [Seems to go.

Glo. With all my heart.

Edg. Why I do trifle thus with his despair, Is done to cure it.

Glo. O you mighty gods!

This world I do renounce: and, in your sights, Shake patiently my great affliction off:

If I could bear it longer, and not fall

To quarrel with your great opposeless wills,

My snuff and loathed part of nature, should

Burn itself out. If Edgar live, O, bless him!—

Now fellow, fare thee well.

[He leaps, and falls along.

Edg. Gone, sir? farewell.—

And yet I know not how conceit may rob

The treasury of life, when life itself

Yields to the theft: Had he been where he thought,

By this, had thought been past.—Alive, or dead?

Ho, you sir! friend!—Hear you, sir?—speak!

Thus might he pass indeed¹:—Yet he revives:

What are you, sir?

Glo. Away, and let me die.

Edg. Hadst thou been aught but gossamer, feathers, air,

So many fathom down precipitating,

Thou hadst shiver'd like an egg: but thou dost breathe;

Has't heavy substance; bleed'st not; speak'st: art

Ten masts at each make not the altitude,

Which thou hast perpendicularly fell;

Thy life's a miracle: Speak yet again.

Glo. But have I fallen, or no? [bourn²;

Edg. From the dread summit of this chalky

Look up a-height;—the shrill-gorg'd³ lark so far

Cannot be seen or heard: do but look up.

Glo. Alack, I have no eyes.—

Is wretchedness depriv'd that benefit,

To end itself by death? 'Twas yet some comfort,

When misery could beguile the tyrant's rage,

And frustrate his proud will.

Edg. Give me your arm:

Up:—So;—How is't? Feel you your legs? You

Glo. Too well, too well. [stand.

Edg. This is above all strangeness.

Upon the crown o' the cliff, what thing was that

Which parted from you?

Glo. A poor unfortunate beggar.

E. As I stood here below, methought, his eyes

Were two full moons; he had a thousand noses,

Horns whelk'd⁴, and wav'd like the enrich'd sea;

It was some fiend: Therefore, thou happy father,

Think that the clearest⁵ gods, who make them

honours

Of men's impossibilities, have preserv'd thee.

Glo. I do remember now: henceforth I'll bear

Affliction, till it do cry out itself,

¹ Die in reality. ³ Shrill-throated. ⁵ The purest.

² Boundary. ⁴ Twisted.

Enough, enough, and die. That thing you speak I took it for a man; often 'twould say, [of, *The fiend, the fiend:* he led me to that place.

Edg. Bear free and patient thoughts.—But who comes here?

Enter Lear, fantastically dressed up with flowers.

The safer sense will ne'er accommodate His master thus.

Lear. No, they cannot touch me for coining; I am the king himself.

Edg. O thou side-piercing sight!

Lear. Nature's above art in that respect.—There's your press-money. That fellow handles his bow like a crow-keeper: draw me a clothier's yard.¹—Look, look, a mouse! Peace, peace;—this piece of toasted cheese will do't.—There's my gauntlet: I'll prove it on a giant.—Bring up the brown bills.²—O, well down bird!—I' the clout, i' the clout³: hewgh!—Give the word.⁴

Edg. Sweet marjoram.⁵

Lear. Pass.

Glo. I know that voice.

Lear. Ha! Goneril!—with a white beard!—They flatter'd me like a dog; and told me, I had white hairs in my beard, ere the black ones were there. To say *ay*, and *no*, to every thing I said!—*ay* and *no* too was no good divinity. When the rain came to wet me once, and the wind to make me chatter; when the thunder would not peace at my bidding; there I found them, there I smelt them out. Go to, they are not men o' their words: they told me I was every thing; 'tis a lie; I am not ague-proof.

Glo. The trick of that voice I do well remember: Is't not the king?

Lear. *Ay*, every inch a king: When I do stare, see, how the subject quakes. I pardon that man's life: what was thy cause?—*Adultery.*

Thou shalt not die; die for adultery! No: For Gloster's bastard son Was kinder to his father, than my daughters. Behold you simpering dame, Whose face between her forks presageth snow; That minces virtue, and does shake the head To hear of pleasure's name; [darkness. Beneath is all the fiends; there's hell, there's There is the sulphurous pit, burning, scalding, stench, consumption;—Fie, fie, fie; pah; pah! Give me an ounce of civet, good apothecary, to sweeten my imagination; there's money for thee.

Glo. O, let me kiss that hand!

L. Let me wipe it first; it smells of mortality.

Glo. O ruin'd piece of nature! This great world Shall so wear out to nought.—Dost thou know me?

L. I remember thine eyes well enough. Dost thou squiny⁶ at me? No, do thy worst, blind Cupid; I'll not love.—Read thou this challenge; mark but the penning of it.

G. Were all the letters suns, I could not see one.

Edg. I would not take this from report;—it is, And my heart breaks at it.

Lear. Read.

Glo. What, with the case of eyes?

Lear. O, ho, are you there with me? No eyes

in your head, nor no money in your purse? Your eyes are in a heavy case, your purse in a light: yet you see how this world goes.

Glo. I see it feelingly.

L. What, art mad? A man may see how this world goes, with no eyes. Look with thine ears; see how yon' justice rails upon yon' simple thief. Hark, in thine ear: Change places; and, handy-dandy,¹ which is the justice, which is the thief?—Thou hast seen a farmer's dog bark at a beggar?

Glo. Ay, sir.

Lear. And the creature run from the cur? There thou might'st behold the great image of authority: a dog's obeyed in office.

Thou rascal beadle, hold thy bloody hand:

Why dost thou lash that wanton? Strip thine own back;

Thou hotly lustest in that kind

For which thou whipp'st her. The usurer hangs the cozener.

Through tatter'd clothes small vices do appear; Robes, and furr'd gowns, hide all. Plate sin with gold,

And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks: Arm it in rags, a pigmy's straw doth pierce it. None does offend, none, I say, none; I'll able 'em: Take that of me, my friend, who have the power To seal the accuser's lips. Get thee glass eyes; And, like a scurvy politician, seem [now: To see the things thou dost not.—Now, how, now, Pull off my boots:—harder, harder; so.

Edg. O, matter and impertinency mix'd! Reason in madness!

L. If thou wilt weep my fortunes, take my eyes. I know thee well enough; thy name is Gloster: Thou must be patient; we came crying hither. Thou know'st, the first time that we smell the air, We wawl, and cry:—I will preach to thee; mark *Glo.* Alack, alack the day! [me.

Lear. When we are born, we cry, that we are come To this great stage of fools;—'Tis a good plot. It were a delicate stratagem, to shoe A troop of horse with felt: I'll put it in proof; And when I have stolen upon these sons-in-law, Then kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill.

Enter a Gentleman, with Attendants.

Gent. Oh, here he is, lay hand upon him,—Sir, Your most dear daughter—

Lear. No rescue? What, a prisoner? I am even The natural fool of fortune.—Use me well; You shall have ransom. Let me have a surgeon, I am cut to the brains.

Gent. You shall have any thing.

Lear. No seconds? All myself?

Why, this would make a man, a man of salt,² To use his eyes for garden water-pots, Ay, and for laying autumn's dust.

Gent. Good sir,—

L. I will die bravely, like a bridegroom: What? I will be jovial; come, come; I am a king, My masters, know you that?

Gent. You are a royal one, and we obey you.

Lear. Then there's life in it. Nay, an you get it, you shall get it by running. Sa, sa, sa, sa.

[Exit running; Attendants follow.

Gent. A sight most pitiful in the meanest wretch;

1 (A game.)

2 Tears.

1 An arrow. 3 The white mark. 5 A plant.

2 Battle-axes. 4 The watchword. 6 Look obliquely.

Past speaking of in a king!—Thou hast one daughter,

Who redeems nature from the general curse Which twain have brought her to.

Edg. Hail, gentle sir.

Gent. Sir, speed you: What's your will?

E. Do you hear aught, sir, of a battle toward?

G. Most sure, and vulgar; every one hears that, Which can distinguish sound.

Edg. But, by your favour, How near's the other army?

Gent. Near, and on speedy food; the main Stands on the hourly thought.² [*descries*]

Edg. I thank you, sir: that's all.

Gent. Though that the queen on special cause is Her army is mov'd on. [*here*]

Edg. I thank you, sir. [*Exit Gent.*]

Glo. You ever-gentle gods, take my breath from Let not my worsè spirit³ tempt me again [*me*]; To die before you please!

Edg. Well pray you, father.

Glo. Now, good sir, what are you? [*blows*;

Edg. A most poor man, made tame by fortune's Who, by the art of known and feeling sorrows, Am pregnant to good pity. Give me your hand, I'll lead you to some bidding.

Glo. Hearty thanks: The bounty and the benizon⁴ of heaven To boot, and boot⁵!

Enter Steward.

Stew. A proclaim'd prize! Most happy! That eyeless head of thine was first fram'd flesh To raise my fortunes.—Thou old unhappy traitor, Briefly thyself remember:—The sword is out That must destroy thee.

Glo. Now let thy friendly hand Put strength enough to it. [*Edgar opposes.*]

Stew. Wherefore, bold peasant, Dar'st thou support a publish'd traitor? Hence; Lest that the infection of his fortune take Like hold on thee. Let go his arm.

E. Ch'ill not let go, sir, without further vocation.

Stew. Let go, slave, or thou diest.

Edg. Good gentlemen, go your gait,⁶ and let poor volk pass. And ch'ud ha' been 'zagger'd out of my life, 'twould not ha' been so long as 'tis by a vornight. Nay, come not near the old man; keep out, che vor⁷ ye, or Ise try whether your costard⁷ or my bat⁸ be the harder: Ch'ill be plain with you.

Stew. Out, dunghill!

Edg. Ch'ill pick your teeth, zir: Come; no matter for your foins.⁹

[*They fight; and Edgar knocks him down.*]

Stew. Slave, thou hast slain me:—Villain, take my purse;

If ever thou wilt thrive, bury my body; And give the letters, which thou find'st about me, To Edmund earl of Gloster; seek him out Upon the British party:—O, untimely death!

[*Dies.*]

Edg. I know thee well: A serviceable villain;

As duteous to the vices of thy mistress, As badness would desire.

Glo. What, is he dead?

Edg. Sit you down, father; rest you.—[*of*, Let's see his pockets: these letters, that he speaks May be my friends.—He's dead: I am only sorry He had no other death's man.—Let us see: Leave, gentle wax; and, manners, blame us not: To know our enemies' mind, we'd rip their Their papers, is more lawful. [*hearts*;

[*Reads.*] Let our reciprocal vows be remembered. You have many opportunities to cut him off: if your will want not, time and place will be fruitfully offered. There is nothing done, if he return the conqueror: Then am I the prisoner, and his bed my gaol; from which deliver me, and supply the place for your labour.

Your wife, (so I would say,) and your affectionate servant, GONERIL.

O undistinguish'd space of woman's will!— A plot upon her virtuous husband's life; And the exchange, my brother!—Here, in the Thee I'll rake up,⁴ the post unsanctified [sands, Of murderous lechers: and, in the mature time, With this ungracious paper strike the sight Of the death-practis'd² duke: For him 'tis well, That of thy death and business I can tell.

[*Exit Edgar, dragging out the Body.*]

G. The king is mad: How stiff is my vile sense, That I stand up, and have ingenious feeling Of my huge sorrows! Better I were distract: So should my thoughts be sever'd from my griefs; And woes, by wrong imaginations, lose The knowledge of themselves.

Re-enter Edgar.

Edg. Give me your hand: Far off, methinks, I hear the beaten drum. Come, father, I'll bestow you with a friend. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—A TENT IN THE FRENCH CAMP.

Lear on a Bed, asleep: Physician, Gentleman, and others, attending. Enter Cordelia and Kent.

C. O thou good Kent, how shall I live, and work, To match thy goodness? My life will be too short, And every measure fail me.

Kent. To be acknowledg'd, madam, is o'erpaid. All my reports go with the modest truth; Nor more, nor clipp'd, but so.

Cor. Be better suited³: These weeds are memories of those worsè hours; I pry'thee, put them off.

Kent. Pardon me, dear madam; Yet to be known, shortens my made intent: My boon I make it, that you know me not, Till time and I think meet.

Cor. Then be it so, my good lord.—[*To the Physician.*] How does the king?

Phys. Madam, sleeps still.

Cor. O you kind gods, Cure this great breach in his abused nature! Th' untun'd and jarring senses, O, wind up, Of this child-changed father!

1 Bury. 2 Death practised on. 3 Dressed.

1 Near by. 6 Way.
2 Is expected to be descried every hour. 7 Head.
3 Evil genius. 8 Club.
4 Blessing. 9 Thrusts.
5 Recompense.

Phys. So please your majesty,
That we may wake the king? he hath slept long.

C. Begovern'd by your knowledge, and proceed
I' the sway of your own will. Is he array'd?

G. Ay, madam; in the heaviness of his sleep,
We put fresh garments on him.

Ph. Be by, good madam, when we do awake
I doubt not of his temperance. [him;

Cor. Very well.

Phys. Please you, draw near.—Louder the
musick there.

Cor. O my dear father! Restoration, hang
Thy medicine on my lips; and let this kiss
Repair those violent harms, that my two sisters
Have in thy reverence made!

Kent. Kind and dear princess!

Cor. Had you not been their father, these
white flakes

Had challeng'd pity of them. Was this a face
To be expos'd against the warring winds?

To stand against the deep dread-bolted thunder?
In the most terrible and nimble stroke

Of quick, cross lightning? to watch (poor perdu!)
With this thin helm? Mine enemy's dog,

Though he had bit me, should have stood that
night

Against my fire; And wast thou fain, poor
To hovel thee with swine, and rogues forlorn,

In short and musty straw? Alack, alack!
'Tis wonder, that thy life and wits at once

Had not concluded all.—He wakes; speak to
Phys. Madam, do you; 'tis fittest. [him.

Cor. How does my royal lord? How fares your
majesty? [grave:—

Lear. You do me wrong, to take me out o' the
Thou art a soul in bliss; but I am bound

Upon a wheel of fire, that mine own tears
Do scald like molten lead.

Cor. Sir, do you know me?

L. You are a spirit, I know; When did you
Cor. Still, still, far wide! [die?

Ph. He's scarce awake; let him alone awhile.

Lear. Where have I been?—Where am I?—Fair
day-light?— [pity,

I am mightily abus'd.—I should even die with
To see another thus.—I know not what to say.—

I will not swear, these are my hands.—let's see;
I feel this pin prick. 'Would I were assur'd

Of my condition.

Cor. O, look upon me, sir,
And hold your hands in benediction o'er me:—

No, sir, you must not kneel.

Lear. Pray do not mock me:
I am a very foolish fond old man,

Fourscore and upward; and, to deal plainly,
I fear, I am not in my perfect mind. [man:

Methinks, I should know you, and know this
Yet I am doubtful: for I am mainly ignorant

What place this is; and all the skill I have
Remembers not these garments; nor I know not

Where I did lodge last night: Do not laugh at
For, as I am a man, I think this lady [me;

To be my child Cordelia.

Cor. And so I am, I am.

Lear. Be your tears wet? Yes, 'faith. I pray,
weep not:
If you have poison for me, I will drink it.

1 Forlorn hope. 2 Thin covering of hair.

I know, you do not love me; for your sisters
Have, as I do remember, done me wrong:
You have some cause, they have not.

Cor. No cause, no cause.

Lear. Am I in France?

Kent. In your own kingdom, sir.

Lear. Do not abuse me. [rage,

Ph. Be comforted, good madam: the great
You see, is cur'd in him: and yet it is danger

To make him even o'er the time he has lost.
Desire him to go in; trouble him no more,

Till further settling.

Cor. Will't please your highness walk?

Lear. You must bear with me:
Pray now, forget & forgive: I am old, & foolish.

[*Exeunt Lear, Cor., Phys., and Attend.*

Gent. Holds it true, sir,
That the duke of Cornwall was so slain?

Kent. Most certain, sir.

Gent. Who is conductor of his people?

Kent. As 'tis said,
The bastard son of Gloster.

Gent. They say, Edgar,
His banish'd son, is with the earl of Kent

In Germany.

Kent. Report is changeable.
'Tis time to look about; the powers o' the king-

Approach apace. [dom

Gent. The arbitrement is like to be a bloody.

Fare you well, sir. [Exit.

Kent. My point and period will be thoroughly
wrought,

Or well, or ill, as this day's battle's fought. [Exit.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—THE CAMP OF THE BRITISH FORCES, NEAR DOVER.

*Enter, with Drums and Colours, Edmund,
Regan, Officers, Soldiers, and others.*

E. Know of the duke, if his last purpose hold;
Or, whether since he is advis'd by aught

To change the course: He's full of alteration,
And self-reproving: [*To an Officer, who goes out.*]

bringing his constant pleasure.¹

Reg. Our sister's man is certainly miscarried.

Edm. 'Tis to be doubted, madam.

Reg. Now, sweet lord,
You know the goodness I intend upon you:

Tell me,—but truly,—but then speak the truth,
Do you not love my sister?

Edm. In honour'd love.

Reg. I never shall endure her: Dear my lord,
Be not familiar with her.

Edm. Fear me not:—
She, and the duke her husband,—

Enter Albany, Goneril, and Soldiers.

Gon. [*Aside.*] I had rather lose the battle, than
Should loosen him and me. [that sister

Alb. Our very loving sister, well be met.—
Sir, this I hear,—The king is come to his daughter,

With others, whom the rigour of our state,
Forc'd to cry out. Where I could not be honest,

¹ His settled resolution.

I never yet was valiant: for this business,
It toucheth us, as France invades our land,
Not bolds¹ the king, with others, whom, I fear,
Most just and heavy causes make oppose.²

Edm. Sir, you speak nobly.

Reg. Why is this reason'd?

Gon. Combine together 'gainst the enemy:
For these domestick and particular broils
Are not to question here.

Alb. Let us then determine
With the ancient of war on our proceedings.

Edm. I shall attend you presently at your tent.

Reg. Sister, you'll go with us?

Gon. No.

Reg. 'Tis most convenient; pray you, go with

Gon. O, ho, I know the riddle: [Aside.] I will go.

As they are going out, enter Edgar, disguised.

Edg. If e'er your grace had speech with man
Hear me one word.

Alb. I'll overtake you.—Speak.

[Exeunt Edmund, Regan, Goneril, Officers,
Soldiers, and Attendants.]

Edg. Before you fight the battle, ope this letter.
If you have victory, let the trumpet sound
For him that brought it; wretched though I seem,
I can produce a champion, that will prove
What is avouched there: If you miscarry,
Your business of the world hath so an end,
And machination ceases. Fortune love you!

Alb. Stay till I have read the letter.

Edg. I was forbid it.

When time shall serve, let but the herald cry,
And I'll appear again.

Alb. Why, fare thee well; I will o'erlook thy
paper.

Re-enter Edmund.

Edm. The enemy's in view, draw up your powers.
Here is the guess of their true strength and
By diligent discovery;—but your haste [forces
Is now urg'd on you.]

Alb. We will greet the time.³ [Exit.]

Edm. To both these sisters have I sworn my
Each jealous of the other, as the stung [love;
Are of the adder. Which of them shall I take?
Both? one? or neither? Neither can be enjoy'd,
If both remain alive: To take the widow,
Exasperates, makes mad her sister Goneril;
And hardly shall I carry out my side,⁴
Her husband being alive. Now then we'll use
His countenance for the battle: which being
Let her, who would be rid of him, devise [done,
His speedy taking off. As for the mercy
Which he intends to Lear, and to Cordelia,—
The battle done, and they within our power,
Shall never see his pardon: for my state
Stands on me to defend, not to debate. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

A FIELD BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPS.

Alarum within. Enter, with Drum and Colours,
Lear, Cordelia, and their Forces; and exeunt.

Enter Edgar and Gloster.

Edg. Here, father, take the shadow of this
tree [thrive.
For your good host; pray that the right may

¹ Emboldens. ² Be ready.

³ Opposition. ⁴ Purposes.

If ever I return to you again,
I'll bring you comfort.

Glo. Grace go with you, sir!

[Exit Edgar.]

Alarums: afterwards a Retreat. Re-enter Edgar.

Edg. Away, old man, give me thy hand, away;
King Lear hath lost, he and his daughter ta'en:
Give me thy hand, come on.

Glo. No further, sir; a man may rot even here.

Edg. What, in ill thoughts again? Men must
endure

Their going hence, even as their coming hither:
Ripeness is all: Come on.

Glo. And that's true too.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—THE BRITISH CAMP NEAR DOVER.

Enter, in Conquest, with Drum and Colours,
Edmund; Lear and Cordelia, as Prisoners;
Officers, Soldiers, &c.

E. Some officers take them away: good guard;
Until their greater pleasures first be known
That are to censure them.

Cor. We are not the first,
Who, with best meaning, have incur'd the worst.
For thee, oppressed king, am I cast down;
Myself could else out-frown false fortune's
frown.— [sisters?

Shall we not see these daughters, and these
L. No, no, no, no! Come, let's away to prison:
We two alone will sing like birds i' the cage:
When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel down,
And ask of thee forgiveness: So we'll live,
And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh
At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
Talk of court news; and we'll talk with them too—
Who loses, and who wins; who's in, who's out;—
And take upon us the mystery of things,
As if we were Heaven's spies: And we'll wear out,
In a wall'd prison, packs and sects of great ones,
That ebb and flow by the moon.

Edm. Take them away.

Lear. Upon such sacrifices, my Cordelia,
The gods themselves throw incense. Have I
caught thee?—
He, that parts us, shall bring a brand from hea-
And fire us hence, like foxes. Wipe thine eyes;
Ere they shall make us weep: we'll see them
starve first.

Come. [Exeunt Lear and Cordelia, guarded.]

Edm. Come hither, captain; hark.

Take thou this note; [Giving a Paper.] go, fol-
low them to prison:

One step I have advanc'd thee; if thou dost
As this instructs thee, thou dost make thy way
To noble fortunes: Know thou this,—that men
Are as the time is: to be tender-minded [ment
Does not become a sword:—Thy great employ-
Will not bear question; either say, thou'lt do't,
Or thrive by other means.

Off. I'll do't, my lord.

Edm. About it; and write happy, when thou
hast done.

Mark,—I say, instantly; and carry it so,
As I have set it down.

¹ Pass judgment on.

Off. If it be man's work, I will do it.

[*Exit Officer.*]

Flourish. Enter Albany, Goneril, Regan, Officers, and Attendants.

Alb. Sir, You have shown to-day your valiant strain,

And fortune'd you well: You have the captives, Who were the opposites of this day's strife: We do require them of you; so to use them, As we shall find their merits and our safety May equally determine.

Edm. Sir, I thought it fit To send the old and miserable king To some retention, and appointed guard; Whose age has charms in it, whose title more, To pluck the common bosom on his side, And turn our impress'd lances in our eyes Which do command them. With him I sent the queen;

My reason all the same: and they are ready To-morrow, or at further space, to appear Where you shall hold your session. At this time, We sweat, and bleed; the friend hath lost his friend;

And the best quarrels, in the heat, are curs'd By those that feel their sharpness:— The question of Cordelia, and her father, Requires a fitter place.

Alb. Sir, by your patience, I hold you but a subject of this war, Not as a brother.

Reg. That's as we list to grace him. Methinks, our pleasure might have been demanded,

Ere you had spoke so far. He led our powers; Bore the commission of my place and person; The which immediacy¹ may well stand up, And call itself your brother.

Gon. Not so hot: In his own grace he doth exalt himself, More than in your advancement.

Reg. In my rights, By me invested, he compeers the best.

Gon. That were the most, if he should husband *Reg.* Jesters do oft prove prophets. [you. *Gon.* Holloa, holloa!

That eye, that told you so, look'd but a-squint.

Reg. Lady, I am not well; else I should answer From a full-flowing stomach.—General, Take thou my soldiers, prisoners, patrimony; Dispose of them, of me; the walls are thine: Witness the world, that I create thee here My lord and master.

Gon. Mean you to wed him?

Alb. The let-alone lies not in your good will.

Edm. Nor in thine, lord.

Alb. Half-blooded fellow, yes.

Reg. [To *Edmund*.] Let the drum strike, and prove my title thine. [thee

Alb. Stay yet; hear reason:—*Edmund*, I arrest On capital treason; and, in thy arrest, This gilded serpent: [*Pointing to Gon.*—for your claim, fair sister,

I bar it in the interest of my wife; 'Tis she is sub-contracted to this lord, And I, her husband, contradict your banns.

1 Nearness to my authority.

If you will marry, make your love to me, My lady is bespoken.

Gon. An interlude!

Alb. Thou art arm'd, Gloucester:—Let the trumpet sound:

If none appear to prove upon thy person, Thy heinous, manifest, and many treasons, There is my pledge: [*Throwing down a Glove.*]

I'll prove it on thy heart, Ere I taste bread, thou art in nothing less Than I have here proclaim'd thee.

Reg. Sick, O, sick!

Gon. [*Aside.*] If not, I'll ne'er trust poison.

Edm. There's my exchange: [*Throwing down a glove.*] what in the world he is

That names me traitor, villain-like he lies: Call by thy trumpet: he that dares approach, On him, on you, (who not?) I will maintain My truth and honour firmly.

Alb. A herald, ho!

Edm. A herald, ho, a herald!

Alb. Trust to thy single virtue! for thy soldiers, All levied in my name, have in my name Took their discharge.

Reg. This sickness grows upon me.

Enter a Herald.

Alb. She is not well; convey her to my tent. [*Exit Regan, led.*

Come hither, herald,—Let the trumpet sound,— And read out this.

Off. Sound trumpet. [*A Trumpet sounds.*

Herald reads.

If any man of quality, or degree, within the lists of the army, will maintain upon *Edmund*, supposed *Earl of Gloucester*, that he is a manifold traitor, let him appear at the third sound of the trumpet: He is bold in his defence.

Edm. Sound, sound! [1 Trumpet.

Her. Again, sound! [2 Trumpet.

Her. Again, sound! [3 Trumpet.

[*Trumpet answers within.*

Enter Edgar, armed, preceded by a Trumpet.

Alb. Ask him his purposes, why he appears Upon this call o' the trumpet.

Her. What are you?

Your name, your quality? and why you answer This present summons?

Edg. Know, my name is lost; By treason's tooth bare-gnawn, and canker-bit: Yet am I noble, as the adversary I come to cope withal.

Alb. Which is that adversary?

Edg. What's he, that speaks for *Edmund* earl of Gloucester?

Edm. Himself;—What say'st thou to him?

Edg. Draw thy sword!

That, if my speech offend a noble heart, Thy arm may do thee justice: here is mine. Behold, it is the privilege of mine honours, My oath, and my profession: I protest,—*Maugre*² thy strength, youth, place, and eminence, Despite thy victor sword, and fire-new fortune, Thy valour, and thy heart,—thou art a traitor: False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy father;

1 Valour.

2 Notwithstanding.

Conspirant 'gainst this high illustrious prince;
And, from the extremest upward of thy head,
To the descent and dust beneath thy feet,
A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou, No,
This sword, this arm, and my best spirits, are bent
To prove upon thy heart, whereto I speak,
Thou liest.

Edm. In wisdom, I should ask thy name:
But, since thy outside looks so fair and warlike,
And that thy tongue some 'say¹ of breeding
breathes,

What safe and nicely I might well delay
By rule of knighthood, I disdain and spurn:
Back do I toss these treasons to thy head;
With the hell-hated lie o'erwhelm thy heart;
Which, (for they yet glance by, and scarcely
bruise,)

This word of mine shall give them instant way,
Where they shall rest for ever.—Trumpets, speak.

[*Alarums. They fight. Edmund falls.*]

Alb. O save him, save him!

Gon. This is mere practice,² Gloster.
By the law of arms, thou wast not bound to answer
An unknown opposite; thou art not vanquish'd,
But cozen'd and beguil'd.

Alb. Shut your mouth, dame,
Or with this paper shall I stop it:—Hold, sir:
Thou worse than any name, read thine own evil:—
No tearing, lady: I perceive you know it.

[*Gives the Letter to Edmund.*]

Gon. Say, if I do; the laws are mine, not thine:
Who shall arraign me for't?

Alb. Most monstrous!

Know'st thou this paper?

Gon. Ask me not what I know. [*Exit Gon.*]

Alb. Go after her: she's desperate; govern her.

[*To an Officer, who goes out.*]

Edm. What you have charg'd me with, that
have I done;

And more, much more; the time will bring it out;
'Tis past, and so am I: But what art thou,
That hast this fortune on me? If thou art noble,
I do forgive thee.

Edg. Let's exchange charity.
I am no less in blood than thou art, Edmund:
If more, the more thou hast wrong'd me.
My name is Edgar, and thy father's son.
The gods are just, and of our pleasant vices
Make instruments to scourge us:
The dark and vicious place where thee he got,
Cost him his eyes.

Edm. Thou hast spoken right, 'tis true;
The wheel has come full circle; I am here.

Alb. Methought, thy very gait did prophesy
A royal nobleness:—I must embrace thee;
Let sorrow split my heart, if ever I
Did hate thee, or thy father!

Edg. Worthy prince,
I know it well.

Alb. Where have you hid yourself?
How have you known the miseries of your father?

Edg. By nursing them, my lord.—List a brief
tale:—

And, when 'tis told, O, that my heart would
The bloody proclamation to escape, (burst!—
That follow'd me so near, O, our lives' sweetness!
That with the pain of death we'd hourly die,

1 Sample.

2 Artifice.

Rather than die at once!) taught me to shift
Into a madman's rags; to assume a semblance
That very dogs disdain'd; and in this habit
Met I my father with his bleeding rings,
Their precious stones new lost; became his guide,
Led him, begg'd for him, sav'd him from despair;
Never (O fault!) reveal'd myself unto him,
Until some half hour past, when I was arm'd.
Not sure, though hoping, of this good success,
I ask'd his blessing, and from first to last
Told him my pilgrimage: but his flaw'd heart,
(Alack, too weak the conflict to support!)
'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,
Burst smilingly.

Edm. This speech of yours hath mov'd me,
And shall, perchance, do good: but speak you on;
You look as you had something more to say.

Alb. If there be more, more woful, hold it in;
For I am almost ready to dissolve,
Hearing of this.

Edg. This would have seem'd a period
To such as love not sorrow; but another,
To amplify too much, would make much more,
And top extremity.

Whilst I was big in clamour, came there a man,
Who having seen me in my worst estate,
Shunn'd my abhorr'd society; but then, finding
Who 't was that so endur'd, with his strong arms
He fasten'd on my neck, and bellow'd out
As he'd burst heaven; threw him on my father;
Told the most piteous tale of Lear and him,
That ever ear receiv'd: which in recounting,
His grief grew puissant,¹ and the strings of life
Began to crack: Twice then the trumpet sounded,
And there I left him tranc'd.

Alb. But who was this?

Edg. Kent, sir, the banish'd Kent; who in
disguise

Follow'd his enemy king, and did him service
Improper for a slave.

Enter a Gentleman hastily, with a bloody Knife.

Gent. Help! help! O help!

Edg. What kind of help?

Alb. Speak, man.

Edg. What means that bloody knife?

Gent. 'Tis hot, it smokes;

It came even from the heart of—

Alb. Who, man? speak.

Gent. Your lady, sir, your lady; and her sister
By her is poison'd; she confesses it.

Edm. I was contracted to them both; all three
Now marry in an instant.

A. Produce their bodies, be they alive or dead!—
This judgment of the heavens, that makes us
tremble,

Touches us not with pity. [*Exit Gentleman.*]

Enter Kent.

Edg. Here comes Kent, sir.

Alb. O! it is he.

The time will not allow the compliment,
Which very manners urges.

Kent. I am come
To bid my king and master aye good night;
Is he not here?

Alb. Great thing of us forgot!—

1 Mighty.

Speak, Edmund, where's the king? and where's Cordelia?—

See'st thou this object, Kent?

[*The Bodies of Goneril and Regan are brought in.*]

Kent. Alack, why thus?

Edm. Yet Edmund was belov'd: The one the other poison'd for my sake, And after slew herself.

Alb. Even so.—Cover their faces.

Edm. I pant for life:—Some good I mean to do, Despite of mine own nature. Quickly send,—Be brief in it,—to the castle; for my writ Is on the life of Lear, and on Cordelia:—Nay, send in time.

Alb. Run, run, O, run—

Edg. To whom, my lord?—Who has the office? send Thy token of reprieve.

Edm. Well thought on; take my sword, Give it the captain.

Alb. Haste thee, for thy life. [*Exit Edgar.*]

Edm. He hath commission from thy wife and To hang Cordelia in the prison, and [me To lay the blame upon her own despair, That she fordid¹ herself.

Alb. The gods defend her! Bear him hence awhile. [*Edmund is borne off.*]

Enter Lear, with Cordelia dead in his Arms; Edgar, Officers, and others.

Lear. Howl, howl, howl, howl!—O, ye are men of stones: Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so That heaven's vault should crack:—O, she is gone for ever!—

I know when one is dead, and when one lives; She's dead as earth:—Lend me a looking glass; If that her breath will mist or stain the stone, Why, then she lives.

Kent. Is this the promis'd end?

Edg. Or image of that horror?

Alb. Fall, and cease!

Lear. This featherstirs; she lives! if it be so, It is a chance that does redeem all sorrows That ever I have felt.

Kent. O my good master! [*Kneeling.*]

Lear. Pr'ythee, away.

Edg. 'Tis noble Kent, your friend.

L. A plague upon you, murderers, traitors, all! I might have sav'd her; now she's gone for ever!—Cordelia, Cordelia, stay a little. Ha!

What is't thou say'st?—Her voice was ever soft, Gentle, and low; an excellent thing in woman:—I kill'd the slave that was a hanging thee.

Off. 'Tis true, my lords, he did.

Lear. Did I not, fellow? I have seen the day, with my good biting falchion I would have made them skip: I am old now, And these same crosses spoil me.—Who are you? Mine eyes are none o' the best:—I'll tell you straight.

Kent. If fortune brag of two she lov'd and One of them we behold. [*Hated,*]

Lear. This is a dull sight: Are you not Kent?

1 Destroyed.

Kent.

The same;

Your servant Kent: Where is your servant Caius?

Lear. He's a good fellow, I can tell you that; He'll strike, and quickly too:—He's dead and rotten.

Kent. No, my good lord; I am the very man;—

Lear. I'll see that straight.

K. That, from your first of difference and decay,

Have follow'd your sad steps.

Lear. You are welcome hither.

Kent. Nor no man else;

All's cheerless, dark, and deadly.—

Your eldest daughters have fore-doom'd themselves,

And desperately are dead.

Lear. Ay, so I think.

Alb. He knows not what he says; and vain it is That we present us to him.

Edg. Very bootless.¹

Enter an Officer.

Off. Edmund is dead, my lord.

Alb. That's but a trifle here.—

You lords and noble friends, know our intent, What comfort to this great decay² may come, Shall be applied: For us, we will resign, During the life of this old majesty,

To him our absolute power:—[*To Edgar and Kent.*] You to your rights;

With boot, and such addition as your honours Have more than merited.—All friends shall taste The wages of their virtue, and all foes The cup of their deservings.—O see, see!

L. And my poor fool is hang'd! No, no, no life: Why should a dog, a horse, a rat, have life, And thou no breath at all? O, thou wilt come no more,

Never, never, never, never!—

Pray you, undo this button: Thank you, sir.—

Do you see this! Look on her,—look,—her lips,— Look there, look there!— [*He dies.*]

Edg. He faints!—My lord, my lord.—

Kent. Break, heart; I pr'ythee break!

Edg. Look up, my lord.

Kent. Vex not his ghost: O, let him pass! he hates him,

That would upon the rack of this tough world Stretch him out longer.

Edg. O, he is gone, indeed.

Kent. The wonder is, he hath endur'd so long: He but usurp'd his life.

Alb. Bear them from hence.—Our present business

Is general woe. [*To Kent and Edgar.*] Friends of my soul, you twain

Rule in this realm, and the gor'd state sustain.

Kent. I have a journey, sir, shortly to go;

My master calls, and I must not say, no.

Alb. The weight of this sad time we must obey; Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say. The oldest hath borne most: we, that are young, Shall never see so much, nor live so long.

[*Exeunt, with a dead March.*]

1 Useless.

2 (Decayed royalty.)

Romeo and Juliet.

Persons Represented.

ESCALUS, *Prince of Verona.*
 PARIS, *a young Nobleman, Kinsman to the Prince.*
 MONTAGUE, } *Heads of two Houses at variance*
 CAPULET, } *with each other.*
An Old Man, Uncle to Capulet.
 ROMEO, *Son to Montague.*
 MERCUTIO, *Kinsman to the Prince, and Friend to Romeo.*
 BENVOLIO, *Nephew to Montague, and Friend to Romeo.*
 TYBALT, *Nephew to Lady Capulet.*
 FRIAR LAURENCE, *a Franciscan.*
 FRIAR JOHN, *of the same Order.*
 BALTHAZAR, *Servant to Romeo.*
 SAMPSON, } *Servants to Capulet.*
 GREGORY, }

ABRAM, *Servant to Montague.*
An Apothecary.
 Three Musicians.
 Chorus.
 Boy, *Page to Paris.*
 PETER, *an Officer.*

LADY MONTAGUE, *Wife to Montague.*
 LADY CAPULET, *Wife to Capulet.*
 JULIET, *Daughter to Capulet.*
 Nurse to Juliet.

Citizens of Verona; several Men and Women, relations to both Houses; Maskers, Guards, Watchmen, and Attendants.

SCENE.—*During the greater part of the Play, in Verona; once, in the Fifth Act, at Mantua.*

PROLOGUE.

Two households, both alike in dignity,
 In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
 From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
 Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
 A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;
 Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows
 Do, with their death, bury their parents' strife.
 The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
 And the continuance of their parents' rage,
 Which, but their children's end, nought could
 remove,
 Is now the two hours' traffick of our stage;
 The which if you with patient ears attend,
 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to
 mend.

Act First.

SCENE I.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Sampson and Gregory, armed with Swords and Bucklers.

S. Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.¹

Gre. No, for then we should be colliers.

Sam. I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

Gre. Ay, while you live, draw your neck out of the collar.

Sam. I strike quickly, being moved.

G. But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

S. A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

Gre. To move, is—to stir; and to be valiant, is—to stand to it: therefore, if thou art mov'd, thou runn'st away.

S. A dog of that house shall move me to stand: I will take the wall of any man of Montague's.

¹ Bear injuries.

Gre. That shows thee a weak slave; for the weakest goes to the wall.

Sam. True; and therefore women, being the weaker vessels, are ever thrust to the wall:—therefore I will push Montague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the wall.

Gre. The quarrel is between our masters, and us their men.

Sam. 'Tis all one, I will show myself a tyrant: when I have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the maids, and I'm a pretty piece of flesh.

Gre. 'Tis well, thou art not fish; if thou hadst, thou hadst been poor John. Draw thy tool; here come two of the house of the Montagues.

Enter Abram and Balthazar.

Sam. My naked weapon is out; quarrel, I will back thee.

Gre. How? turn thy back, and run?

Sam. Fear me not.

Gre. No, marry: I fear thee!

Sam. Let us take the law of our sides; let them begin.

Gre. I will frown as I pass by; and let them take it as they list.

S. Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it.

Abr. Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

Sam. I do bite my thumb, sir.

Abr. Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

Sam. Is the law on our side, if I say—ay?

Gre. No.

Sam. No, sir; I do not bite my thumb at you, sir: but I bite my thumb, sir.

Gre. Do you quarrel, sir?

Abr. Quarrel, sir; no, sir.

Sam. If you do, sir, I am for you; I serve as good a man as you.

Abr. No better.

Sam. Well, sir.

Enter Benvolio at a distance.

Gre. Say—better; here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

Sam. Yes, better, sir.

Abr. You lie.

Sam. Draw, if you be men.—Gregory, remember thy swashing blow. *[They fight.]*

Ben. Part, fools; put up your swords; you know not what you do. *[Beats down their Swords.]*

Enter Tybalt.

T. What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?

Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

Ben. I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me.

Tyb. What, drawn, and talk of peace? I hate the As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee; [word, Have at thee, coward. *[They fight.]*

Enter several Partizans of both Houses, who join the fray; then enter Citizens with Clubs.

Cit. Clubs, bills, and partizans! strike! beat them down! *[tagues!]*

Down with the Capulets! down with the Mon-

Enter Capulet, in his Gown; and Lady Capulet.

Cap. What noise is this?—Give me my long sword, ho!

La. Cap. A crutch, a crutch!—why call you for a sword?

Cap. My sword, I say!—Old Montague is come, And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

Enter Montague, and Lady Montague.

Mon. Thou villain, Capulet,—Hold me not, let me go.

La. Mon. Thou shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe.

Enter Prince, with Attendants.

Prin. Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace, Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,—Will they not hear?—what, ho! you men, you beasts,—

That quench the fire of your pernicious rage With purple fountains issuing from your veins, On pain of torture, from those bloody hands Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground, And hear the sentence of your moved prince,—Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word, By thee, old Capulet and Montague, Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets; And made Verona's ancient citizens Cast by their grave beseeching ornaments, To wield old partizans,³ in hands as old, Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate: If ever you disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace. For this time, all the rest depart away: You, Capulet, shall go along with me; And, Montague, come you this afternoon, To know our further pleasure in this case, To old Free-town, our common judgment-place. Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

[Exeunt Prince, and Attendants: Capulet, Lady Capulet, Tybalt, Citizens, and Servants.]

M. Whoset this ancient quarrel new abroad?—Speak, nephew, were you by, when it began?

Ben. Here were the servants of your adversary, And yours, close fighting ere I did approach: I drew to part them; in the instant came The fiery Tybalt, with his sword prepar'd; Which, as he breath'd defiance to my ears, He swung about his head, and cut the winds, Who, nothing hurt withal, hiss'd him in scorn: While we were interchanging thrusts and blows, Came more and more, and fought on part and part, Till the prince came, who parted either part.

La. Mon. O, where is Romeo!—saw you him to Right glad I am, he was not at this fray. [day?

Ben. Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun Peer'd forth the golden window of the east, A troubled mind drove me to walk abroad; Where,—underneath the grove of sycamore, That westward rooteth from the city's side,—So early walking did I see your son: Towards him I made; but he was 'ware of me, And stole into the covert of the wood: I, measuring his affections by my own,—That most are busied when they are most alone,—Pursu'd my humour, not pursuing his, And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

Mon. Many a morning hath he there been seen, With tears augmenting the fresh morning's dew, Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs: But all so soon as the all-cheering sun Should in the furthest east begin to draw The shady curtains from Aurora's bed, Away from light steals home my heavy son, And private in his chamber pens himself; Shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out, And makes himself an artificial night: Black and portentous must this humour prove, Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

Ben. My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

Mon. I neither know it nor can learn of him.

Ben. Have you importun'd him by any means?

Mon. Both by myself, and many other friends: But he, his own affection's counsellor, Is to himself—I will not say, how true—But to himself so secret and so close, So far from sounding and discovery, As is the bud bit with an envious worm, Ere he can spread his sweet leaves to the air, Or dedicate his beauty to the sun. *[grow,* Could we but learn from whence his sorrows We would as willingly give cure, as know.

Enter Romeo, at a distance.

Ben. See, where he comes: So please you, step aside; I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

Mon. I would, thou wert so happy by thy stay, To hear true shrift.—Come, madam, let's away.

[Exeunt Montague and Lady.]

Ben. Good morrow, cousin.

Rom. *[sings.]* Is the day so young?

Ben. But new struck nine.

Rom. Ah me! sad hours seem long.

Was that my father that went hence so fast?

Ben. It was:—What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

Rom. Not having that, which having, makes them short.

Ben. In love?

Rom. Out—

Ben. Of love?

Rom. Out of her favour, where I am in love.

Ben. Alas, that love, so gentle in his view,
Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

Rom. Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,
Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!
Where shall we dine?—O me!—What fray was
Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all. [here?]
Here's much to do with hate, but more with love:—
Why then, O brawling love! O loving hate!

O any thing, of nothing first create!

O heavy lightness! serious vanity!

Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick
health!

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!—

This love feel I, that feel no love in this.

Dost thou not laugh?

Ben. No, coz, I rather weep.

Rom. Good heart, at what?

Ben. At thy good heart's oppression.

Rom. Why, such is love's transgression.—

Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast;
Which thou wilt propagate, to have it prest
With more of thine: this love, that thou hast
shown,

Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.

Love is a smoke rais'd with the fume of sighs;

Being purg'd, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;

Being vex'd, a sea nourish'd with lovers' tears:

What is it else? a madness most discreet,

A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.

Farewell, my coz. [Going.]

Ben. Soft, I will go along;

And if you leave me so, you do me wrong.

Rom. Tut, I have lost myself; I am not here;

This is not Romeo, he's some other where.

Ben. Tell me in sadness who she is you love.

Rom. What, shall I groan, and tell thee?

Ben. Groan? why no?

But sadly tell me, who.

Rom. Bid a sick man in sadness make his will:—

Ah, word ill urg'd to one that is so ill!—

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

Ben. I aim'd so near, when I suppos'd you lov'd.

Rom. A right good marksman!—And she's
fair I love.

Ben. A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

R. Well, in that hit, you miss: she'll not be hit

With Cupid's arrow, she hath Dian's wit;

And, in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,

From love's weak childish bow she lives unharm'd.

She will not stay the siege of loving terms,

Nor bide the encounter of assailing eyes:

O, she is rich in beauty; only poor,

That, when she dies, with beauty dies her store.

Ben. Then she hath sworn that she will still
live chaste?

Rom. She hath, and in that sparing makes huge

For beauty, starv'd with her severity, [waste;

Cuts beauty off from all posterity.

She is too fair, too wise; wisely too fair,

To merit bliss by making me despair:

She hath forsworn to love; and in that vow,

Do I live dead, that live to tell it now.

Ben. Be rul'd by me, forget to think of her.

Rom. O, teach me how I should forget to think.

Ben. By giving liberty unto thine eyes;

Examine other beauties.

Rom. 'Tis the way

To call hers, exquisite, in question more:

These happy masks, that kiss fair ladies' brows,

Being black, put us in mind they hide the fair;

He, that is stricken blind, cannot forget

The precious treasure of his eyesight lost:

Show me a mistress that is passing fair,

What doth her beauty serve, but as a note

Where I may read, who pass'd that passing fair?

Farewell; thou canst not teach me to forget.

Ben. I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter Capulet, Paris, and Servant.

Cap. And Montague is bound as well as I,

In penalty alike; and 'tis not hard, I think,

For men so old as we to keep the peace.

Par. Of honourable reckoning¹ are you both;

And pity 'tis, you liv'd at odds so long.

But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

Cap. But saying o'er what I have said before:

My child is yet a stranger in the world,

She hath not seen the change of fourteen years;

Let two more summers wither in their pride,

Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

P. Younger than she are happy mothers made.

C. And too soon marr'd are those so early made.

The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,

She is the hopeful lady of my earth:

But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,

My will to her consent is but a part;

And she agree, within her scope of choice

Lies my consent and fair according voice.

This night I hold an old accustom'd feast,

Whereto I have invited many a guest,

Such as I love; and you, among the store,

One more, most welcome, makes my number more.

At my poor house, look to behold this night

Earth-treading stars, that make dark heaven

light:

Such comfort, as do lusty young men feel

When well-apparell'd April on the heel

Of limping winter treads, even such delight

Among fresh female birds shall you this night

Inherit² at my house; hear all, all see,

And like her most, whose merit most shall be:

Such, amongst view of many, mine, being one,

May stand in number, though in reckoning none.

Come, go with me:—Go, sirrah, trudge about

Through fair Verona; find those persons out,

Whose names are written there, [Gives a Paper.]

and to them say,

My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

[Exeunt Capulet and Paris.]

Serv. Find them out, whose names are written

here? It is written—that the shoemaker should

meddle with his yard, and the tailor with his

last, the fisher with his pencil, and the painter

with his nets; but I am sent to find those per-

sons, whose names are here writ, and can never

find what names the writing person hath here

writ. I must to the learned:—In good time.

¹ Estimation.

² Enjoy.

Enter Benvolio and Romeo.

Ben. Tut, man! one fire burns out another's burning,

One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish;
Turn giddy, and be holy by backward turning:
One desperate grief cure with another's lan-
Take thou some new infection to thy eye, [guish:
And the rank poison of the old will die.

Rom. Your plantain leaf is excellent for that.

Ben. For what, I pray thee?

Rom. For your broken shin.

Ben. Why, Romeo, art thou mad? [is:
R. Not mad, but bound more than a madman
Shut up in prison, kept without my food,
Whipp'd, and tormented, and—Good e'en, good
fellow.

Serv. Gi' good e'en, good e'en.—I pray, sir,
can you read?

Rom. Ay, mine own fortune in my misery.

Serv. Perhaps you have learn'd it without book:
But I pray, can you read any thing you see?

R. Ay, if I know the letters, and the language.

Serv. Ye say honestly: Rest you merry!

Rom. Stay, fellow; I can read. [Reads.

*Signior Martino, and his wife and daughters;
County Anselme, and his beauteous sisters; The
lady widow of Vitruvio; Signior Placentio, and
his lovely nieces; Mercutio, and his brother
Valentine; Mine uncle Capulet, his wife, and
daughters; My fair niece Rosaline; Livia;
Signior Valerio, and his cousin Tybalt;
Lucio, and the lively Helena.*

A fair assembly; [Gives back the Note.] Whither
should they come?

Serv. Up.

Rom. Whither?

Serv. To supper; to our house.

Rom. Whose house?

Serv. My master's.

R. Indeed, I should have asked you that before.

Serv. Now I'll tell you without asking: My
master is the great rich Capulet; and if you be
not of the house of Montagues, I pray, come and
crush a cup of wine. Rest you merry. [Exit.

Ben. At this same ancient feast of Capulet's
Supps the fair Rosaline, whom thou so lov'st;
With all the admir'd beauties of Verona.

Go thither; and, with unattainted eye,
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.

Rom. When the devout religion of mine eye
Maintains such falsehood, then turn tears to
fires!

And these, who, often drown'd, could never die,—
Transparent hereticks, be burnt for liars!
One fairer than my love! the all-seeing sun
Ne'er saw her match, since first the world begun.

Ben. Tut! you saw her fair, none else being by,
Herself pois'd with herself in either eye:
But in those crystal scales, let there be weigh'd
Your lady's love against some other maid
That I will show you, shining at this feast,
And she shall scant¹ show well, that now shows
best.

Rom. I'll go along, no such sight to be shown,
But to rejoice in splendour of mine own.

[Exit.

¹ Scarce'y.

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

Enter Lady Capulet and Nurse.

La. Cap. Nurse, where's my daughter? call
her forth to me.

Nurse. I bade her come.—What, lamb? what,
lady-bird!—

Where's this girl?—what, Juliet!

Enter Juliet.

Jul. How now, who calls?

Nurse. Your mother.

Jul. Madam, I am here,

What is your will? [awhile,

L. Cap. This is the matter:—Nurse, give leave
We must talk in secret.—Nurse, come back
again; [counsel.

I have remember'd me, thou shalt hear our
Thou know'st, my daughter's of a pretty age.

Nurse. Yes, I can tell her age unto an hour.

La. Cap. She's not fourteen.

Nurse. I'll lay fourteen of my teeth, [four,—
And yet, to my teen¹ be it spoken, I have but
She is not fourteen: How long is it now
To Lammastide?

La. Cap. A fortnight, and odd days.

Nurse. Even or odd, of all days in the year,
Come Lammastide-eve at night, shall she be fourteen.
Susan and she were of an age,—but Susan's dead;
She was too good for me: But as I said,
On Lammastide-eve at night shall she be fourteen;
That shall she, marry; I remember it well.
'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years;
And she was wean'd,—I never shall forget it,—
Of all the days in the year, upon that day:
For I had then laid wormwood to my teat,
Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall,
My lord and you were then at Mantua:—
Nay, I do bear a brain,²—but, as I said,
When it did taste the wormwood on the nipple
And felt it bitter, O the pretty fool!

To see it tetchy, and fall out with the teat.
Shake, quoth the dove-house: 'twas no need, I
To bid me trudge. [trow,

And since that time it is eleven years:
For then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood,³
She could have run and waddled all about,
For even the day before, she broke her brow.
I warrant, it had upon its brow

A bump as big as a young cockrel's stone;
A parlous knock; and it cried bitterly.

La. Cap. Enough of this; I pray thee, hold
thy peace.

J. And hold thy peace, I pray thee nurse, say I.

Nurse. Peace, I have done. Heaven mark
thee to its grace!

Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nurs'd:
An I might live to see thee married once,
I have my wish.

La. Cap. Marry, that marry is the very theme
I came to talk of:—Tell me, daughter Juliet,
How stands your disposition to be married?

Jul. It is an honour that I dream not of.

N. An honour! were not I thine only nurse,
I'd say, thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.

L. Cap. Well, think of marriage now; younger
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem, [than you,

¹ Sorrow.

² Remembrance.

³ Cross.

Are made already mothers: by my count,
I was your mother much upon these years
That you are now a maid. Thus then, in brief:—
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

Nurse. A man, young lady! lady, such a man,
As all the world—Why, he's a man of wax.¹

La. Cap. Verona's summer hath not such a
flower.

Nurse. Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very
flower. [gentleman?]

La. Cap. What say you? can you love the
This night you shall behold him at our feast:
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen:
Examine every married² lineament,
And see how one another lends content:
And what obscur'd in this fair volume lies,
Find written in the margin of his eyes.
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,
To beautify him only lacks a cover:
The fish lives in the sea,³ and 'tis much pride,
For fair without the fair within to hide:
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;
So shall you share all that he doth possess,
By having him, making yourself no less.—
Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

Jul. I'll look to like, if looking liking move:
But no more deep will I endart mine eye,
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Madam, the guests are come, supper
serv'd up, you called, my young lady asked for,
the nurse curs'd in the pantry, and every thing
in extremity. I must hence to wait; I beseech
you, follow straight.

La. Cap. We follow thee.—Juliet, the County
stays.

Nurse. Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy
days. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.—A STREET.

*Enter Romeo, Mercutio, Benvolio, with five or
six Maskers, Torch-bearers, and others.*

Rom. What, shall this speech be spoke for our
Or shall we on without apology? [excuse?]

Ben. The date is out of such prolixity:
We'll have no Cupid hood-wink'd with a scarf,
Bearing a Tartar's painted bow of lath,
Scaring the ladies like a crow-keeper⁴:
Nor no without-book prologue, faintly spoke
After the prompter, for our entrance:
But, let them measure us by what they will,
We'll measure them a measure,⁵ and be gone.

Rom. Give me a torch,—I am not for this
ambling⁶;

Being but heavy, I will bear the light.

Mer. Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you
dance.

R. Not I, believe me: you have dancing shoes,
With nimble soles: I have a soul of lead,
So stakes me to the ground, I cannot move.

1 Well made.

4 A scare-crow.

2 Harmonious.

5 A dance.

3 i.e. Is not yet caught
whose skin was wanted
to blind him.

6 i.e. I'll be a torch-bearer
and look on.

Mer. You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,
And soar with them above a common bound.

Rom. I am too sore enpierced with his shaft
To soar with his light feathers; and so bound,
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe:
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

M. And, to sink in it, should you burden love;
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

Rom. Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,
Too rude and boisterous.

Mer. If love be rough with you, be rough with
Give me a case to put my visage in; [love;]

[Putting on a Mask.]

A visor for a visor!—what care I,
What curious eye doth quote¹ deformities!
Here are the beetle brows, shall blush for me.

B. Come, knock, and enter; and no sooner in,
But every man betake him to his legs.

R. A torch for me: let wantons, light of heart,
Tickle the senseless rushes² with their heels;
For I am proverb'd with a grandsire phrase,—
I'll be a candle-holder, and look on,—
The game was ne'er so fair, and I am done.

Mer. Tut! dun's the mouse,³ the constable's
own word:

If thou art dun, we'll draw thee from the mire
Of this (save reverence) love, wherein thou stick'st
Up to the ears.—Come, we burn daylight, ho.

Rom. Nay, that's not so.

Mer. I mean, sir, in delay.
We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.

Take our good meaning: for our judgment sits
Five times in that, ere once in our five wits.

Rom. And we mean well, in going to this mask;
But 'tis no wit to go.

Mer. Why, may one ask?

Rom. I dreamt a dream to-night.

Mer. And so did I.

Rom. Well, what was yours?

Mer. That dreamers often lie.

R. In bed, asleep, while they do dream things
true.

Mer. O, then, I see, queen Mab hath been with
she is the fairies' midwife; and she comes [you.
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone
On the fore-finger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep:
Her waggon-spokes made of long spinners' legs;
The cover, of the wings of grasshoppers;
The traces, of the smallest spider's web;
The collars, of the moonshine's watery beams;
Her whip, of cricket's bone: the lash, of film:
Her waggoner, a small grey-coated gnat,
Not half so big as a round little worm
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid:
Her chariot is an empty hazel-nut,
Made by the joiner squirrel, or old grub,
Time out of mind the fairies' coach-makers.
And in this state she gallops night by night
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of
love: [straight:]

On courtiers' knees, that dream on court-sies
O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees:
O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream;

1 Observe.

2 It was the custom to strew rooms with rushes.

3 Referring to games with this name.

Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,
Because their breath with sweat-meats tainted
Sometimes she gallops o'er a courtier's nose, [are.
And then dreams he of smelling out a suit!
And sometimes comes she with a tithe-pig's tail,
Tickling a parson's nose as 'a lies asleep,
Then dreams he of another benefice:
Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,
And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,
Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,
Of healths five fathom deep; and then anon
Drums in his ear; at which he starts, and wakes;
And, being thus frighted, swears a prayer or two,
And sleeps again. This is that very Mab,
That plaits the manes of horses in the night:
And bakes the elf-locks in foul sluttish hairs,
Which, once untangled, much misfortune bodes.
This, this is she—

Rom. Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace;
Thou talk'st of nothing.

Mer. True, I talk of dreams;
Which are the children of an idle brain,
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy;
Which is as thin of substance as the air;
And more inconstant than the wind, who woees
Even now the frozen bosom of the north,
And, being anger'd, puffs away from thence,
Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.

Ben. This wind you talk of, blows us from
ourselves;

Supper is done, and we shall come too late.
Rom. I fear, too early: for my mind misgives,
Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date
With this night's revels; and expire the term
Of a despised life, clos'd in my breast,
By some vile forfeit of untimely death:
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,
Direct my sail!—On, gentlemen.

Ben. Strike, drum. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A HALL IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

Musicians waiting. Enter Servants.

1 Serv. Where's Potpan, that he helps not to
take away? he shift a trencher! he scrape a
trencher!

2 Serv. When good manners shall lie all in one
or two men's hands, and they unwashed too, 'tis
a foul thing.

1 Serv. Away with the joint stools, remove the
court-cupboard, look to the plate:—good thou,
save me a piece of march-pane²; and, as thou
lovest me, let the porter let in Susan and Nell.
—Antony! and Potpan!

2 Serv. Ay, boy; ready.

1 Serv. You are looked for, and called for,
asked for, and sought for, in the great chamber.

2 Serv. We cannot be here and there too.—
Cheerily, boys; be brisk a while, and the longer
liver take all. [They retire behind.

*Enter Capulet, &c. with the Guests and the
Maskers.*

Cap. Gentlemen, welcome! ladies, that have
their toes

Unplagu'd with corns, will have a bout with
you:—

1 A place in court.

2 Almond cake.

Ah ha, my mistresses! which of you all [she
Will now deny to dance? she that makes dainty,
I'll swear, hath corns; Am I come near you now?
You are welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the
That I have worn a visor; and could tell [day,
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,
Such as would please;—'tis gone, 'tis gone; 'tis
gone:

[play,
You are welcome, gentlemen!—Come, musicians,
A hall! a hall! give room, and foot it, girls.

[Musick plays, and they dance.

More light, ye knaves; and turn the tables up,
And quench the fire, the room is grown too hot.—

Ah, sirrah, this unlook'd-for sport comes well.

Nay, sit, nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;

For you and I are past our dancing days:

How long is't now, since last yourself and I

Were in a mask?

2 Cap. By'r lady, thirty years.

1 Cap. What, man! 'tis not so much, 'tis not
so much:

'Tis since the nuptial of Lucentio,
Come Pentecost as quickly as it will,
Some five and twenty years; and then we mask'd.

2 Cap. 'Tis more, 'tis more: his son is elder,
His son is thirty. [sir:

1 Cap. Will you tell me that?

His son was but a ward two years ago.

Rom. What lady's that which doth enrich the
Of yonder knight? [hand

Serv. I know not, sir.

R. O. she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of night

Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear:

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!

So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.

The measure¹ done, I'll watch her place of stand,

And, touching hers, make happy my rude hand.

Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!

For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

Tyb. This, by his voice, should be a Montague:—

Fetch me my rapier, boy:—What! dares the slave

Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,

To flier and scorn at our solemnity?

Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,

To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

1 Cap. Why, how now, kinsman? wherefore
storm you so?

Tyb. Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe;

A villain, that is hither come in spite,

To scorn at our solemnity this night.

1 Cap. Young Romeo is't?

Tyb. 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

1 Cap. Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone,

He bears him like a portly gentleman;

And, to say truth, Verona brags of him,

To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:

I would not for the wealth of all this town,

Here in my house, do him disparagement:

Therefore be patient, take no note of him,

It is my will; the which if thou respect,

Show a fair presence, and put off these frowns,

An ill-beseeming semblance for a feast.

Tyb. It fits, when such a villain is a guest;

I'll not endure him.

1 Cap. He shall be endur'd;

1 The dance.

What, goodman boy!—I say, heshall;—Go to;—
Am I the master here or you? go to.
You'll make a mutiny among my guests!
You will set a cock-a-hoop! you'll be the man!

Tyb. Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

1 Cap. Go to, go to,
You are a saucy boy:—Is't so indeed?—
This trick may chance to scathe² you;—I know
what.

You must contráry me! marry, 'tis time—
Well said, my hearts:—you are a princex³; go:—
Be quiet, or—More light, more light, shame!—
I'll make you quiet; What!—Cheerly, my hearts.

Tyb. Patience perforce with wilful choler
meeting, [ing.
Makes my flesh tremble in their different greet-
I will withdraw: but this intrusion shall,
Now seeming sweet, convert to bitter gall. [Exit.

Rom. If I profane with my unworthy hand
[To Juliet.

This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this,—
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

Jul. Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand
too much,

Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do
touch,

And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

Rom. Have not saints lips, and holy palmers
too? [prayer.

Jul. Ay, pilgrim, lips, that they must use in
R. O then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

Jul. Saints do not move, though grant for
prayers' sake.

Rom. Then move not, while my prayer's effect
I take.

Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purg'd.
[Kissing her.

J. Then have my lips the sin that they have took.
Rom. Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly
Give me my sin again. [urg'd.

Jul. You kiss by the book.

Nurse. Madam, your mother craves a word
Rom. What is her mother? [with you.

Nurse. Marry, bachelor,

Her mother is the lady of the house,
And a good lady, and a wise, and virtuous:
I nurs'd her daughter, that you talk'd withal;
I tell you,—he, that can lay hold of her,
Shall have the chinks.

Rom. Is she a Capulet?

O dear account! my life is my foe's debt.

Ben. Away, begone; the sport is at the best.

Rom. Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

1 C. Gentlemen, prepare not to be gone;
We have a trifling foolish banquet towards.⁴
Is it e'en so? Why, then, I thank you all;
I thank you, honest gentlemen; good night:—
More torches here!—Come on, then let's to bed.
Ah, sirrah [To 2 C.] by my fay,⁵ it waxes late:
I'll to my rest. [Exit all but Juliet and Nurse.

J. Come hither, nurse: What is yon gentleman?

Nurse. The son and heir of old Tiberio.

J. What's he, that now is going out of door?

¹ A note of defiance. ² A cockcomb. ³ Faith.

⁴ Injure. ⁵ Near by.

Nurse. Marry, that, I think, be young Petruchio.
Jul. What's he, that follows there, that would
not dance?

Nurse. I know not.

Jul. Go, ask his name:—if he be married,
My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

Nurse. His name is Romeo, and a Montague
The only son of your great enemy.

Jul. My only love sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,
That I must love a loathed enemy.

Nurse. What's this? what's this?

Jul. A rhyme I learn'd even now
Of one I danc'd withal. [One calls within, Juliet!

Nurse. Anon, anon:—
Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone.
[Exit.

Enter Chorus.

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,
And young affection gapes to be his heir;
That fair, which love groan'd for, and would die,
With tender Juliet match'd is now not fair.
Now Romeo is belov'd and loves again,
Alike bewitched by the charm of looks;
But to his foe suppos'd he must complain,
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful
hooks:

Being held a foe, he may not have access
To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;
And she as much in love, her means much less
To meet her new-belov'd any where: [meet,
But passion lends them power, time means to
Temp'ring extremities with extreme sweet.
[Exit.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—AN OPEN PLACE, ADJOINING CAPULET'S GARDEN.

Enter Romeo.

Rom. Can I go forward when my heart is here?
Turn back, dull earth, and find thy centre out.
[He climbs the wall, and leaps down within it.

Enter Benvolio and Mercutio.

Ben. Romeo! my cousin Romeo!

Mer. He is wise;
And, on my life, hath stolen him home to bed.

Ben. He ran this way, and leaped this orchard
wall, good Mercutio. [wall.

Mer. Nay, I'll conjure too—
Romeo! humours! madman! passion! lover!
Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh,
Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied;
Cry but—Ah me! Couple but—love and dove;
Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,
One nick-name for her purblind son and heir,
Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim,
When King Cophetua lov'd the beggar-maid.—
He heareth not, stirreth not, he moveth not;
The ape¹ is dead, and I must conjure him.—
I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,
By her high forehead, and her scarlet lip,
That in thy likeness thou appear to us.

¹ i.e. Poor fool.

Ben. An if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.
Mer. This cannot anger him: 'twould anger him
 To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle
 Of some strange nature, letting it there stand
 Till she had laid it, and conjur'd it down;
 That were some spite: my invocation
 Is fair and honest, and, in his mistress' name,
 I conjure only but to raise up him.

Ben. Come, he hath hid himself among those
 trees,

To be consorted with the humorous¹ night:
 Blind is his love, and best befits the dark.

Mer. If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.
 Romeo, good night;—I'll to my truckle bed;
 This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep:
 Come, shall we go?

Ben. Go, then; for 'tis in vain
 To seek him here, that means not to be found.
 [Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—CAPULET'S GARDEN.

Enter Romeo.

Rom. He jests at scars that never felt a wound.—

[*Juliet appears above, at a Window.*
 But, soft! what light through yonder window
 It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!—[breaks!
 Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
 Who is already sick and pale with grief,
 That thou her maid art far more fair than she:
 Be not her maid, since she is envious;
 Her vestal livery is but sick and green,
 And none but fools do wear it; cast it off,—
 It is my lady; O, it is my love:
 O, that she knew she were!—
 She speaks, yet she says nothing: What of that?
 Her eye discourses, I will answer it.—
 I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:
 Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
 Having some business, do entreat her eyes
 To twinkle in their spheres till they return.
 What if her eyes were there, they in her head?
 The brightness of her cheek would shame those
 stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven
 Would through the airy region stream so bright,
 That birds would sing, and think it were not night.
 See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
 O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
 That I might touch that cheek!

Jul. Ah me!
Rom. She speaks:—
 O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art
 As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,
 As is a winged messenger of heaven
 Unto the white-upturned wond'ring eyes
 Of mortals, that fall back to gaze on him,
 When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds,
 And sails upon the bosom of the air.

J. O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
 Deny thy father, and refuse thy name:
 Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
 And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Rom. [Aside.] Shall I hear more, or shall I
 speak at this?

Jul. 'Tis but thy name, that is my enemy;—
 Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

¹ Humid.

What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
 Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
 Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? that which we call a rose,
 By any other name would smell as sweet;
 So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
 Retain that dear perfection which he owes,¹
 Without that title:—Romeo, doff² thy name;
 And for that name which is no part of thee,
 Take all myself.

Rom. I take thee at thy word:
 Call me but love, and I'll be new baptiz'd;
 Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

Jul. What man art thou, that, thus bescreen'd³
 So stumblest on my counsel? [in night,

Rom. By a name
 I know not how to tell thee who I am:
 My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
 Because it is an enemy to thee;
 Had I it written, I would tear the word.

J. My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words
 Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound;
 Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

Rom. Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.
Jul. How came'st thou hither, tell me? and
 wherefore?

The orchard walls are high, and hard to climb;
 And the place death, considering who thou art,
 If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

Rom. With love's light wings did I o'er-perch
 these walls;

For stony limits cannot hold love out:
 And what love can do, that dares love attempt,
 Therefore thy kinsmen are no let³ to me.

Jul. If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

Rom. Alack! there lies more peril in thine eye,
 Than twenty of their swords; look thou but sweet,
 And I am proof against their enemy.

J. I would not for the world they saw thee here.

Rom. I have night's cloak to hide me from
 their sight;

And, but⁴ thou love me, let them find me here:
 My life were better ended by their hate,
 Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

Jul. By whose direction found'st thou out
 this place?

R. By love, who first did prompt me to inquire;
 He lent me counsel, and I lent him eyes.
 I am no pilot; yet wert thou as far
 As that vast shore wash'd with the furthest sea,
 I would adventure for such merchandise.

J. Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face;
 Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek,
 For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night.
 Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain, deny
 What I have spoke: But farewell compliment!
 Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say—Ay;
 And I will take thy word: yet if thou swear'st,
 Thou mayst prove false; at lovers' perjuries,
 They say, Jove laughs. O, gentle Romeo,
 If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:
 Or, if thou think'st I am too quickly won,
 I'll frown, and be perverse, and say thee nay,
 So thou wilt woo; but else, not for the world.
 In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond;
 And therefore thou mayst think my 'haviour
 But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true

¹ Possesses. ² Put off. ³ Hindrance. ⁴ Unless.

Than those that have more cunning to be strange.¹
I should have been more strange, I must confess,
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was 'ware,
My true love's passion; therefore pardon me;
And not impute this yielding to light love,
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

Rom. Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear,
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops,—

Jul. O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant
That monthly changes in her circled orb, [moon
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

Rom. What shall I swear by?

Jul. Do not swear at all;
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,
Which is the god of my idolatry,
And I'll believe thee.

Rom. If my heart's dear love—

Jul. Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this contract to-night:

It is too rash; too unadvised, too sudden;
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be,
Ere one can say—It lightens. Sweet, good night!
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.
Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest
Come to thy heart, as that within my breast!

Rom. O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

Jul. What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

Rom. The exchange of thy love's faithful vow
for mine. [it]

J. I gave thee mine before thou didst request
And yet I would it were to give again.

Rom. Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what
purpose, love?

Jul. But to be frank, and give it thee again.
And yet I wish but for the thing I have:
My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.

[Nurse calls within.]

I hear some noise within: Dear love, adieu!
Anon, good nurse!—Sweet Montague, be true.
Stay but a little, I will come again. [Exit.]

Rom. O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard,
Being in light, all this is but a dream,
Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

Re-enter Juliet, above.

Jul. Three words, dear Romeo, and good
night, indeed.

If that thy bent² of love be honourable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,
By one that I'll procure to come to thee,
Where, and what time, thou wilt perform the rite;
And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay,
And follow thee, my lord, throughout the world:—

Nurse. [Within.] Madam.

J. I come, anon:—But if thou mean'st not
I do beseech thee,—

Nurse. [Within.] Madam.

Jul. By and by, I come:—
To cease thy suit, and leave me to my grief:
To-morrow will I send.

Rom. So thrive my soul,—

Jul. A thousand times good night! [Exit.]

Rom. A thousand times the worse, to want
thy light.—

1 Shy.

2 Purpose.

Love goes toward love, as school-boys from their
books:

But love from love, toward school with heavy
looks. [Retiring slowly.]

Re-enter Juliet, above.

Jul. Hist! Romeo, hist!—O, for a falconer's
To lure this tassel-gentle¹ back again! [voice,
Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;
Else would I tear the cave where echo lies,
And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine
With repetition of my Romeo's name.

Rom. It is my soul, that calls upon my name:
How silvers sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest musick to attending ears!

Jul. Romeo!

Rom. My sweet!

Jul. At what o'clock to-morrow
Shall I send to thee?

Rom. At the hour of nine.

Jul. I will not fail; 'tis twenty years till then.
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

Rom. Let me stand here till thou remember it.

Jul. I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,
Rememb'ring how I love thy company.

Rom. And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,
Forgetting any other home but this.

J. 'Tis almost morning, I would have thee gone:

And yet no further than a wanton's bird;
Who lets it hop a little from her hand,
Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,²
And with a silk thread plucks it back again,
So loving-jealous of his liberty.

Rom. I would, I were thy bird.

Jul. Sweet, so would I:

Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing.
Good night, good night! parting is such sweet
sorrow,

That I shall say—good night, till it be morrow. [Exit.]

Rom. Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in
thy breast!—

'Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!
Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell;
His help to crave, and my dear hap³ to tell. [Exit.]

SCENE III.—FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

Enter Friar Laurence, with a Basket.

Fri. The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frown-
ing night,
Checking the eastern clouds with streaks of
light;

And flecked⁴ darkness like a drunkard reels
From forth day's path-way, made by Titan's
wheels:

Now ere the sun advance his burning eye,
The day to cheer, and night's dank dew to dry,
I must fill up this osier cage of ours,
With baleful weeds, and precious-juiced flowers.
The earth, that's nature's mother, is her tomb;
What is her burying grave, that is her womb:
And from her womb children of divers kind
We sucking on her natural bosom find;
Many for many virtues excellent,
None but for some, and yet all different.

1 The male hawk.

2 Fetters.

3 Fortune.

4 Streaked.

O, mickle is the powerful grace, that lies
In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities:
For nought so vile that on the earth doth live,
But to the earth some special good doth give;
Nor aught so good, but, strain'd from that fair use,
Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse:
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied;
And vice sometime's by action dignified.
Within the infant rind of this small flower
Poison hath residence, and medicine power:
For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each
part;

Being tasted, slays all senses with the heart.
Two such opposed foes encamp them still
In man as well as herbs, grace, and rude will;
And where the worse is predominant,
Full soon the canker death eats up that plant.

Enter Romeo.

Rom. Good morrow, father!

Fri. *Benedicite!*

What early tongue so sweet saluteth me?
Young son, it argues a distemper'd head,
So soon to bid good morrow to thy bed:
Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,
And where care lodges, sleep will never lie;
But where unbruis'd youth with unstuff'd brain
Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth
Therefore thy earliness doth me assure, [reign;
Thou art up-rous'd by some distemp'rance;
Or if not so, then here I hit it right—
Our Romeo hath not been in bed to-night.

Rom. That last is true.

Fri. Wast thou with Rosaline?

Rom. With Rosaline, thy ghostly father? no;
I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

Fri. That's my good son: But where hast
thou been then?

Rom. I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again.
I have been feasting with mine enemy;
Where, on a sudden, one hath wounded me,
That's by me wounded; both our remedies
Within thy help and holy physick lies:
I bear no hatred, blessed man: for, lo,
My intercession likewise steads my foe.

F. Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

R. Then plainly know, my heart's dear love is
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet: [set
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;

And all combin'd, save what thou must combine
By holy marriage: When, and where, and how,
We met, we woo'd, and made exchange of vow,
I'll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray,
That thou consent to marry us this day.

Fri. Holy saint Francis! what a change is here?
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,
So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies
Not truly in their hearts but in their eyes.
O, Romeo, what a deal of sorrow's brine
Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!
How much salt water thrown away in waste,
To season love, that of it doth not taste!
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,
Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears;
Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit
Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet;
If e'er thou wast thyself, and these woes thine,

Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline;
And art thou chang'd? pronounce this sentence
then— [men.

Women may fall, when there's no strength in

Rom. Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

Fri. For dotting, not for loving, pupil mine.

Rom. And bad'st me bury love.

Fri. Not in a grave,
To lay one in, another out to have.

R. I pray thee, chide not: she, whom I love now,
Doth grace for grace, and love for love allow;
The other did not so.

Fri. O, she knew well,
Thy love did read by rote, and could not spell.

But come, young waverer, come go with me,

In one respect I'll thy assistant be;

For this alliance may so happy prove,

To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

Rom. O let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

Fri. Wisely, and slow; they stumble, that run
fast. [Exeunt.

SCENE IV.—A STREET.

Enter Benvolio and Mercutio.

Mer. Where should this Romeo be?
Came he not home to-night?

Ben. Not to his father's; I spoke with his man.

Mer. Ah, that same pale hard-hearted wench,
that Rosaline,
Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

Ben. Tybalt, the kinsman of old Capulet,
Hath sent a letter to his father's house.

Mer. A challenge, on my life.

Ben. Romeo will answer it.

Mer. Any man, that can write, may answer a
letter.

Ben. Nay, he will answer the letter's master,
how he dares, being dared.

Mer. Alas, poor Romeo, he is already dead!
stabbed with a white girl's black eye! shot
thorough the ear with a love-song: the very pin
of his heart cleft with the blind bow-boy's butt-
shaft! And is he a man to encounter Tybalt?

Ben. Why, what is Tybalt?

Mer. More than prince of cats,² I can tell you.
O, he is the courageous captain of compliments.³
He fights as you sing, keeps time, distance, and
proportion; rests me his minim rest one, two,
and the third in your bosom: the very butcher
of a silk button, a duellist, a duellist; a gentle-
man of the very first house,—of the first and
second cause: Ah, the immortal passado! the
punto reverso! the hay!⁴

Ben. The what?

Mer. The plague of such antick, lispng, affect-
ing fantasticoes; these new tuners of accents!—
Why, is not this a lamentable thing, grandsire,
that we should be thus afflicted with these strange
flies, these fashion-mongers, these *pardonnez-
moy*s, who stand so much on the new form, that
they cannot sit at ease on the old bench? O,
their *bons*, their *bons*!

Enter Romeo.

Ben. Here comes Romeo, here comes Romeo.

1 Arrow.

2 In the story of Reynard the fox.

3 Complete master of the laws of ceremony.

4 All terms of the fencing-school.

Mer. Without his roe, like a dried herring:—O flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified!—Now is he for the numbers that Petrarch flow'd in: Laura, to his lady, was but a kitchen-wench;—marry, she had a better love to be-rhyme her: Dido, a dowdy; Cleopatra, a gipsy; Helen and Hero, hildings; Thisbé, a grey eye or so, but not to the purpose.—Signior Romeo, *bon jour!* there's a French salutation to your French slop.¹ You gave us the counterfeit fairly last night.

Rom. Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

Mer. The slip, sir, the slip²; Can you not conceive?

Rom. Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and, in such a case as mine, a man may strain courtesy.

Mer. Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy.

Rom. Pink for flower.

Mer. Right.

Rom. Why, then is my pump³ well flowered.

Mer. Well said; Follow me this jest now, till thou hast worn out thy pump; that, when the single sole of it is worn, the jest may remain after the wearing, solely singular.

Rom. O single-soled jest, solely singular for the singleness!

Mer. Come between us, good Benvolio; my wits fail.

Rom. Switch and spurs, switch and spurs; or I'll cry a match.

Mer. Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done: for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits, than, I am sure, I have in my whole five; Was I with you there for the goose?

Rom. Thou wast never with me for anything, when thou wast not there for the goose.

Mer. I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

Rom. Nay, good goose, bite not.

Mer. Thy wit is a very bitter-sweeting⁴; it is a most sharp sauce.

Rom. And is it not well served in to a sweet goose?

Mer. O, here's a wit of cheverel,⁵ that stretches from an inch narrow to an ell broad!

Rom. I stretch it out for thee—broad: which added to the goose, proves thee far and wide a broad goose.

Mer. Why, is not this better now than groaning for love? now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature.

Rom. Here's goodly geer!

Enter Nurse and Peter.

Mer. A sail, a sail, a sail!

Nurse. Peter!

Pet. Anon?

Nurse. My fan, Peter.

Mer. Pr'ythee, do, good Peter, to hide her face; for her fan's the fairer of the two.

Nurse. Good morrow, gentlemen.

Mer. Good den,⁶ fair gentlewoman.

Nurse. Is it good den?

Mer. 'Tis no less, I tell you: for the hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon.

Nurse. Gentlemen, can any of you tell me where I may find the young Romeo?

Rom. I can tell you; but young Romeo will be older when you have found him, than he was when you sought him: I am the youngest of that name, for 'fault of a worse.

Nurse. You say well.

Mer. Yea, is the worse well? very well took, i' faith; wisely, wisely.

Nurse. If you be he, sir, I desire some confidence with you.

Ben. She will indite¹ him to some supper.

Mer. Romeo, will you come to your father's? we'll to dinner thither.

Rom. I will follow you.

Mer. Farewell, ancient lady; farewell, lady, lady, lady.

[*Ezeunt Mercutio and Benvolio.*]

Nurse. Marry, farewell!—I pray you, sir, what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery²?

Rom. A gentleman, nurse, that loves to hear himself talk; and will speak more in a minute, than he will stand in in a month.

Nurse. An 'a speak any thing against me, I'll take him down an 'were lustier than he is, and twenty such Jacks; and if I cannot, I'll find those that shall.—Pray you, sir, a word: and, as I told you, my young lady bade me inquire you out; what she bade me say, I will keep to myself: but first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young: and, therefore, if you should deal double with her, truly, it were an ill thing to be offered to any gentlewoman, and very weak dealing.

Rom. Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee,—

Nurse. Good heart! and, i' faith, I will tell her as much: She will be a joyful woman.

Rom. What wilt thou tell her, nurse? thou dost not mark me.

Nurse. I will tell her, sir,—that you do protest; which, as I take it, is a gentleman-like offer.

Rom. Bid her devise some means to come to This afternoon;

And there she shall at friar Laurence's cell
Be shriv'd, and married. Here is for thy pains.

Nurse. No, truly, sir; not a penny.

Rom. Go to; I say you shall.

Nurse. This afternoon, sir; well, she shall be there.

Rom. And stay, good nurse, behind the abbey—Within this hour my man shall be with thee;

And bring thee cords made like a tackled stair,⁴ Which to the high top-gallant⁵ of my joy

Must be my convoy in the secret night.
Farewell!—Be trusty, and I'll quit⁶ thy pains.

Farewell!—Commend me to thy mistress.

N. Now, heaven bless thee!—Hark you, sir.

Rom. What say'st thou, my dear nurse?

1 Invite. 2 Confession. 5 Mast.
2 Roguery. 4 Rope ladder. 6 Requite.

1 Pantaloon.

4 An apple.

2 A pun on counterfeit

5 Soft stretching leather.

money called slips.

6 Good even.

8 Shoe.

Nurse. Is your man secret? Did you ne'er hear say—

Two may keep counsel, putting one away?

Rom. I warrant thee; my man's as true as steel.

Nurse. Well, sir; my mistress is the sweetest lady:—when 'twas a little prating thing,—O,—there's a nobleman in town, one Paris, that would fain lay knife aboard; but she, good soul, had as lief see a toad, a very toad, as see him. I anger her sometimes, and tell her that Paris is the properer man; but, I warrant you, when I say so, she looks as pale as any clout in the varshal world. Doth not rosemary and Romeo begin both with a letter.

Rom. Ay, nurse; What of that? both with an R.

Nurse. Ah, mocker! that's the dog's name, R is for the dog. No; I know it begins with some other letter; and she hath the prettiest sententious of it, of you and rosemary, that it would do you good to hear it.

Rom. Commend me to thy lady. [Exit.]

Nurse. Ay, a thousand times.—Peter!

Pet. Anon?

Nurse. Peter, take my fan, and go before.

[Exitunt.]

SCENE V.—CAPULET'S GARDEN.

Enter Juliet.

Jul. The clockstruck nine, when I did send the In half an hour she promised to return. [Nurse; Perchance she cannot meet him: that's not so.—O, she is lame! love's heralds should be thoughts, Which ten times faster glide than the sun's beams, Driving back shadows over low'ring hills: Therefore do nimble-pinion'd doves draw love, And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings. Now is the sun upon the highmost hill Of this day's journey; and from nine till twelve Is three long hours,—yet she is not come. Had she affections, and warm youthful blood, She'd be as swift in motion as a ball; My words would bandy her to my sweet love, And his to me: But old folks, many feign as they were dead, Unwieldy, slow, heavy; and pale as lead.

Enter Nurse and Peter.

O here she comes!—O honey nurse, what news? Hast thou met with him? Send thy man away.

Nurse. Peter, stay at the gate. [Exit Peter.]

Jul. Now, goodsweet nurse,—why look'st thou Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily; [sad? If good, thou sham'st the musick of sweet news By playing it to me with so sour a face.

Nurse. I am weary, give me leave a while;—Fie, how my bones ache! What a jaunt have I had!

Jul. I would, thou hadst my bones, and I thy news: [speak.]

Nay, come, I pray thee, speak;—good, good nurse,

Nurse. What haste? can you not stay a while? Do you not see that I am out of breath?

Jul. How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath

To say to me—that thou art out of breath?

The excuse that thou dost make in this delay, Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.

Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that;

Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance; Let me be satisfied, Is't good or bad?

Nurse. Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not how to choose a man: Romeo! no, not he; though his face be better than any man's, yet his leg excels all men's; and for a hand and a foot, they are past compare: He is not the flower of courtesy,—but, I'll warrant him as gentle as a lamb. Go thy ways, wench. What, have you dined at home!

Jul. No, no: But all this did I know before; What says he of our marriage? what of that?

N. O, how my head aches! what a head have I! It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.

My back o't'otherside.—O, my back, my back!—Beshrew your heart, for sending me about, To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

Jul. I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well: Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?

Nur. Your love says, like an honest gentleman, And a courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, And, I warrant, a virtuous:—Where is your mother?

Jul. Where is my mother?—why, she is within; Where should she be? How oddly thou reply'st: *Your love says like an honest gentleman,—Where is your mother?*

Nurse. Marry, come up, I trow: Is this the poultrice for my aching bones? Henceforward do your messages yourself.

Jul. Here's such a coil,—come, what says Romeo?

Nurse. Have you got leave to go to shrift to *Jul.* I have. [day?]

Nur. Then hie you hence to friar Laurence's cell, There stays a husband to make you a wife: Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks, They'll be in scarlet straight at any news. Hie you to church; I must another way, To fetch a ladder, by the which your love Must climb a bird's nest soon, when it is dark: I am the drudge, and toil in your delight: Go, I'll to dinner: hie you to the cell.

Jul. Hie to high fortune!—honest nurse, farewell. [Exitunt.]

SCENE VI.—FRIAR LAURENCE' CELL.

Enter Friar Laurence and Romeo.

Fri. So smile the heavens upon this holy act, That after-hours with sorrow chide us not.

Rom. Amen, amen! but come what sorrow can, It cannot countervail the exchange of joy That one short minute gives me in her sight: Do thou but close our hands with holy words, Then love-devouring death do what he dare, It is enough I may but call her mine.

Fri. These violent delights have violent ends, And in their triumph die; like fire and powder, Which, as they kiss, consume: The sweetest Is loathsome in his own deliciousness, [honey And in the taste confounds the appetite: Therefore, love moderately; long love doth so; Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

Enter Juliet.

Here comes the lady:—O, so light a foot

1 Bustle.

Will ne'er wear out the everlasting flint;
A lover may bestride the gossamers
That idle in the wanton summer air,
And yet not fall; so light is vanity.

Jul. Good even to my ghostly confessor.

Fri. Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both. [much.]

Jul. As much to him, else are his thanks too
Rom. Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy
Be heap'd like mine, and that thy skill be more
To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath
This neighbour air, and let rich music's tongue,
Unfold the imagin'd happiness that both
Receive in either by this dear encounter.

Jul. Conceit,¹ more rich in matter than in words,
Brags of his substance, not of ornament:
They are but beggars that can count their worth;
But my true love is grown to such excess,
I cannot sum up half my sum of wealth.

Fri. Come, come with me, and we will make short work;

And holy church incorporate two in one.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Mercutio, Benvolio, Page, and Servants.

Ben. I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire:
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,
And, if we meet, we shall not 'scape a brawl;
For, now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.

Mer. Thou art like one of those fellows, that, when he enters the confines of a tavern, claps me his sword upon the table, and says, *Heaven send me no need of thee!* and, by the operation of the second cup, draws it on the drawer, when, indeed, there is no need.

Ben. Am I like such a fellow?

Mer. Come, come, thou art as hot a Jack in thy mood as any in Italy; and as soon moved to be moody, and as soon moody to be moved.

Ben. And what to?

Mer. Nay, an there were two such, we should have none shortly, for one would kill the other. Thou! why thou wilt quarrel with a man that hath a hair more, or a hair less, in his beard, than thou hast. Thou wilt quarrel with a man for cracking nuts, having no other reason but because thou hast hazel eyes; What eye, but such an eye, would spy out such a quarrel? Thy head is as full of quarrels as an egg is full of meat; and yet thy head hath been beaten as addle as an egg, for quarrelling. Thou hast quarrelled with a man for coughing in the street, because he hath wakened thy dog that hath lain asleep in the sun. Didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter? with another, for tying his new shoes with old riband? and yet thou wilt tutor me from quarrelling!

Ben. An I were so apt to quarrel as thou art, any man should buy the fee-simple of my life for an hour and a quarter.

¹ Imagination.

Mer. The fee-simple? O simple!

Enter Tybalt, and others.

Ben. By my head, here come the Capulets.

Mer. By my heel, I care not.

Tyb. Follow me close, for I will speak to them.—Gentlemen, good den; a word with one of you.

Mer. And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something; make it a word and a blow.

Tyb. You will find me apt enough to that, sir, if you will give me occasion.

Mer. Could you not take some occasion without giving?

Tyb. Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo,—

Mer. Consort? what, dost thou make us minstrels? an thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords: here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall make you dance. Consort!

Ben. We talk here in the publick haunt of men: Either withdraw into some private place, Or reason coldly of your grievances, Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

Mer. Men's eyes were made to look, and let them I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I. [gaze;

Enter Romeo.

Tyb. Well, peace be with you, sir! here comes my man. [livery:

Mer. But I'll be hang'd, sir, if he wear your Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower; Your worship, in that sense, may call him—man.

Tyb. Romeo, the hate I bear thee, can afford No better term than this—Thou art a villain.

Rom. Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee Doth much excuse the appertaining rage To such a greeting:—Villain am I none; Therefore, farewell; I see, thou know'st me not.

Tyb. Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries That thou hast done me; therefore return, and draw.

Rom. I do protest I never injur'd thee; But love thee better than thou canst devise, Till thou shalt know the reason of my love: And so, good Capulet,—which name I tender As dearly as mine own,—be satisfied.

Mer. O calm, dishonourable, vile submission! *A la stoccata*¹ carries it away. [Draws.] Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

Tyb. What wouldst thou have with me?

Mer. Good king of cats, nothing, but one of your nine lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you shall use me hereafter, dry-beat the rest of the eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his plimch² by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere it be out.

Tyb. I am for you. [Drawing.]

Rom. Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

Mer. Come, sir, your passado. [They fight.]

Rom. Draw, Benvolio; [shame; Beat down their weapons:—Gentlemen, for Forbear this outrage:—Tybalt—Mercutio— The prince expressly hath forbid this bandying In Verona streets:—hold, Tybalt;—good Mercutio. [*Exeunt Tybalt and his Partizans.*]

Mer. I am hurt;—

A plague o' both the houses!—I am sped:— Is he gone, and hath nothing?

Ben. What, art thou hurt?

¹ A thrust with a rapier.

² Scabbard.

Mer. Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.—

Where is my page?—go, villain, fetch a surgeon.
[Exit Page.]

Rom. Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

Mer. No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world:—A plague o' both your houses!—A dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetick!—Why, the devil, came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

Rom. I thought all for the best.

Mer. Help me into some house, Benvolio, Or I shall faint.—A plague o' both your houses! They have made worm's meat of me:

I have it, and soundly too:—Your houses!

[Exeunt Mercutio and Benvolio.]

Rom. This gentleman, the prince's near ally, My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt In my behalf; my reputation stain'd With Tybalt's slander, Tybalt, that an hour Hath been my kinsman:—O sweet Juliet, Thy beauty hath made me effeminate, And in my temper soften'd valour's steel.

Re-enter Benvolio.

Ben. O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's dead; That gallant spirit hath aspir'd the clouds, Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.

Rom. This day's black fate on more days doth depend; This but begins the woe, others must end.

Re-enter Tybalt.

B. Here comes the furious Tybalt back again.

Rom. Alive! in triumph! and Mercutio slain! Away to heaven, respective! lenity, And fire-ey'd fury be my conduct now!—Now, Tybalt, take the villain back again, That late thou gav'st me; for Mercutio's soul Is but a little way above our heads, Staying for thine to keep him company; Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

Tyb. Thou, wretched boy, that didst consort³ him here, Shalt with him hence.

Rom. This shall determine that.

[They fight; Tybalt falls.]

Ben. Romeo, away, be gone!

The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain: [death, Stand not amaz'd:—the prince will doom thee if thou art taken:—hence!—be gone!—away!

Rom. O! I am fortune's fool!

Ben. Why dost thou stay? [Exit Romeo.]

Enter Citizens, &c.

1 *Cit.* Which way ran he, that kill'd Mercutio? Tybalt, that murderer, which way ran he?

Ben. There lies that Tybalt.

1 *Cit.* Up, sir, go with me;

I charge thee in the prince's name, obey.

Enter Prince, attended; Montague, Capulet, their Wives, and others.

Pr. Where are the vile beginners of this fray?

1 Considerate. 2 Conductor. 3 Accompany.

Ben. O noble prince, I can discover all The unlucky manage of this fatal brawl: There lies the man slain by young Romeo, That slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

L. C. Tybalt, my cousin!—O my brother's child!

Unhappy sight! ah me, the blood is spill'd Of my dear kinsman!—Prince, as thou art true,¹ For blood of ours, shed blood of Montague.—O cousin, cousin?

Pri. Benvolio, who began this bloody fray?

Ben. Tybalt, here slain, whom Romeo's hand did slay;

Romeo that spoke him fair, bade him bethink How nice² the quarrel was, and urg'd withal Your high displeasure:—All this—uttered With gentle breath, calm look, knees humbly bow'd,—

Could not take truce with the unruly spleen Of Tybalt, deaf to peace, but that he tilts With piercing steel at bold Mercutio's breast; Who, all as hot, turns deadly point to point, And, with a martial scorn, with one hand beats Cold death aside, and with the other sends It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity Retorts it: Romeo he cries aloud, [tongue, Hold friends! friends part! and, swifter than his His agile arm beats down their fatal points And 'envieth them rushes: underneath whose arm An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt fled; But by and by comes back to Romeo, Who had but newly entertain'd revenge, And to't they go like lightning; for, ere I Could draw to part them, was stout Tybalt slain; And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and fly: This is the truth, or let Benvolio die.

La. Cap. He is a kinsman to the Montague, Affection makes him false, he speaks not true: Some twenty of them fought in this black strife, And all those twenty could but kill one life: I beg for justice, which thou, prince, must give; Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.

Pri. Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio; Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?

Mon. Not Romeo, prince, he was Mercutio's friend;

His fault concludes but what the law should The life of Tybalt. [end,

Pri. And, for that offence,

Immediately we do exile him hence:

I have an interest in your hates' proceeding, My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a bleed—But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine, [ing; That you shall all repent the loss of mine: I will be deaf to pleading and excuses;

Nor tears, nor prayers, shall purchase out abuses; Therefore use none: let Romeo hence in haste, Else, when he's found, that hour is his last.

Bear hence this body, and attend our will: Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

Enter Juliet.

Jul. Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,

1 Just. 2 Slight.

Towards Phœbus' mansion ; such a waggoner
As Phaeton would whip you to the west,
And bring in cloudy night immediately.—
Spread thy close curtain, and come, civil¹ night,
Thou sober-suited matron, all in black :
Come, night !—Come, Romeo ! come, thou day
in night !

For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night
Whiter than new snow on a raven's back.—
Come, gentle night ; come, loving, black-brow'd
night,

Give me my Romeo : and when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine,
That all the world will be in love with night,
And pay no worship to the garish² sun.—
So tedious is this day,
As is the night before some festival,
To an impatient child, that hath new robes,
And may not wear them. O, here comes my
nurse,

Enter Nurse, with Cords.

And she brings news ; and every tongue, that
speaks [quence.—
But Romeo's name, speaks heavenly elo-
Now, nurse, what news ? What hast thou there,
the cords

That Romeo bade thee fetch ?

Nurse. Ay, ay, the cords.
[*Throws them down.*

Jul. Ah me ! what news ! why dost thou wring
thy hands ? [he's dead !

Nurse. Ah well-a-day ! he's dead, he's dead,
We are undone, lady, we are undone !—
Alack the day !—he's gone, he's kill'd, he's dead !

Jul. Can heaven be so envious ?

Nurse. Romeo can,
Though heaven cannot :—O Romeo ! Romeo !
Whoever would have thought it ?—Romeo !

Jul. What devil art thou, that dost torment
me thus ?

Hath Romeo slain himself ? say thou but I,³
And that bare vowel I shall poison more
Than the death-darting eye of cockatrice :

I am not I, if there be such an I :
Or those eyes shut that make thee answer, I.
If he be slain, say—I ; or if not, no :

Brief sounds determine of my weal, or woe.
N, I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes,—

'Twas here, e'en here, upon his manly breast :
A piteous corse, a bloody piteous corse ;
Pale, pale as ashes, all bedaub'd in blood,
All in gore blood ; I swooned at the sight.

Jul. O break, my heart !—poor bankrupt,
break at once !

To prison, eyes ! ne'er look on liberty !
Vile earth, to earth resign ; end motion here ;
And thou, and Romeo, press one heavy bier !

N, O Tybalt, Tybalt, the best friend I had !
O courteous Tybalt ! honest gentleman !
That ever I should live to see thee dead !

J, What storm is this that, blows so contrary ?
Is Romeo slaughtered ; and is Tybalt dead ?
My dear-lov'd cousin, and my dearer lord ?
Then, dreadful trumpet, sound the general doom !
For who is living, if those two are gone ?

Nurse. Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished ;
Romeo, that kill'd him, he is banished.

Jul. O heaven !—did Romeo's hand shed
Tybalt's blood ?

Nurse. It did, it did ; alas the day ! it did.

Jul. O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face !
Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave ?

Beautiful tyrant ! fiend angelical !
Dove-feathered faven ! volkish ravening lamb !
Despised substance of divinest show !

Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st :
A damned saint, an honourable villain !—
O, nature ! what hadst thou to do in hell,
When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend
In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh ?
Was ever book, containing such vile matter,
So fairly bound ? O, that deceit should dwell
In such a gorgeous palace !

Nurse. There's no trust,
No faith, no honesty in men ; all perjur'd,
All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.—
Ah, where's my man ? give me some *agua vitae* :—
These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me
Shame come to Romeo ! [old.

Jul. Blister'd be thy tongue,
For such a wish ! He was not born to shame :
Upon his brow shame is asham'd to sit ;
For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd
Sole monarch of the universal earth.
O, what a beast was I to chide at him !

Nur. Will you speak well of him that kill'd
your cousin ?

J, Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband ?
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy
name, [it ?—

When I, thy three-hours' wife, have mangled
But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin ?
That villain cousin would have kill'd my husband :
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring ;
Your tributary drops belong to woe,
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain ;
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my
husband :

All this is comfort ; Wherefore weep I then ?
Some word there was, worsen than Tybalt's death,
That murder'd me : I would forget it fain ;
But, O ! it presses to my memory,
Like horrid guilty deeds to sinners' minds :

Tybalt is dead, and Romeo—banished ;
That—*banished*, that one word—*banished*,
Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts. Tybalt's death
Was woe enough, if it had ended there ;

Or,—if sour woe delights in fellowship,
And needly will be rank'd with other griefs,—
Why follow'd not, when she said—Tybalt's dead,
Thy father, or thy mother, nay, or both,
Which modern¹ lamentation might have mov'd ?
But, with a rear-ward following Tybalt's death,
Romeo is banished,—to speak that word,
Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,
All slain, all dead :—*Romeo is banished*,—
There is no end, no limit, measure, bound,
In that word's death ; now words can that woe sound.
Where is my father, and my mother, nurse ?

N, Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's corse :
Will you go to them ? I will bring you thither.

¹ Solemn.

² Gaudy.

³ (Ay.)

¹ Common.

Jul. Wash they his wounds with tears? mine shall be spent,
When theirs are dry, for Romeo's banishment.
Take up those cords:—Poor ropes, you are beguill'd.

Both you and I; for Romeo is exiled.

Nurse. Hie to your chamber: I'll find Romeo
To comfort you:—I wot¹ well where he is.
Hark ye, your Romeo will be here at night:
I'll to him; he is hid at Laurence's cell.

J. O find him! give this ring to my true knight,
And bid him come to take his last farewell.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

[*Enter Friar Laurence and Romeo.*]

Fri. Romeo, come forth; come forth, thou fearful man;
Affliction is enamour'd of thy parts,
And thou art wedded to calamity.

Rom. Father, what news? what is the prince's doom?
What sorrow craves acquaintance at my hand,
That I yet know not?

Fri. Too familiar
Is my dear son with such sour company:
I bring thee tidings of the prince's doom.

Rom. What less than dooms-day is the prince's doom?

Fri. A gentler judgment vanish'd from his lips,
Not body's death, but body's banishment.

R. Ha! banishment? be merciful, say—death:
For exile hath more terror in his look,
Much more than death: do not say—banishment.

Fri. Hence from Verona art thou banished:
Be patient, for the world is broad and wide.

Rom. There is no world without Verona walls,
Hence banished is banish'd from the world,
And world's exile is death:—then banishment
Is death mis-term'd: calling death—banishment,
Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe,
And smil'st upon the stroke that murders me.

Fri. O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!
Thy fault our law calls death; but the kind prince,
Taking thy part, hath rush'd aside the law,
And turn'd that black word death to banishment:
This is dear mercy, and thou seest it not.

R. 'Tis torture, and not mercy: heaven is here,
Where Juliet lives; and every cat, and dog,
And little mouse, every unworthy thing,
Live here in heaven, and may look on her,
But Romeo may not.—More validity,²
More honourable state, more courtship lives
In carrion flies, than Romeo: they may seize
On the white wonder of dear Juliet's hand,
And steal immortal blessing from her lips;
Who, even in pure and vestal modesty,
Still blush, as thinking their own kisses sin;
But Romeo may not; he is banish'd:
Flies may do this, when I from this must fly;
They are free men, but I am banished,
And say'st thou yet, that exile is not death?
Hadst thou no poison mix'd, no sharp-ground
knife,

No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean,
But,—banished—to kill me; banished?

1 Know.

2 Worth.

O cruel friar, how hast thou the heart,
Being a divine, a ghostly confessor,
A sin-absolver, and my friend profess'd,
To mangle me with that word—banishment?

Fri. Thou fond mad man, hear me but speak
a word.

Rom. O, thou wilt speak again of banishment.
Fri. I'll give thee armour to keep off that
Adversity's sweet milk, philosophy, [word;
To comfort thee, though thou art banished.

Rom. Yet banished?—Hang up philosophy!
Unless philosophy can make a Juliet,
Displant a town, reverse a prince's doom;
It helps not, it prevails not, talk no more.

Fri. O, then I see that madmen have no ears.

Rom. How should they, when that wise men
have no eyes?

Fri. Let me dispute with thee of thy estate.

Rom. Thou canst not speak of what thou dost
not feel:

Wert thou as young as I, Juliet thy love,
An hour but married, Tybalt murdered,
Doting like me, and like me banished,
Then might'st thou speak, then might'st thou
tear thy hair,

And fall upon the ground as I do now,
Taking the measure of an unmade grave.

Fri. Arise; one knocks; good Romeo, hide
thyself. [Knocking within.]

Rom. Not I; unless the breath of heart-sick
groans,
Mist-like, infold me from the search of eyes.

[Knocking.]

Fri. Hark, how they knock!—Who's there?—
Romeo, arise:

Thou wilt be taken:—Stay a while: stand up;
[Knocking.]

Run to my study:—By and by:—I come!

What wilfulness is this?—I come, I come.

[Knocking.]

Who knocks so hard? whence come you? what's
your will?

Nurse. [Within.] Let me come in, and you
shall know my errand;

I come from lady Juliet.

Fri. Welcome then.

[*Enter Nurse.*]

Nurse. O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,
Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?

Fri. There on the ground, with his own tears
made drunk.

Nurse. O, he is even in my mistress' case,
Just in her case!

Fri. O woful sympathy!

Piteous predicament!

Nurse. Even so lies she, [ing:—
Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubber—
Stand up, stand up; stand, an you be a man:
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;

[*Romeo groans.*]

Why should you fall into so deep an O?

Rom. Nurse! [Rising suddenly.]

Nurse. Ah sir! ah sir!—Well, death's the end
of all. [her?]

Rom. Spak'st thou of Juliet? how is it with
Does she not think me an old murderer,
Now I have stain'd the childhood of our joy

With blood remov'd but little from her own?
Where is she? and how doth she? and what says
My conceal'd lady to our cancell'd love?

Nurse. O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps;

And now falls on her bed; and then starts up,
And Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,
And then down falls again.

Rom. As if that name,
Shot from the deadly level of a gun,
Did murder her; as that name's cursed hand
Murder'd her kinsman.—O tell me, friar, tell me,
In what vile part of this anatomy
Doth my name lodge? tell me, that I may sack
The hateful mansion. [*Drawing his sword.*]

Fri. Hold thy desperate hand:
Art thou a man? thy form cries out, thou art;
Thy tears are womanish, thy wild acts denote
The unreasonable fury of a beast:

Unseemly woman, in a seeming man!
Or ill-beseeming beast, in seeming both!
Thou hast amaz'd me; by my holy order,
I thought thy disposition better temper'd.
Hast thou slain Tybalt? wilt thou slay thyself?
And slay thy lady too that lives in thee,
By doing violence upon thyself?
Why rail'st thou on thy birth, the heaven, and earth?

[*meet*]
Since birth, and heaven, and earth, all three do
In thee at once; which thou at once wouldst lose.
Fie, fie! thou sham'st thy shape, thy love, thy wit;
Which, like an usurer, abound'st in all,
And usest none in that true use indeed
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy
Thy noble shape is but a form of wax, [*wit*]
Digressing from the valour of a man:

Thy dear love, sworn, but hollow perjury,
Killing that lovewhich thou hast vow'd to cherish;
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
Mis-shapen in the conduct of them both,
Like powder in a skill-less soldier's flask,
Is set on fire by thine own ignorance,
And thou dismember'd with thine own defence.
What, rouse thee, man! thy Juliet is alive,
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead;
There art thou happy: Tybalt would kill thee,
But thou slew'st Tybalt; there art thou happy too:
The law, that threaten'd death, becomes thy friend,
And turns it to exile; there art thou happy:
A pack of blessings lights upon thy back:
Happiness courts thee in her best array;
But, like a mis-behav'd and sullen wench,
Thou pout'st upon thy fortune and thy love:
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.
Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed,
Ascend her chamber, hence and comfort her;
But, look, thou stay not till the watch be set,
For then thou canst not pass to Mantua;
Where thou shalt live, till we can find a time
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,
Beg pardon of the prince, and call thee back
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy
Than thou went'st forth in lamentation.—
Go before, nurse: commend me to thy lady;
And bid her hasten all the house to bed,
Which heavy sorrow makes them apt unto:
Romeo is coming.

Nurse. I could have staid all night,

To hear good counsel: O, what learning is!—
My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come.

Rom. Do so, and bid my sweet prepare to chide.

Nurse. Here, sir, a ring she bid me give you, sir:
Hie you, make haste, for it grows very late.

[*Exit Nurse.*]

Rom. How well my comfort is reviv'd by this!

Fri. Go hence: Good night: and here stands
all your state;

Either be gone before the watch be set,
Or by the break of day disguis'd from hence:
Sojourn in Mantua; I'll find out your man,
And he shall signify from time to time
Every good hap to you, that chances here:
Give me thy hand; 'tis late; farewell; good night.

Rom. But that a joy past joy calls out on me,
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee:
Farewell. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

Enter Capulet, Lady Capulet, and Paris.

Cap. Things have fallen out, sir, so unluckily,
That we have had no time to move our daughter:
Look you, she lov'd her kinsman Tybalt dearly,
And so did I;—Well, we were born to die.—
'Tis very late, she'll not come down to-night:
I promise you, but for your company,
I would have been a-bed an hour ago.

Par. These times of woe afford no time to woo;
Madam, good night; commend me to your
daughter.

La. Cap. I will, and know her mind early
to-morrow;

To-night she's mew'd up to her heaviness.

Cap. Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child's love: I think, she will be rul'd
In all respects by me; nay more, I doubt it not.
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed;
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love;
And bid her, mark you me, on Wednesday next—
But soft: What day is this?

Par. Monday, my lord.

Cap. Monday? ha! ha! Well, Wednesday is
too soon,

O' Thursday let it be;—o' Thursday, tell her,
She shall be married to this noble earl:—
Will you be ready? do you like this haste?
We'll keep no great ado;—a friend, or two:
For, hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,
It may be thought we held him carelessly,
Being our kinsman, if we revel much:

Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

Par. My lord, I would that Thursday were
to-morrow. [*then:—*]

Cap. Well, get you gone:—O' Thursday be it
Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed,
Prepare her, wife, against this wedding-day,—
Farewell, my lord.—Light to my chamber, ho!
Afore me, it is so very late, that we
May call it early by and by:—Good night.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE V.—JULIET'S CHAMBER.

Enter Romeo and Juliet.

Jul. Wilt thou be gone? it is not yet near day:

1 Bold.

It was the nightingale, and not the lark,
That pierced the fearful hollow of thine ear:
Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate tree:
Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

Rom. It was the lark, the herald of the morn,
No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east:
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops;
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

Jul. Yon light is not day-light, I know it, I:
It is some meteor that the sun exhales,
To be to thee this night a torch-bearer,
And light thee on thy way to Mantua:
Therefore stay yet, thou need'st not to be gone.

Rom. Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death;
I am content, so thou wilt have it so.

I'll say, yon grey is not the morning's eye,
'Tis but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow!
Nor that is not the lark, whose notes do beat
The vaulty heaven so high above our heads:
I have more care² to stay, than will to go:—
Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so.
How is't my soul? let's talk, it is not day.

Jul. It is, it is, hie hence, be gone, away;
It is the lark that sings so out of tune,
Straining harsh discords, and unpleasing sharps.
Some say, the lark makes sweet division;
This doth not so, for she divideth³ us:
Some say, the lark and loathed doth change eyes;
O, now I would they had changed voices too;
Since arm from arm that voice doth us affray,
Hunting thee hence with hunts-up to the day.
O, now be gone; more light and light it grows.

Rom. More light and light?—more dark and
dark our woes.

Enter Nurse.

Nurse. Madam!

Jul. Nurse?

Nurse. Your lady mother's coming to your
chamber:

The day is broke; be wary, look about.

[Exit Nurse.]

Jul. Then, window, let day in, and let life out.

Rom. Farewell, farewell! one kiss, and I'll
descend. *[Romeo descends.]*

Jul. Art thou gone so? my love! my lord! my
friend!

I must hear from thee every day i' the hour,
For in a minute there are many days:
O! by this count I shall be much in years,
Ere I again behold my Romeo.

Rom. Farewell! I will omit no opportunity
That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

J. O think'st thou, we shall ever meet again?

R. I doubt it not; and all these woes shall serve
For sweet discourses in our time to come.

Jul. Alas, I have an ill-divining soul!

Methinks, I see thee, now thou art below,
As one dead in the bottom of a tomb:

Either my eye-sight fails, or thou look'st pale.

R. And trust me, love, in mine eye so do you:
Dry sorrow drinks our blood. Adieu! adieu!

[Exit Romeo.]

1 The moon.

2 Inclination.

3 Playing on the word *division*, which was the
phrase for musical composition.

Jul. O fortune! fortune! all men call thee fickle:
If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him
That is renown'd for faith? Be fickle, fortune:
For then, I hope, thou wilt not keep him long,
But send him back.

La. Cap. *[Within.]* Ho, daughter! are you up?

Jul. Who is't that calls? is it my lady mother?
Is she not down so late, or up so early?

What unaccustom'd cause procures¹ her hither.

Enter Lady Capulet.

La. Cap. Why, how now, Juliet?

Jul. Madam, I am not well.

L. Cap. Evermore weeping for your cousin's
death? *[tears?]*

What, wilt thou wash him from his grave with
And if thou couldst, thou couldst not make him
live;

Therefore, have done: Some grief shows much
of love;

But much of grief shows still some want of wit.

Jul. Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

La. Cap. So shall you feel the loss, but not
the friend,

Which you weep for.

Jul. Feeling so the loss,

I cannot choose but ever weep the friend.

La. Cap. Well, girl, thou weep'st not so much
for his death,

As that the villain lives which slaughter'd him.

Jul. What villain, madam?

La. Cap. That same villain, Romeo.

Jul. Villain and he are many miles asunder.
Heaven pardon him! I do, with all my heart;
And yet no man, like he, doth grieve my heart.

La. Cap. That is, because the traitor murderer
lives.

Jul. Ay, madam, from the reach of these my
hands.

'Would, none but I might 'venge my cousin's
death!

La. Cap. We will have vengeance for it, fear
thou not:

Then weep no more. I'll send to one in Mantua,—
Where that same banish'd runaway doth live,—
That shall bestow on him so sure a draught,
That he shall soon keep Tybalt company:
And then, I hope, thou wilt be satisfied.

Jul. Indeed, I never shall be satisfied
With Romeo, till I behold him—dead—
Is my poor heart so for a kinsman vex'd?—

Madam, if you could find out but a man
To bear a poison, I would temper it;

That Romeo should, upon receipt thereof,
Soon sleep in quiet.—O, how my heart abhors
To hear him nam'd,—and cannot come to him,—

To wreak the love I bore my cousin Tybalt
Upon his body that hath slaughter'd him!

La. Cap. Find thou the means, and I'll find
such a man.

But now, I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.

Jul. And joy comes well in such a needful time;
What are they, I beseech your ladyship?

L. C. Well, well, thou hast a careful father, child;
One, who, to put thee from thy heaviness,

Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy,
That thou expect'st not, nor I look'd not for.

1 Brings.

Jul. Madam, in happy time, what day is that?

La. Cap. Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn,

The gallant, young, and noble gentleman,
The county Paris, at Saint Peter's church,
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

J. Now, by Saint Peter's church, and Peter too,
He shall not make me there a joyful bride.
I wonder at this haste: that I must wed
Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo.
I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,
I will not marry yet; and when I do, I swear,
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,
Rather than Paris:—These are news indeed!

La. Cap. Here comes your father: tell him
so yourself,
And see how he will take it at your hands.

Enter Capulet and Nurse.

C. When the sun sets, the air doth drizzle dew;
But for the sunset of my brother's son,
It rains downright.—

How now? a conduit, girl? what, still in tears?
Ever more showering; in one little body
Thou counterfeit'st a bark, a sea, a wind:
For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,
Do ebb and flow with tears; the bark thy body is,
Sailing in this salt flood: the winds, thy sighs;
Who,—raging with thy tears, and they with
them,—

Without a sudden calm, will overset
Thy tempest-tossed body.—How now, wife?
Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

La. Cap. Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives
you thanks.

I would, the fool were married to her grave!

Cap. Soft, take me with you, take me with
you, wife.

How! will she none? doth she not give us
thanks?

Is she not proud? doth she not count her blessing,
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

Jul. Not proud, you have; but thankful, that
you have:

Proud can I never be of what I hate;
But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

Cap. How now! how now, chop-logic! What
is this? [not;—

Proud,—and, I thank you,—and, I thank you
And yet not proud;—Mistress minion, you,
Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no
prouds,

But settle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.

La. Cap. Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

Jul. Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

Cap. Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient
wretch!

I tell thee what,—get thee to church o' Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face:

Speak not, reply not, do not answer me:

My fingers itch.—Wife, we scarce thought us
bless'd,

That heaven had sent us but this only child:

But now I see this one is one too much,

And that we have a curse in having her.
Out on her, hilding!

Nurse. God in heaven bless her!—

You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

Cap. And why, my lady wisdom? hold your
tongue,

Good prudence; smatter with your gossips, go

Nurse. May not one speak?

Cap. Peace, you mumbling fool!
Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl,
For here we need it not.

La. Cap. You are too hot.

Cap. It makes me mad: Day, night, late, early,
At home, abroad, alone, in company,
Waking, or sleeping, still my care hath been
To have her match'd: and having now provided
A gentleman of princely parentage,
Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly train'd,
Stuff'd (as they say) with honourable parts,
Proportion'd as one's heart could wish a man,—
And then to have a wretched puling fool,
A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender,
To answer—I'll not wed,—I cannot love,
I am too young,—I pray you, pardon me;—
But, an you will not wed, I'll pardon you:
Graze where you will, you shall not house with
me;

Look to't, think on't, I do not use to jest.
Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise:
An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend;
An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die i' the
streets,

For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:
Trust to't, bethink you, I'll not be forsworn. [Exit.

Jul. Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,
That sees into the bottom of my grief?

O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!
Delay this marriage, for a month, a week:

Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

L. C. Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee. [Exit.

Jul. O heaven!—O nurse! how shall this be
prevented?

My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven;
How shall that faith return again to earth,
Unless that husband send it me from heaven
By leaving earth?—Comfort me, counsel me.—
Alack, alack, that heaven should practise stratagem
Upon so soft a subject as myself! [gems
What say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy?
Some comfort, nurse.

Nurse. Faith, here 'tis: Romeo
Is banish'd; and all the world to nothing,
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you;
Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,
I think it best you married with the county.

O, he's a lovely gentleman!
Romeo is naught to him; an eagle, madam,
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye,
As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,
I think you are happy in this second match,
For it excels your first: or if it did not,
Your first is dead; or 'twere as good he were,
As living here and you no use of him.

1 Puppet.

Jul. Speakest thou from thy heart?
Nurse. From my soul too,
 Or else beshrew them both.
Jul. Amen!
Nurse. To what?
Jul. Well, thou hast comforted me marvelous much.
 Go in; and tell my lady I am gone,
 Having displeas'd my father, to Laurence's cell,
 To make confession, and to be absolv'd.
Nurse. Marry, I will; and this is wisely done. *[Exit.]*

Jul. O most wicked fiend!
 Is it more sin—to wish me thus forsworn,
 Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue
 Which she hath prais'd him with above compare
 So many thousand times?—Go, counsellor;
 Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain.—
 I'll to the friar, to know his remedy;
 If all else fail, myself have power to die. *[Exit.]*

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—FRIAR LAURENCE'S CELL.

Enter Friar Laurence and Paris.

Fri. On Thursday, sir? the time is very short.
Par. My father Capulet will have it so;
 And I am nothing slow, to slack his haste.
F. You say you do not know the lady's mind;
 Uneven is the course, I like it not.
P. Immoderately she weeps for Tybalt's death,
 And therefore have I little talk'd of love,
 For Venus smiles not in a house of tears.
 Now, sir, her father counts it dangerous,
 That she doth give her sorrow so much sway;
 And, in his wisdom, hastens our marriage,
 To stop the inundation of her tears;
 Which, too much minded by herself alone,
 May be put from her by society:
 Now do you know the reason of this haste.
Fri. *[Aside.]* I would I knew not why it
 should be slow'd.
 Look, sir, here comes the lady towards my cell.

Enter Juliet.

Par. Happily met, my lady, and my wife!
Jul. That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.
Par. That may be, must be, love, on Thursday next.
Jul. What must be shall be.
Fri. That's a certain text.
P. Come you to make confession to this father?
Jul. To answer that, were to confess to you.
Par. Do not deny to him, that you love me.
Jul. I will confess to you, that I love him.
Par. So will you, I am sure, that you love me.
Jul. If I do so, it will be of more price,
 Being spoke behind your back, than to your face.
P. Poor soul, thy face is much abus'd with tears.
Jul. The tears have got small victory by that;
 For it was bad enough, before their spite.
Par. Thou wrong'st it, more than tears, with that report.
Jul. That is no slander, sir; that is a truth;
 And what I spake, I spake it to my face.

P. Thy face is mine, and thou hast slander'd it.
Jul. It may be so, for it is not mine own.—
 Are you at leisure, holy father, now;
 Or shall I come to you at evening mass?
Fri. My leisure serves me, pensive daughter,
 now:—
 My lord, we must entreat the time alone.
Par. Now heaven forbid, I should disturb
 devotion!
 Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse you:
 Till then, adieu! and keep this holy kiss. *[Exit Paris.]*

Jul. O, shut the door! and when thou hast
 done so,
 Come weep with me; Past hope, past cure,
 past help!

Fri. Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief;
 It strains me past the compass of my wits:
 I hear thou must, and nothing must prorroge it,
 On Thursday next be married to this county.

Jul. Tell me not, friar, that thou hear'st of this,
 Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it:
 If, in thy wisdom, thou canst give no help,
 Do thou but call my resolution wise,
 And with this knife I'll help it presently.
 Love join'd my heart and Romeo's, thou our
 hands;

And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo seal'd,
 Shall be the label to another deed,
 Or my true heart with treacherous revolt
 Turn to another, this shall slay them both:
 Therefore, out of thy long-experienc'd time,
 Give me some present counsel; or, behold,
 'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife
 Shall play the umpire; arbitrating that
 Which the commission¹ of thy years and art
 Could to no issue of true honour bring.
 Be not so long to speak; I long to die,
 If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

Fri. Hold, daughter; I do spy a kind of hope,
 Which craves as desperate an execution
 As that is desperate which we would prevent.
 If, rather than to marry county Paris,
 Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,
 Then is it likely, thou wilt undertake
 A thing like death to chide away this shame,
 That cop'st with death himself to 'scape from it;
 And, if thou dar'st, I'll give thee remedy.

Jul. O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
 From off the battlements of yonder tower;
 Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk
 Where serpents are; chain me with roaring
 bears;

Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,
 O'er-cover'd quit with dead men's rattling bones,
 With reeky shanks, and yellow chapless skulls;
 Or bid me go into a new-made grave,
 And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;
 Things that, to hear them told, have made me
 tremble;

And I will do it without fear or doubt,
 To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.
F. Hold, then; go home, be merry, give consent
 To marry Paris: Wednesday is to-morrow;
 To-morrow night look that thou lie alone,
 Let not thy nurse lie with thee in thy chamber:
 Take thou this phial, being then in bed,

And this distilled liquor drink thou off:
When, presently, through all thy veins shall run
A cold and drowsy humour, which shall seize
Each vital spirit; for no pulse shall keep
His natural progress, but surcease to beat:
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou liv'st;
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade
To pale ashes; thy eyes' windows fall,
Like death, when he shuts up the day of life;
Each part, depriv'd of supple government,
Shall stiff, and stark, and cold, appear like death;
And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death
Thou shalt remain full two and forty hours,
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.
Now when the bridegroom in the morning comes
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead:
Then (as the manner of our country is,)
In thy best robes uncover'd on the bier,
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault,
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.
In the mean time, against thou shalt awake,
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift;
And hither shall he come; and he and I
Will watch thy waking, and that very night
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.
And this shall free thee from this present shame;
If no inconstant toy, nor womanish fear,
Abate thy valour in the acting it.

Jul. Give me, O give me! tell me not of fear.

Fri. Hold; get you gone, be strong and prosperous

In this resolve: I'll send a friar with speed
To Mantua, with my letters to thy lord.

Jul. Love, give me strength! and strength
shall help afford.

Farewell, dear father! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN CAPULET'S HOUSE.

Enter Capulet, Lady Capulet, Nurse, and Servants.

Cap. So many guests invite as here are writ.—
[*Exit Servant.*]

Sirrah, go hire me twenty cunning cooks.

2 Serv. You shall have none ill, sir; for I'll try if they can lick their fingers.

Cap. How canst thou try them so?

2 Serv. Marry, sir, 'tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers; therefore he, that cannot lick his fingers, goes not with me.

Cap. Go, begone.—[*Exit Servant.*]
We shall be much unfurnish'd for this time.—
What, is my daughter gone to friar Laurence?

Nurse. Ay, forsooth.

C. Well, he may chance to do some good on her:
A peevish, self-will'd rogue, it is.

Enter Juliet.

Nurse. See, where she comes from shrift with merry look.

Cap. How now, my headstrong? where have you been gadding?

Jul. Where I have learn'd me to repent the sin
Of disobedient opposition
To you, and your behests; and am enjoin'd
By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here,
And beg your pardon:—Pardon, I beseech you!
Henceforward I am ever rul'd by you.

Cap. Send for the county; go tell him of this;
I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morning.

Jul. I met the youthful lord at Laurence's cell;
And gave him what becom'd¹ love I might,
Not stepping o'er the bounds of modesty.

C. Why, I am glad on't; this is well,—stand up:
This is as't should be.—Let me see the county:
Ay, marry, go, I say, and fetch him hither.—
Now, by my life, this reverend holy friar,
All our whole city is much bound to him.

Jul. Nurse, will you go with me into my closet,
To help me sort such needful ornaments
As you think fit to furnish me to-morrow?

La. Cap. No, not till Thursday; there is time enough.

Cap. Go, nurse, go with her:—we'll to church to-morrow. [*Exeunt Juliet and Nurse.*]

La. Cap. We shall be short in our provision;
'Tis now near night.

Cap. Tush! I will stir about,
And all things shall be well, I warrant thee, wife:
Go thou to Juliet, help to deck up her;
I'll not to bed to-night;—let me alone;
I'll play the housewife for this once.—What, ho!
They are all forth: Well, I will walk myself
To county Paris, to prepare him up
Against to-morrow: my heart is wondrous light,
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaim'd.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—JULIET'S CHAMBER.

Enter Juliet and Nurse.

Jul. Ay, those attires are best:—But, gentle I pray thee, leave me to myself to-night; [Nurse, For I have need of many orisons² To move the heavens to smile upon my state; Which, well thou know'st, is cross and full of sin.

Enter Lady Capulet.

La. Cap. What, are you busy? do you need my help?

J. No, madam; we have cull'd such necessaries As are behoveful for our state to-morrow: So please you let me now be left alone, And let the nurse this night sit up with you; For, I am sure, you have your hands full all, In this so sudden business.

La. Cap. Good night! Get thee to bed, and rest; for thou hast need.

[*Exeunt Lady Capulet and Nurse.*]

Jul. Farewell!—Heaven knows, when we shall meet again.

I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins,
That almost freezes up the heat of life:
I'll call them back again to comfort me;
Nurse!—What should she do here?
My dismal scene I needs must act alone.—
Come, phial.—

What if this mixture do not work at all?
Must I of force be married to the county?—
No, no;—this shall forbid it:—lie thou there.—
[*Laying down a dagger.*]

What if it be a poison, which the friar
Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead;
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,
Because he married me before to Romeo?

1 Becoming. 2 Prayers.

I fear, it is: and yet, methinks, it should not,
 For he hath still been tried a holy man:
 I will not entertain so bad a thought.
 How if, when I am laid into the tomb,
 I wake before the time that Romeo
 Come to redeem me? There's a fearful point!
 Shall I not then be stifed in the vault, [in,
 To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes
 And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?
 Or, if I live, is it not very like,
 The horrible conceit of death and night,
 Together with the terror of the place,—
 As in a vault, an ancient receptacle,
 Where for these many hundred years, the bones
 Of all my buried ancestors are pack'd;
 Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth,
 Lies fest'ring in his shroud; where, as they say,
 At some hours in the night spirits resort;
 Alack, alack! is it not like, that I,
 So early walking,—what with loathsome smell,
 And shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the
 earth,¹

That living mortals, hearing them, run mad;—
 O! if I wake, shall I not be distraught,²
 Environed with all these hideous fears?
 And madly play with my forefathers' joints?
 And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his
 shroud?
 And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's
 As with a club, dash out my desperate brains?
 O, look! methinks, I see my cousin's ghost
 Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body
 Upon a rapier's point:—Stay, Tybalt, stay!—
 Romeo, I come! this do I drink to thee.

[She throws herself on the Bed.

SCENE IV.—CAPULET'S HALL.

Enter Lady Capulet and Nurse.

La. Cap. Hold, take these keys, and fetch
 more spices, nurse.

Nurse. They call for dates and quinces in the
 pastry.³

Enter Capulet.

Cap. Come, stir, stir, stir! the second cock
 hath crow'd,

The curfew bell hath rung, 'tis three o'clock:—
 Look to the bak'd meats, good Angelica:
 Spare not for cost.

Nurse. Go, go, you cot-queen,⁴ go,
 Get you to bed; 'faith, you'll be sick to-morrow
 For this night's watching.

C. No, not a whit: What! I have watch'd
 ere now

All night for lesser cause, and ne'er been sick.

La. Cap. Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt⁵
 in your time;

But I will watch you from such watching now.

[*Exeunt Lady Capulet and Nurse.*

Cap. A jealous-hood, a jealous-hood!—Now,
 fellow,
 What's there?

¹ The fabulous accounts of the plant called a *mandrake* give it animal life, and when it is torn from the ground it groans, which is fatal to him that pulls it up.

² Distracted.

³ Pastry-room.

⁴ Womanish intermeddler.

⁵ Weasel hunting; used figuratively.

Enter Servants, with Spits, Logs, and Baskets.

1 Serv. Things for the cook, sir; but I know
 not what.

Cap. Make haste, make haste. [*Exit 1 Serv.*]
 —Sirrah, fetch drier logs;

Call Peter, he will show thee where they are.

2 Serv. I have a head, sir, that will find out logs,
 And never trouble Peter for the matter. [*Exit.*

Cap. Mass, and well said: A merry fellow! ha,
 Thou shalt be logger-head.—Good faith, 'tis day:
 The county will be here with musick straight,
 [Musick within.

For so he said he would. I hear him near:—
 Nurse!—Wife!—what, ho!—what, nurse, I say!

Enter Nurse.

Go, waken Juliet, go, and trim her up;
 I'll go and chat with Paris:—Hie, make haste,
 Make haste! the bridegroom he is come already:
 Make haste, I say! [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

JULIET'S CHAMBER; JULIET ON THE BED.

Enter Nurse.

Nurse. Mistress!—what, mistress!—Juliet!—
 fast, I warrant:—

Why, lamb!—why, lady!—fie, you slug-a-bed:—
 Why, love, I say!—madam! sweetheart!—why,
 bride!

What, not a word?—you take your pennyworths
 now;

Sleep for a week: how sound is she asleep!
 I needs must wake her:—Madam, madam,
 madam! [*again!*

What, drest! and in your clothes! and down
 I must needs wake you: Lady! lady! lady!
 Alas! alas!—Help! help! my lady's dead!—
 O, well-a-day, that ever I was born!—
 Some aqua vitæ, ho!—my lord! my lady!

Enter Lady Capulet.

La. Cap. What noise is here?

Nurse. O lamentable day!

La. Cap. What is the matter?

Nurse. Look, look! O heavy day!

La. Cap. O me!—my child, my only life,
 Revive, look up, or I will die with thee!—
 Help, help!—call help.

Enter Capulet.

Cap. For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord
 is come.

Nurse. She's dead, deceas'd, she's dead; alack
 the day!

La. Cap. Alack the day! she's dead, she's dead,
 she's dead.

C. Ha! let me see her:—Out, alas, she's cold,
 Her blood is settled; and her joints are stiff;
 Life and these lips have long been separated:
 Death lies on her, like an untimely frost
 Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.
 Accursed time! unfortunate old man!

Nurse. O lamentable day!

La. Cap. O woeful time!

Cap. Death that hath ta'en her hence to make
 me wail,

Ties up my tongue, and will not let me speak.

Enter Friar Laurence and Paris, with Musicians.

Fri. Come, is the bride ready to go to church?

Cap. Ready to go, but never to return:

O son, the night before thy wedding-day
Hath death lain with thy bride:—See, there she
Flower as she was, deflowered by him, [lies,
Death is my son-in-law, death is my heir;
My daughter he hath wedded! I will die,
And leave him all; life leaving, all is death's.

Par. Have I thought long to see this morning's
And doth it give me such a sight as this? [face,

L. C. Accurs'd, unhappy, wretched, hateful
day!

Most miserable hour, that e'er time saw
In lasting labour of his pilgrimage!
But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,
But one thing to rejoice and solace in,
And cruel death hath catch'd it from my sight.

Nur. O woe! O woeful, woeful, woeful day!
Most lamentable day! most woeful day!

That ever, ever I did yet behold!

O day! O day! O day! O hateful day!

Never was seen so black a day as this:

O woeful day, O woeful day!

P. Beguil'd, divorced, wronged, spited, slain!

Most detestable death, by thee beguil'd,

By cruel, cruel thee quite overthrown!

O love! O life!—not life, but love in death!

Cap. Despised, distressed, hated, martyr'd,
kill'd!—

Uncomfortable time! why cam'st thou now

To murder, murder our solemnity?—

O child! O child!—my soul, and not my child!—

Dead art thou, dead!—alack! my child is dead;

And with my child, my joys are buried!

Fri. Peace, ho, for shame! confusion's cure
lives not

In these confusions. Heaven and yourself

Had part in this fair maid; now heaven hath all,

And all the better is it for the maid:

Your part in her you could not keep from
death;

But heaven keeps his part in eternal life.

The most you sought was—her promotion;

For 'twas your heaven, she should be advanc'd:

And weep ye now, seeing she is advanc'd,

Above the clouds, as high as heaven itself?

O, in this love, you love your child so ill,

That you run mad, seeing that she is well:

She's not well married, that lives married long;

But she's best married, that dies married young.

Dry up your tears, and stick your rosemary

On this fair corse; and, as the custom is,

In all her best array, bear her to church:

For though fond nature bids us all lament,

Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment.

Cap. All things that we ordained festival,

Turn from their office to black funeral;

Our instruments, to melancholy bells;

Our wedding cheer, to a sad burial feast;

Our solemn hymns to sullen dirges change;

Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse,

And all things change them to the contrary.

F. Sir, go you in,—and, madam, go with him;—

And go, sir Paris;—every one prepare

To follow this fair corse unto her grave:

The heavens do lower upon you, for some ill;

Move them no more, by crossing their high will.

[*Exeunt Capulet, Lady Capulet, Paris, and Friar.*

1 Mus. We may put up our pipes, and begone.

Nurse. Honest good fellows, ah, put up; put up;

For, well you know this is a pitiful case.

[*Exit Nurse.*

1 Mus. Ay, by my troth, the case may be amended.

Enter Peter.

Pet. Musicians, O, musicians, *Heart's ease, heart's ease*; O, an you will have me live, play—*heart's ease*.

1 Mus. Why *heart's ease*?

Pet. O, musicians, because my heart itself plays—*My heart is full of woe*; O, play me some merry dump,¹ to comfort me.

2 Mus. Not a dump we; 'tis no time to play now.

Pet. You will not then?

Mus. No.

Pet. I will then give it you soundly.

1 Mus. What will you give us?

Pet. No money, on my faith; but the gleek:² I will give you the minstrel.

1 Mus. Then will I give you the serving-creature.

Pet. Then will I lay the serving-creature's dagger on your pate. I will carry no crotchets: I'll *re* you, I'll *fa* you: Do you note me?

1 Mus. An you *re* us, and *fa* us, you note us.

2 Mus. Pray you, put up your dagger, and put out your wit.

Pet. Then have at you with my wit; I will dry-beat you with an iron wit, and put up my iron dagger:—Answer me like men:

When griping grief the heart doth wound,

And doleful dumps the mind oppress,

Then musick, with her silver sound;

Why, silver sound? why musick with her silver sound?

What say you, Simon Catling?

1 Mus. Marry, sir, because silver hath a sweet sound.

Pet. Pretty! What say you, Hugh Rebeck?

2 Mus. I say—*silver sound*, because musicians sound for silver.

Pet. Pretty too!—What say you, James Soundpost?

3 Mus. 'Faith, I know not what to say.

Pet. O, I cry you mercy! you are the singer: I will say for you. It is—*musick with her silver sound*, because such fellows as you have seldom gold for sounding:—

Then musick with her silver sound,

With speedy help doth lend redress.

[*Exit singing.*

1 Mus. What a pestilent knave is this same?

2 Mus. Hang him, Jack! Come, we'll in here; tarry for the mourners, and stay dinner.

[*Exeunt.*

¹ Mournful tune.

² To gleek is to scoff, and a gleekman signified a minstrel.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—MANTUA. A STREET.

Enter Romeo.

Rom. If I may trust the flattering eye of sleep,
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand;
My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne;
And all this day, an unaccustom'd spirit
Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts.

I dreamt, my lady came and found me dead;
(Strange dream! that gives a dead man leave
to think,)

And breath'd such life with kisses in my lips,
That I reviv'd, and was an emperor.
Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd,
When but love's shadows are so rich in joy?

Enter Balthazar.

News from Verona!—How now, Balthazar?
Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar?
How doth my lady? is my father well?
How fares my Juliet? That I ask again;
For nothing can be ill, if she be well.

Bal. Then she is well, and nothing can be ill;
Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives;
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault,
And presently took post to tell it you:
O pardon me for bringing these ill news,
Since you did leave it for my office, sir.

Rom. Is it even so? then I defy you, stars!—
Thou know'st my lodging: get me ink and paper,
And hire post-horses; I will hence to-night.

Bal. Pardon me, sir, I will not leave you thus:
Your looks are pale and wild, and do import
Some misadventure.

Rom. Tush, thou art deceiv'd;
Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do:
Hast thou no letters to me from the friar?

Bal. No, my good lord.

Rom. No matter: get thee gone,
And hire those horses; I'll be with thee straight.

{Exit Balthazar.}

Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee to-night.
Let's see for means:—O, mischief thou art swift
To enter in the thoughts of desperate men!
I do remember an apothecary,—
And hereabouts he dwells,—whom late I noted
In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming brows,
Culling of simples; meagre were his looks,
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones:
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,
An alligator stuff'd, and other skins
Of ill-shap'd fishes; and about his shelves
A beggarly account of empty boxes,
Green earthen pots, bladders, and musty seeds,
Remnants of packthread, and old cakes of roses,
Were thinly scatter'd, to make up a show.
Noting this penury, to myself I said—
And if a man did need a poison now,
Whose sale is present death in Mantua,
Here lives a catiff wretch would sell it him.
O, this same thought did but fore-run my need;
And this same needy man must sell it me.
As I remember, this should be the house:

Being holiday, the beggar's shop is shut.—
What, ho! apothecary!

Enter Apothecary.

Ap. Who calls so loud?
Rom. Come hither, man.—I see, that thou
art poor;

Hold, there is forty ducats: let me have
A dram of poison; such soon-speeding geer!
As will disperse itself through all the veins,
That the life-weary taker may fall dead;
And that the trunk may be discharg'd of breath
As violently, as hasty powder fir'd
Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.

Ap. Such mortal drugs I have; but Mantua's
law

Is death, to any he that utters them.

Rom. Art thou so bare, and full of wretchedness,
And fear'st to die? famine is in thy cheeks,
Need and oppression starveth in thine eyes,
Upon thy back hangs ragged misery,
The world is not thy friend, nor the world's law:
The world affords no law to make thee rich;
Then be not poor, but break it, and take this.

Ap. My poverty, but not my will, consents.

Rom. I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

Ap. Put this in any liquid thing you will,
And drink it off; and, if you had the strength
Of twenty men, it would despatch you straight.

Rom. There is thy gold; worse poison to
men's souls,

Doing more murders in this loathsome world,
Than these poor compounds that thou may'st
not sell:

I sell thee poison, thou hast sold me none.
Farewell; buy food, and get thyself in flesh.—
Come, cordial, and not poison; go with me
To Juliet's grave, for there must I use thee.

[Exit.

SCENE II.—FRIAR LAURENCE' CELL.

Enter Friar John.

John. Holy Franciscan friar! brother, ho!

Enter Friar Laurence.

Lau. This same should be the voice of friar
John.—

Welcome from Mantua: What says Romeo?
Or, if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

John. Going to find a barefoot brother out,
One of our order to associate me,
Here in this city visiting the sick,
And finding him, the searchers of the town,
Suspecting that we both were in a house
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,
Seal'd up the doors, and would not let us
forth;

So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.
Lau. Who bear my letter then to Romeo?

John. I could not send it,—here it is again,—
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,
So fearful were they of infection.

Lau. Unhappy fortune! by my brotherhood,
The letter was not nice,² but full of charge,
Of dear import; and the neglecting it
May do much danger: Friar John, go hence;

1 Stuff.

2 Trivial.

3 E

Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight
Unto my cell.

John. Brother, I'll go and bring it thee.

[*Exit.*]

Lau. Now must I to the monument alone:
Within these three hours will fair Juliet wake;
She will beshrew me much that Romeo
Hath had no notice of these accidents:
But I will write again to Mantua,
And keep her at my cell till Romeo come;
Poor living corse, clos'd in a dead man's tomb!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A CHURCHYARD; IN IT, A MONU-
MENT BELONGING TO THE CAPULETS.

*Enter Paris, and his Page, bearing Flowers,
and a Torch.*

Par. Give me thy torch, boy: Hence, and
stand aloof;—

Yet put it out, for I would not be seen.
Under yon yew-trees lay thee all along,
Holding thine ear close to the hollow ground:
So shall no foot upon the church-yard tread,
(Being loose, unfirm, with digging up of graves,)
But thou shalt hear it: whistle then to me,
As signal that thou hear'st something approach.
Give me those flowers. Do as I bid thee, go.

Page. I am almost afraid to stand alone
Here in the churchyard; yet I will adventure.

[*Retires.*]

Par. Sweet flower, with flowers I strew thy
bridal bed:

Sweet tomb, that in thy circuit dost contain
The perfect model of eternity;
Fair Juliet, that with angels dost remain,
Accept this latest favour at my hands;
That living honour'd thee, and, being dead,
With funeral praises do adorn thy tomb!

[*The Boy whistles.*]

The boy gives warning, something doth ap-
proach.

What cursed foot wanders this way to-night,
To cross my obsequies, and true-love's rites?
What, with a torch!—muffle me, night, a while.

[*Retires.*]

*Enter Romeo and Balthazar, with a Torch,
Mattock, &c.*

Rom. Give me that mattock, and the wrench-
ing iron.

Hold, take this letter; early in the morning
See thou deliver it to my lord and father.
Give me the light: Upon thy life, I charge thee,
Whate'er thou hear'st or see'st stand all aloof,
And do not interrupt me in my course.
Why I descend into this bed of death,
Is, partly, to behold my lady's face,
But, chiefly, to take thence from her dead finger
A precious ring; a ring that I must use
In dear employment: therefore hence, begone!—
But if thou, jealous, dost return to pry
In what I further shall intend to do,
By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint,
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy
limbs:

The time and my intents are savage-wild;
More fierce, and more inexorable far,
Than empty tigers, or the roaring sea.

Bal. I will be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

Rom. So shalt thou show me friendship.—Take
thou that:

[*low.*]

Live, and be prosperous; and farewell, good fel-
Bal. For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout;
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.

[*Retires.*]

R. Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,
Gorg'd with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open.

[*Breaking open the Door of the Monument.*]
And, in despite, I'll cram thee with more food!

Par. This is that banish'd haughty Montague,
That murder'd my love's cousin;—with which
grief,

It is supposed the fair creature died,—
And here is come to do some villainous shame
To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.—

[*Advances.*]

Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague;
Can vengeance be pursu'd further than death?
Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee:
Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.

Rom. I must, indeed: and therefore came I
hither.

Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man,
Fly hence, and leave me;—think upon these gone;
Let them affright thee.—I beseech thee, youth,
Heap not another sin upon my head,
By urging me to fury:—O, be gone!
By heaven, I love thee better than myself:
For I come hither arm'd against myself:
Stay not, be gone;—live, and hereafter say—
A madman's mercy bade thee run away.

Par. I do defy thy conjurations,¹

And do attach thee as a felon here.

Rom. Wilt thou provoke me? then have at thee,
boy.

[*They fight.*]

Page. O heaven! they fight, I will go call the
watch.

[*Exit Page.*]

Par. O, I am slain! [*Falls.*] If thou be merciful,
Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet.

[*Dies.*]

R. In faith, I will:—Let me peruse this face;—
Mercutio's kinsman, noble county Paris:—
What said my man, when my betossed soul
Did not attend him as we rode? I think,
He told me Paris should have married Juliet:
Said he not so? or did I dream it so?

Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,
To think it was so?—O, give me thy hand,
One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!

I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave,—
A grave? O, no; a lantern, slaughter'd youth,
For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes
This vault a feasting presence² full of light.
Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd.

[*Laying Paris in the Monument.*]

How oft when men are at the point of death,
Have they been merry, which their keepers call
A lightning before death;—O, how may I
Call this a lightning?—O, my love! my wife!
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:
Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips, and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.—
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?

¹ Refuse what thou conjurest me to do.

² Presence chamber.

O, what more favour can I do to thee,
Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain,
To sunder his that was thine enemy?
Forgive me, cousin!—Ah, dear Juliet,
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial death is amorous;
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that, I will still stay with thee;
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again; here, here will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids; O, here
Will I set up my everlasting rest;
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars [last!
From this world-wearied flesh.—Eyes, look your
Arms, take your last embrace! and lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing death!—
Come, bitter conduct,¹ come, unsavoury guide!
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!
Here's to my love!—[Drinks.] O, true apothecary!
Thy drugs are quick.—Thus with a kiss I die.

[Dies.]

Enter at the other End of the Churchyard, Friar Laurence, with a Lantern, Crow, and Spade.

Fri. Saint Francis be my speed! how oft to-night
Have my old feet stumbled at graves?—Who's there?

Who is it that consorts, so late, the dead?

Bal. Here's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

F. Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,
What torch is yond', that vainly lends his light
To grubs and eyeless skulls? as I discern
It burneth in the Capel's monument.

Bal. It doth so, holy sir; and there's my master,

One that you love.

Fri. Who is it?

Bal. Romeo.

Fri. How long hath he been there?

Bal. Full half an hour.

Fri. Go with me to the vault.

Bal. I dare not, sir:

My master knows not, but I am gone hence;
And fearfully did menace me with death,
If I did stay to look on his intents.

Fri. Stay then, I'll go alone:—Fear comes upon me:

O, much I fear some ill unlucky thing.

Bal. As I did sleep under this yew-tree here,
I dreamt my master and another fought,
And that my master slew him.

Fri. Romeo? [Advances.
Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains
The stony entrance of this sepulchre?—
What mean these masterless and gory swords
To lie discolour'd by this place of peace?

[Enters the Monument.]

Romeo! O, pale!—Who else? what, Paris, too?
And steep'd in blood?—Ah, what an unkind hour
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!—

The lady stirs. [Juliet wakes and stirs.]

Jul. O, comfortable friar! where is my lord?

1 Conductor.

I do remember well where I should be,
And there I am:—Where is my Romeo?

[Noise within.]

Fri. I hear some noise.—Lady, come from that nest

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep;
A greater Power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents; come, come away;
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;
And Paris too: come, I'll dispose of thee
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming:
Come, go, good Juliet,—[Noise again.] I dare stay no longer. [Exit.]

Jul. Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.—
What's here? a cup, clos'd in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:—
O churl! drink all; and leave no friendly drop,
To help me after?—I will kiss thy lips;
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,
To make me die with a restorative. [Kisses him.
Thy lips are warm!

1 Watch. [Within.] Lead, boy:—Which way?

Jul. Yea, noise?—then I'll be brief.—O happy dagger! [Snatching Romeo's Dagger.
This is thy sheath; [Stabs herself.] there rust,
and let me die.

[Falls on Romeo's Body, and dies.]

Enter Watch, with the Page of Paris.

Page. This is the place; there, where the torch doth burn.

1 Watch. The ground is bloody; Search about the churchyard:

Go, some of you, whoe'er you find, attach.

[Exeunt some.]

Pitiful sight! here lies the county slain;
And Juliet bleeding; warm, and newly dead,
Who here hath lain these two days buried.—
Go, tell the prince,—run to the Capulets,—
Raise up the Montagues,—some others search;

[Exeunt other Watchmen.]

We see the ground whereon these woes do lie;
But the true ground of all these piteous woes,
We cannot without circumstance descry.

Enter some of the Watch, with Balthazar.

2 Watch. Here's Romeo's man, we found him in the churchyard.

1 Watch. Hold him in safety, till the prince come hither.

Enter another Watchman, with Friar Laurence.

3 Watch. Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs, and weeps:

We took this mattock and this spade from him,
As he was coming from this churchyard side.

1 Watch. A great suspicion: Stay the friar too.

Enter the Prince and Attendants.

Prince. What misadventure is so early up,
That calls our person from our morning's rest?

Enter Capulet, Lady Capulet, and others.

Cap. What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

La. Cap. The people in the street cry—Romeo, Some—Juliet, and some—Paris; and all run,
With open outcry toward our monument.

P. What fear is this, which startles in our ears?

1 Watch. Sovereign, here lies the county Paris slain;

And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,
Warm and new kill'd.

Prince. Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

1 Watch. Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;

With instruments upon them, fit to open
These dead men's tombs.

Cap. O, heavens!—O, wife! look how our daughter bleeds!

This dagger hath mista'en,—for lo! his house
Is empty on the back of Montague,—

And is mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom.

La. Cap. O me! this sight of death is as a bell,
That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

Enter Montague and others.

Prince. Come, Montague; for thou art early up,
To see thy son and heir more early down.

Mon. Alas, my liege, my wife is dead to-night;
Grief of my son's exile hath stopp'd her breath:

What further woe conspires against mine age?

Prince. Look, and thou shalt see.

Mon. O thou untaught; what manners is in this,
To press before thy father to a grave?

Pri. Seal up the mouth of outrage for a while,
Till we can clear these ambiguities,

And know their spring, their head, their true
descent;

And then will I be general of your woes,
And lead you even to death: Meantime forbear,

And let mischance be slave to patience.—
Bring forth the parties of suspicion.

Fri. I am the greatest, able to do least,
Yet most suspected, as the time and place

Doth make against me, of this direful murder;
And here I stand, both to impeach and purge

Myself condemned and myself excus'd.

Prince. Then say at once what thou dost know
in this.

Fri. I will be brief, for my short date of breath
Is not so long as is a tedious tale.

Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet;
And she, there dead, that Romeo's faithful wife:

I married them; and their stolen marriage-day
Was Tybalt's dooms-day, whose untimely death

Banish'd the new-made bridegroom from this
city;

For whom, and not for Tybalt, Juliet pin'd.
You—to remove that siege¹ of grief from her,—

Betroth'd, and would have married her, perforce,
To county Paris:—Then comes she to me;

And, with wild looks, bid me devise some means
To rid her from this second marriage,

Or, in my cell there would she kill herself.

Then gave I her, so tutor'd by my art,

A sleeping potion; which so took effect

As I intended, for it wrought on her

The form of death: meantime I writ to Romeo,
That he should hither come as this dire night,

To help to take her from her borrow'd grave,
Being the time the potion's force should cease.

But he which bore my letter, friar John,

¹ Seat.

Was staid by accident; and yesternight

Return'd my letter back: Then all alone,

At the prefixed hour of her waking,

Came I to take her from her kindred's vault;

Meaning to keep her closely at my cell,

Till I conveniently could send to Romeo:

But, when I came (some minute ere the time

Of her awakening,) here untimely lay

The noble Paris, and true Romeo, dead.

She wakes; and I entreated her come forth,

And bear this work of heaven with patience:

But then a noise did scare me from the tomb;

And she, too desperate, would not go with me,

But (as it seems,) did violence on herself.

All this I know; and to the marriage,

Her nurse is privy: And, if aught in this

Miscarried by my fault, let my old life

Be sacrific'd, some hour before his time,

Unto the rigour of severest law.

Prince. We still have known thee for a holy
man.—

Where's Romeo's man? what can he say in this?

B. I brought my master news of Juliet's death;

And then in post he came from Mantua,

To this same place, to this same monument.

This letter he early bid me give his father;

And threaten'd me with death, going in the vault,

If I departed not, and left him there.

Prince. Give me the letter, I will look on it.—
Where is the county's page that rais'd the
watch?—

Sirrah, what made your master in this place?
Page. He came with flowers to strew his lady's
grave;

And bid me stand aloof, and so I did:

Anon, comes one with light to open the tomb;

And, by and by, my master drew on him;

And then I ran away to call the watch.

Prince. This letter doth make good the friar's
words,

Their course of love, the tidings of her death:
And here he writes—that he did buy a poison

Of a poor 'pothecary, and therewithal
Came to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.—

Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!
See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,

That heaven finds means to kill your joys with
love!

And I, for winking at your discords too,
Have lost a brace of kinsmen:—All are punish'd.

Cap. O brother Montague, give me thy hand.
This is my daughter's jointure, for no more
Can I demand.

Mon. But I can give thee more:

For I will raise her statue in pure gold;

That, while Verona by that name is known,

There shall no figure at such rate be set,

As that of true and faithful Juliet.

Cap. As rich shall Romeo by his lady lie;

Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

Prince. A glooming peace this morning with
it brings;

The sun for sorrow will not show his head:
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;

Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished:
For never was a story of more woe,

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo. [*Exeunt.*

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.

Persons Represented.

CLAUDIUS, *King of Denmark.*
 HAMLET, *Son to the former, and Nephew to the present King.*
 POLONIUS, *Lord Chamberlain.*
 HORATIO, *Friend to Hamlet.*
 LAERTES, *Son to Polonius.*
 VOLTIMAND,
 CORNELIUS, } *Courtiers.*
 ROSENCRANTZ,
 GUILDENSTERN,
 OSRIC, *a Courtier.*
Another Courtier.
 A Priest.
 MARCELLUS, } *Officers.*
 BERNARDO,

FRANCISCO, *a Soldier.*
 REYNALDO, *Servant to Polonius.*
 A Captain.
 An Ambassador.
 Ghost of Hamlet's Father.
 FORTINBRAS, *Prince of Norway.*

GERTRUDE, *Queen of Denmark, and Mother of Hamlet.*
 OPHELIA, *Daughter of Polonius.*

Lords, Ladies, Officers, Soldiers, Players, Grave-diggers, Sailors, Messengers, and other Attendants.

SCENE.—Elsinore.

Act First.

SCENE I.—ELLSINORE. A PLATFORM BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Francisco on his Post. Enter to him Bernardo.

Ber. Who's there?

Fran. Nay, answer me: stand, and unfold Yourself.

Ber. Long live the king!

Fran. Bernardo?

Ber. He.

F. You come most carefully upon your hour.

Ber. 'Tis now struck twelve; get thee to bed, Francisco.

F. For this relief, much thanks; 'tis bitter cold, And I am sick at heart.

Ber. Have you had quiet guard?

Fran. Not a mouse stirring.

Ber. Well, good night.

If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus, The rivals¹ of my watch, bid them make haste.

Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

Fran. I think I hear them.—Stand, ho! Who is there?

Hor. Friends to this ground.

Mar. And liegemen to the Dane.

Fran. Give you good night.

Mar. O, farewell, honest soldier:

Who hath relief'd you?

Fran. Bernardo hath my place.

Give you good night. [*Exit Francisco.*]

Mar. Holla! Bernardo!

Ber. Say,

What, is Horatio there?

Hor. A piece of him.

Ber. Welcome, Horatio; welcome, good Marcellus. [*night?*]

Hor. What, has this thing appear'd again to—

¹ Partners.

Ber. I have seen nothing.

Mar. Horatio says, 'tis but our fantasy, And will not let belief take hold of him, Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us: Therefore I have entreated him, along With us to watch the minutes of this night; That, if again this apparition come, He may approve our eyes,¹ and speak to it.

Hor. Tush! tush! 'twill not appear.

Ber. Sit down awhile; And let us once again assail your ears, That are so fortified against our story, What we two nights have seen.

Hor. Well, sit we down, And let us hear Bernardo speak of this.

Ber. Last night of all, When you same star, that's westward from the pole, [*heaven*]

Had made his course to illumine that part of Where now it burns, Marcellus, and myself, The bell then beating one,— [*again!*]

M. Peace, break thee off; look, where it comes

Enter Ghost.

B. In the same figure, like the king that's dead.

Mar. Thou art a scholar, speak to it, Horatio.

B. Looks it not like the king? mark it, Horatio.

Hor. Most like:—it harrows me with fear, and

Ber. It would be spoke to. [*wonder.*]

Mar. Speak to it, Horatio.

Hor. What art thou, that usurp'st this time of night,

Together with that fair and warlike form

In which the majesty of buried Denmark

Did sometimes march? By heaven I charge thee

Mar. It is offended. [*speak.*]

Ber. See! it stalks away.

Hor. Stay, speak: speak, I charge thee, speak. [*Exit Ghost.*]

Mar. 'Tis gone, and will not answer.

¹ Corroborate what we saw.

Ber. How now, Horatio? you tremble, and look
Is not this something more than fantasy? [pale:
What think you of it?

Hor. Before my God, I might not this believe,
Without the sensible and true avouch
Of mine own eyes.

Mar. Is it not like the king?

Hor. As thou art to thyself:

Such was the very armour he had on,
When he the ambitious Norway combatted;
So frown'd he once, when, in an angry parle,¹
He smote the sledded² Polack³ on the ice.
'Tis strange.

Mar. Thus, twice before, and jump⁴ at this dead
With martial stalk hath he gone by our watch.

Hor. In what particular thought to work, I know
But in the gross and scope of mine opinion, [not;
This bodes some strange eruption to our state.

Mar. Good now, sit down, and tell me, he that
knows,

Why this same strict and most observant watch
So nightly toils the subject of the land;
And why such daily cast of brazen cannon,
And foreign mart for implements of war:
Whysuch impress of shipwrights, whose sore task
Does not divide the Sunday from the week:
What might be toward, that this sweaty haste
Doth make the night joint-labourer with the day;
Who is't, that can inform me?

Hor. That can I;

At least the whisper goes so. Our last king,
Whose image even but now appear'd to us,
Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway,
Thereto prick'd on by a most emulate pride,
Dard to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet
(For so this side of our known world esteem'd him,)
Did slay this Fortinbras; who, by a seal'd com-
Well ratified by law and heraldry, [pact,
Did forfeit, with his life, all those his lands,

Which he stood seisd of, to the conqueror:
Against the which, a moiety competent
Was gaged by our king; which had return'd
To the inheritance of Fortinbras, [art,⁵
Had he been vanquisher; as, by the same com-
And carriage⁶ of the article⁷ design'd,
His fell to Hamlet: Now, sir, young Fortinbras,
Of unimproved⁸ mettle hot and full,
Hath in the skirts of Norway, here and there,
Shark'd⁹ up a list of landless resolute,

For food and diet, to some enterprise
That hath a stomach¹⁰ in't: which is no other
(As it doth well appear unto our state,)
But to recover of us, by strong hand,
And terms compulsory, those foresaid lands
So by his father lost: And this, I take it,
Is the main motive of our preparations;
The source of this our watch; and the chief head
Of this post-haste and rōmage¹¹ in the land.

Ber. I think, it be no other, but even so:
Well may it sort,¹² that this portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch; so like the king
That was, and is the question of these wars.

Hor. A mote it is, to trouble the mind's eye.
In the most high and palmy state of Rome,

A little ere the mightiest Julius fell,
The graves stood tenantless, and the sheeted dead
Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets.
Stars shone with trains of fire; dew of blood fell;
Disasters veil'd the sun; and the moist star,¹
Upon whose influence Neptune's empire stands,
Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse,
And even the like precurse of fierce events,—
As harbingers preceding still the fates,
And prologue to the omen² coming on,—
Have heaven and earth together démonstrated
Unto our climatures and countrymen.—

Re-enter Ghost.

But, soft; behold! lo, where it comes again!
I'll cross it, though it blast me.—Stay, illusion!
If thou hast any sound, or use of voice,
Speak to me:

If there be any good thing to be done,
That may to thee do ease, and grace to me,
Speak to me:

If thou art privy to thy country's fate,
Which, happily foreknowing, may avoid,
O speak!

Or, if thou hast uphoarded in thy life
Extorted treasure in the womb of earth,
For which, they say, you spirits oft walk in
death, [Cock crows.

Speak of it;—stay, and speak.—Stop it, Marcellus.
Mar. Shall I strike at it with my partizan³?

Hor. Do, if it will not stand.

Ber.

'Tis here!

Hor.

'Tis here!

Mar. 'Tis gone!

[Exit Ghost.

We do it wrong, being so majestic,

To offer it the show of violence;

For it is, as the air, invulnerable,

And our vain blows malicious mockery.

Ber. It was about to speak, when the cock crew.

Hor. And then it started like a guilty thing
Upon a fearful summons. I have heard,
The cock, that is the trumpet of the morn.
Doth with his lofty and shrill sounding throat
Awake the god of day; and, at his warning,
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,
The extravagant and erring⁴ spirit hies
To his confine: and of the truth herein
This present object-made probation.⁵

Mar. It faded on the crowing of the cock.
Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then they say no spirit dares stir abroad;
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

Hor. So have I heard, and do in part believe it.
But, look, the morn in russet mantle clad,
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill:
Break we our watch up; and, by my advice,
Let us impart what we have seen to-night
Unto young Hamlet: for, upon my life,
This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him:
Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,
As needful in our loves, fitting our duty?

M. Let's do it, I pray; and I this morning know
Wherewe shall find him most convenient. [Exeunt

1 Dispute. 5 Joint bargain. 9 Picked.
2 Sledged. 6 Bearing. 10 Resolution.
3 Pole. 7 Covenant. 11 Search.
4 Just. 8 Unregulated. 12 Suit.

1 The moon. 3 A sort of pike. 5 Proof.
2 Event. 4 Wandering.

SCENE II.—A ROOM OF STATE IN THE SAME.

Enter the King, Queen, Hamlet, Polonius, Laertes, Voltimand, Cornelius, Lords, and Attendants.

King. Though yet of Hamlet our dear brother's death

The memory be green; and that it us befitted To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole kingdom To be contracted in one brow of woe; [don] Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature, That we with wisest sorrow think on him, Together with remembrance of ourselves.

Therefore, our sometime sister, now our queen, The imperial jointress of this warlike state, Have we, as 'twere, with a defeated joy,— With one auspicious, and one dropping eye; With mirth in funeral, and with dirge in marriage, In equal scale weighing delight and dole, [age] Taken to wife: nor have we herein barr'd Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone With this affair along:—For all, our thanks.

Now follows, that you know, young Fortinbras— Holding a weak supposal of our worth; [bras] Or thinking, by our late dear brother's death, Our state to be disjoint and out of frame, Colleague'd with this dream of his advantage, He hath not fail'd to pester us with message, Importing the surrender of those lands Lost by his father, with all bands of law, To our most valiant brother.—So much for him. Now for ourselves, and for this time of meeting. Thus much the business is: We have here writ To Norway, uncle of young Fortinbras,— Who, impotent and bed-rid, scarcely hears Of th's his nephew's purpose,—to suppress His further gait herein; in that the levies, The lists, and full proportions, are all made Out of his subject:—and we here despatch You, good Cornelius, and you, Voltimand, For bearers of this greeting to old Norway; Giving to you no further personal power To business with the king, more than the scope Of these dilated articles allow. [duty]

Farewell; and let your haste commend your duty.

Cor. Vol. In that, and all things, will we show our duty.

King. We doubt it nothing; heartily farewell.

[*Exeunt Voltimand and Cornelius.*]

And now, Laertes, what's the news with you? You told us of some suit: What is't, Laertes? You cannot speak of reason to the Dane, And lose your voice: What wouldst thou beg,

Laertes,

That shall not be my offer, nor thy asking? The head is not more native to the heart, The hand more instrumental to the mouth, Than is the throne of Denmark to thy father. What wouldst thou have, Laertes?

Laer. My dread lord, Your leave and favour to return to France; From whence, though willingly, I came to Denmark to show my duty in your coronation; [mark] Yet now I must confess, that duty done, My thoughts and wishes bend again toward France, [don]

And bow them to your gracious leave and pardon.

1. Grief.

King. Have you your father's leave? What says Polonius? [slow leave,

Pol. He hath, my lord, wrung from me my By labour some petition; and, at last, Upon his will I seal'd my hard consent: I do beseech you, give him leave to go.

K. Take thy fair hour, Laertes; time be thine, And thy best graces: spend it at thy will.— But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son,—

Ham. [*Aside.*] A little more than kin, and less than kind.

K. How is it that the clouds still hang on you?

H. Not so, my lord, I am too much i' the sun.

Q. Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off, And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark. Do not, for ever, with thy veiled lids [mark] Seek for thy noble father in the dust:

Thou know'st 'tis common; all that live, must Passing through nature to eternity. [die,

Ham. Ay, madam, it is common. Queen.

Why seems it so particular with thee? [seems.

H. Seems, madam! nay, it is; I know not 'Tis not alone my inkly cloak, good mother, Nor customary suits of solemn black, Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath, No, nor the fruitful river in the eye, Nor the dejected haviour of the visage, Together with all forms, modes, shows of grief, That can denote me truly: These, indeed, seem, For they are actions that a man might play: But I have that within, which passeth show; These, but the trappings and the suits of woe.

King. 'Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet,

To give these mourning duties to your father: But, you must know, your father lost a father; That father lost his; and the survivor bound In filial obligation, for some term

To do obsequious sorrow: But to perséver In obstinate condolence, is a course Of impious stubbornness; 'tis unmanly grief:

It shows a will most incorrect to heaven, A heart unfortified, or mind impatient; An understanding simple and unschooled:

For what we know, must be, and is as common As any the most vulgar teach to sense,

Why should we, in our peevish opposition, Take it to heart? Fie! 'tis a fault to heaven,

A fault against the dead, a fault to nature, To reason most absurd; whose common theme Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried,

From the first corse, till he that died to-day, This must be so. We pray you, throw to earth

This unprevailing woe; and think of us As of a father: for let the world take note,

You are the most immediate to our throne; And, with no less nobility of love,

Than that which dearest father bears his son, Do I impart toward you. For your intent

In going back to school in Wittenberg, It is most retrograde to our desire:

And, we beseech you, bend you to remain Here, in the cheer and comfort of our eye,

Our chiefest courtier, cousin, and our son.

Queen. Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet;

I pray thee stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.

Ham. I shall in all my best obey you, madam.

King. Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply ;
Be as ourself in Denmark.—Madam, come ;
This gentle and unforc'd accord of Hamlet
Sits smiling to my heart : in grace whereof,
No jocund health, that Denmark drinks to-day,
But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell ;
And the king's rouse¹ the heaven shall bruit²
again,

Re-speaking earthly thunder. Come away.
[*Exeunt King, Queen, Lords, &c., Polonius, and Laertes.*]

H. O, that this too too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew !
Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd
His canon³ 'gainst self-slaughter ! O God ! O God !
How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable
Seem to me all the uses of this world !
Fie on't ! O fie ! 'tis an unweeded garden,
That grows to seed ; things rank, and gross in
nature,
Possess it merely. That it should come to this !
But two months dead !—nay, not so much, not
two :

So excellent a king ; that was, to this,
Hyperion⁴ to a satyr : so loving to my mother,
That he might not betem⁵ the winds of heaven
Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth !
Must I remember ? why, she would hang on him
As if increase of appetite had grown
By what it fed on : And yet, within a month,—
Let me not think on't ;—Frailty, thy name is
woman !—

A little month ; or ere those shoes were old,
With which she follow'd my poor father's body,
Like Niobe, all tears ;—why she, even she,—
O heaven ! a beast, that wants discourse of reason,
Would have mourn'd longer,—married with my
uncle,

My father's brother ; but no more like my father,
Than I to Hercules : Within a month ;
Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears
Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,
She married :—O most wicked speed, to post
With such dexterity to incestuous sheets !
It is not, nor it cannot come to, good ;
But break, my heart ; for I must hold my tongue !

Enter Horatio, Bernardo, and Marcellus.

Hor. Hail to your lordship !

Ham. I am glad to see you well :

Horatio,—or I do forget myself.

Hor. The same, my lord, and your poor ser-
vant ever.

Ham. Sir, my good friend ; I'll change that
name with you.

And what make you from Wittenberg, *Horatio*—
Marcellus ?

Mar. My good lord, —

Ham. I am very glad to see you ; good even,
sir. —

But what, in faith, make you from Wittenberg ?

Hor. A truant disposition, good my lord.

Ham. I would not hear your enemy say so :
Nor shall you do mine ear that violence,
To make it truster of your own report

Against yourself : I know, you are no truant.
But what is your affair in Elsinore ?

Well 'teach you to drink deep ere you depart.

Hor. My lord, I came to see your father's
funeral. [student ;]

Ham. I pray thee, do not mock me, fellow-
I think, it was to see my mother's wedding.

Hor. Indeed, my lord, it follow'd hard upon.

Ham. Thrift, thrift, *Horatio* ! the funeral
bak'd meats

Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

'Would I had met my dearest¹ foe in heaven

Or ever I had seen that day, *Horatio* !—

My father,—Methinks, I see my father.

Hor. Where,

My lord ?

Ham. In my mind's eye, *Horatio*.

Hor. I saw him once, he was a goodly king.

Ham. He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.

Hor. My lord, I think I saw him yesternight.

Ham. Saw ! who ?

Hor. My lord, the king your father.

Ham. The king my father !

Hor. Season your admiration for a while

With an attent ear ; till I may deliver,

Upon the witness of these gentlemen,

This marvel to you.

Ham. For Heaven's love, let me hear.

Hor. Two nights together had these gentlemen,

Marcellus and *Bernardo*, on their watch,

In the dead waist and middle of the night,

Been thus encounter'd. A figure like your father,

Armed at point,² exactly, cap-à-pé,

Appears before them, and, with solemn march,

Goes slow and stately by them : thrice he walk'd,

By their oppress'd and fear-surprised eyes,

Within his truncheon's length ; whilst they,
distill'd

Almost to jelly with the act of fear,

Stand dumb, and speak not to him. This to me

In dreadful secrecy impart they did ;

And I with them, the third night kept the watch :

Where, as they had deliver'd, both in time,

Form of the thing, each word made true and good,

The apparition comes : I knew your father :

These hands are not more like.

Ham. But where was this ?

Mar. My lord, upon the platform where we
watch'd.

Ham. Did you not speak to it ?

Hor. My lord, I did ;

But answer made it none : yet once, methought,

It lifted up its head, and did address

Itself to motion, like as it would speak :

But, even then, the morning cock crew loud ;

And at the sound it shrunk in haste away,

And vanish'd from our sight.

Ham. 'Tis very strange.

Hor. As I do live, my honour'd lord, 'tis true ;

And we did think it writ down in our duty,

To let you know of it.

Ham. Indeed, indeed, sirs, but this troubles

Hold you the watch to-night ? [me.]

All. We do, my lord.

Ham. Arm'd, say you ?

All. Arm'd, my lord.

1 Chiefest.

2 Completely.

1 Carouse.

3 Law.

5 Suffer.

2 Report.

4 Apollo.

Ham. From top to toe?
All. My lord, from head to foot.
Ham. Then saw you not
 His face?

Hor. O, yes, my lord! he wore his beaver¹ up.
Ham. What, look'd he frowningly?
Hor. A countenance more
 In sorrow than in anger.

Ham. Pale, or red?
Hor. Nay, very pale.
Ham. And fix'd his eyes upon you?
Hor. Most constantly.

Ham. I would, I had been there.
Hor. It would have much amaz'd you.
Ham. Very like,

Very like: Stay'd it long?
Hor. While one with moderate haste might
 tell a hundred.

Mar. Ber. Longer, longer.
Hor. Not when I saw it.
Ham. His beard was grizzl'd? no?
Hor. It was, as I have seen it in his life,
 A sable silver'd.

Ham. I will watch to-night;
 Perchance, 'twill walk again.

Hor. I warrant, it will.
Ham. If it assume my noble father's person,
 I'll speak to it, though hell itself should gape,
 And bid me hold my peace. I pray you all,
 If you have hitherto conceal'd this sight,
 Let it be tenable in your silence still:
 And whatsoever else shall hap to-night,
 Give it an understanding, but no tongue;
 I will requite your loves: So, fare you well:
 Upon the platform, 'twixt eleven and twelve,
 I'll visit you.

All. Our duty to your honour.
Ham. Your loves, as mine to you: Farewell.
[Exeunt Hor. Mar. and Ber.]

My father's spirit in arms! all is not well;
 I doubt some foul play: 'would, the night were
 come!

Till then sit still my soul: Foul deeds will rise,
 Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to men's
 eyes. *[Exit.]*

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN POLONIUS' HOUSE.

Enter Laertes and Ophelia.

Laer. My necessities are embark'd; farewell:
 And, sister, as the winds give benefit,
 And convoy is assistant, do not sleep,
 But let me hear from you.

Oph. Do you doubt that?
Laer. For Hamlet, and the trifling of his favour,
 Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood;
 A violet in the youth of primy nature,
 Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,
 The perfume and suppliance of a minute;
 No more.

Oph. No more but so?
Laer. Think it no more:
 For nature, crescent,² does not grow alone
 In thews, and bulk, but, as this temple waxes,
 The inward service of the mind and soul
 Grows wide withal. Perhaps, he loves you now;

And now no soil, nor cautel,¹ doth besmirch²
 The virtue of his will: but, you must fear,
 His greatness weigh'd, his will is not his own;
 For he himself is subject to his birth:
 He may not, as unvalued persons do,
 Carve for himself; for on his choice depends
 The safety and the health of the whole state;
 And therefore must his choice be circumscrib'd
 Unto the voice and yielding of that body,
 Whereof he is the head: Then if he says he loves
 It fits your wisdom so far to believe it, [you,
 As he in his particular act and place
 May give his saying deed; which is no further
 Than the main voice of Denmark goes withal.
 Then weigh what loss your honour may sustain,
 If with too credent³ ear you list his songs;
 Or lose your heart; or your chaste treasure open
 To his unmaster'd⁴ importunity.

Fear it, Ophelia, fear it, my dear sister;
 And keep you in the rear of your affection,
 Out of the shot and danger of desire.
 The chariest maid is prodigal enough,
 If she unmask her beauty to the moon:
 Virtue itself scapes not calumnious strokes:
 The canker galls the infants of the spring,
 Too oft before their buttons be disclos'd;
 And in the morn and liquid dew of youth
 Contagious blastments are most imminent.
 Be wary then: best safety lies in fear;
 Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.

Oph. I shall the effect of this good lesson keep,
 As watchman to my heart: But, good my brother,
 Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,
 Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven;
 Whilst, like a puff'd and reckless libertine,
 Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,
 And recks⁵ not his own read.⁶

Laer. O fear me not.
 I stay too long:—But here my father comes.

Enter Polonius.

A double blessing is a double grace;
 Occasion smiles upon a second leave.

P. Yet here, Laertes! aboard, aboard, for shame;
 The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,
 And you are staid for: There,—my blessing with
 you; [*Laying his hand on Laertes' head.*]
 And these few precepts in thy memory
 Look thou character.⁷ Give thy thoughts no
 tongue,

Nor any unproportion'd thought his act.
 Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.
 The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
 Grapple them to thy soul, with hooks of steel:
 But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
 Of each new hatch'd, unfledg'd comrade. Beware
 Of entrance to a quarrel: but, being in,
 Bear it, that the opposer may beware of thee.
 Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice:
 Take each man's censure,⁸ but reserve thy judg-
 Costly thy habit, as thy purse can buy, [ment.
 But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy:
 For the apparel oft proclaims the man;
 And they in France of the best rank and station,
 Are most select and generous,⁹ chief in that.

¹ Which protects the lower part of the face.

² Increasing.

¹ Subtlety.

² Discolour.

³ Believing.

⁴ Licentious.

⁵ Regards.

⁶ Lessons.

⁷ Fix.

⁸ Opinion.

⁹ Noble.

Neither a borrower, nor a lender be:
 For loan oft loses both itself and friend;
 And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.
 This above all,—To thine ownself be true;
 And it must follow, as the night the day,
 Thou canst not then be false to any man.
 Farewell; my blessing season¹ this in thee!
Laer. Most humbly do I take my leave, my lord.
P. The time invites you; go, your servants tend.²
Laer. Farewell, Ophelia; and remember well
 What I have said to you.

Oph. 'Tis in my memory lock'd,
 And you yourself shall keep the key of it.
Laer. Farewell! [*Exit Laertes.*]
Pol. What is't, Ophelia, he hath said to you?
O. So please you, something touching the lord
 Hamlet.

Pol. Marry, well bethought:
 'Tis told me, he hath very oft of late
 Given private time on you: and you yourself
 Have of your audience been most free and boun-
 If it be so, (as so 'tis put on me, [*teous;*
 And that in way of caution, I must tell you,
 You do not understand yourself so clearly,
 As it behoves my daughter, and your honour:
 What is between you? give me up the truth.

O. He hath, my lord, of late, made many ten-
 Of his affection to me. [*ders*]
Pol. Affection? Puh! you speak like a green girl,
 Unsifted in such perilous circumstance.

Do you believe his tenders, as you call them?
O. I do not know, my lord, what I should think.

P. Marry, I'll teach you; think yourself a baby;
 That you have ta'en these tenders for true pay
 Which are not sterling. Tender yourself more
 dearly;

Or (not to crack the wind of the poor phrase,
 Wrangling it thus,) you'll tender me a fool.

Oph. My lord, he hath importun'd me with love,
 In honourable fashion.

Pol. Ay, fashion you may call it; go to, go to.

Oph. And hath given countenance to his speech,
 my lord,

With almost all the holy vows of heaven.

P. Ay, springes to catch woodcocks. I do know,
 When the blood burns, how prodigal the soul
 Lends the tongue vows: these blazes, daughter,
 Giving more light than heat,—extinct in both,
 Even in their promise, as it is a making,—
 You must not take for fire. From this time,

Be somewhat scanter of your maiden presence;
 Set your entreatments³ at a higher rate,
 Than a command to parley. For lord Hamlet,
 Believe so much in him, That he is young;
 And with a larger tether may he walk,
 Than may be given you: In few,⁴ Ophelia,
 Do not believe his vows, for they are brokers,
 Not of that die which their investments show,
 But mere implorers⁵ of unholy suits,
 Breathing like sanctified and pious bonds,
 The better to beguile. This is for all,—
 I would not, in plain terms, from this time forth,
 Have you so slander any moment's leisure,
 As to give words or talk with the lord Hamlet.
 Look to't, I charge you; come your ways.

Oph. I shall obey, my lord. [*Exeunt.*]

1 Make fast. 3 Company. 5 Implorers.
 2 Wait. 4 In short.

SCENE IV.—THE PLATFORM.

Enter Hamlet, Horatio, and Marcellus.

Ham. The air bites shrewdly; it is very cold.

Hor. It is a nipping and an eager¹ air.

Ham. What hour now?

Hor. I think it lacks of twelve.

Mar. No, it is struck.

Hor. Indeed? I heard it not; it then draws
 near the season,
 Wherein the spirit held his wont to walk.

[*A Flourish of Trumpets, and Ordnance
 shot off within.*]

What does this mean, my lord?

Ham. The king doth wake to-night, and takes
 his rouse;² [*reels;*

Keeps wassel,³ and the swaggering up-spring⁴
 And, as he drains his draughts of Rhenish down,
 The kettle-drum and trumpet thus bray out
 The triumph of his pledge.

Hor. Is it a custom?

Ham. Ay, marry, is't:
 But to my mind,—though I am native here,
 And to the manner born,—it is a custom
 More honour'd in the breach, than the obser-
 This heavy-headed revel, east and west, [*vance.*
 Makes us traduc'd and tax'd of other nations;
 They clepe⁵ us drunkards, and with swinish phrase
 Soil our addition⁶; and, indeed, it takes
 From our achievements, though perform'd at
 The pith and marrow of our attribute. [*height,*
 So oft it chances in particular men,
 That for some vicious mode of nature in them,
 As, in their birth, (wherein they are not guilty,
 Since nature cannot choose his origin,)
 By the o'ergrowth of some complexion,⁷
 Oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason,
 Or by some habit, that too much o'er-leavens
 The form of plausive manners,—that these men,—
 Carrying, I say, the stamp of one defect;
 Being nature's livery, or fortune's star,—
 Their virtues else (be they as pure as grace,
 As infinite as man may undergo,)
 Shall in the general censure take corruption
 From that particular fault: The dram of base
 Doth all the noble substance often dout,⁸
 To his own scandal.

Enter Ghost.

Hor. Look, my lord, it comes!

Ham. Angels and ministers of grace defend us!—
 Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,
 Bring with thee airs from heaven, or blasts from
 Be thy intents wicked, or charitable, [*hell,*
 Thou com'st in such a questionable⁹ shape,
 That I will speak to thee; I'll call thee, Hamlet,
 King, father, royal Dane: O, answer me:
 Let me not burst in ignorance! but tell,
 Why thy canoniz'd bones, hearsed in death,
 Have burst their cerements! why the sepulchre,
 Wherein we saw thee quietly in-urn'd,
 Hath op'd his ponderous and marble jaws,
 To cast thee up again! What may this mean,
 That thou, dead corse, again, in complete steel

1 Sharp. 4 A dance. 7 Humour.
 2 Carouse. 5 Call. 8 Do out.
 3 Debauch. 6 Titles. 9 Conversable.

Revisit'st thus the glimpses of the moon,
Making night hideous; and we fools of nature,
So horribly to shake our disposition,
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?
Say, why is this? wherefore? what should we do?

Hor. It beckons you to go away with it,
As if it some impartment did desire
To you alone.

Mar. Look, with what courteous action
It waves you to a more removed ground:
But do not go with it.

Hor. No, by no means.

Ham. It will not speak; then I will follow it.

Hor. Do not, my lord.

Ham. Why, what should be the fear?
I do not set my life at a pin's fee¹;
And, for my soul, what can it do to that,
Being a thing immortal as itself?
It waves me forth again;—I'll follow it.

Hor. What, if it tempt you toward the flood,
my lord,

Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff,
That beetles² o'er his base into the sea!
And there assume some other horrible form,
Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason,
And draw you into madness? think of it:
The very place puts toys³ of desperation,
Without more motive, into every brain,
That looks so many fathoms to the sea,
And hears it roar beneath.

Ham. It waves me still:
Go on, I'll follow thee.

Mar. You shall not go, my lord.

Ham. Hold off your hands.

Hor. Be rul'd, you shall not go.

Ham. My fate cries out,
And makes each petty artery in this body
As hardy as the Nemean lion's nerve.—

[*Ghost beckons.*]

Still am I call'd;—unhand me, gentlemen;—

[*Breaking from them.*]

By heaven, I'll make a ghost of him that lets⁴
I say, away;—Go on, I'll follow thee. [me:—

[*Exeunt Ghost and Hamlet.*]

Hor. He waxes desperate with imagination.

Mar. Let's follow; 'tis not fit thus to obey him.

Hor. Have after:—To what issue will this come?

M. Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

Hor. Heaven will direct it.

Mar. Nay, let's follow him.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.

A MORE REMOTE PART OF THE PLATFORM.

Re-enter Ghost and Hamlet.

H. Whither wilt thou lead me? Speak, I'll go
Ghost. Mark me. [no further.

Ham. I will.

Ghost. My hour is almost come,
When I to sulphurous and tormenting flames
Must render up myself.

Ham. Alas, poor ghost!

Ghost. Pity me not, but lend thy serious hearing
To what I shall unfold.

Ham. Speak, I am bound to hear.

G. So art thou to revenge, when thou shalt hear.

Ham. What?

1 Value. 2 Hangs. 3 Whims. 4 Hinders.

Ghost. I am thy father's spirit;
Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night;
And, for the day, confin'd to fast in fires,
Till the foul crimes, done in my days of nature,
Are burnt and purg'd away. But that I am forbid
To tell the secrets of my prison-house,
I could a tale unfold, whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul; freeze thy young
blood;

spheres:
Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
And each particular hair to stand on end
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine:
But this eternal blazon¹ must not be
To ears of flesh and blood:—List, list, O list!—
If thou didst ever thy dear father love,—

Ham. O heaven!

G. Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder.

Ham. Murder?

Ghost. Murder most foul, as in the best it is;
But this most foul, strange, and unnatural.

Ham. Haste me to know it; that I, with wings as
As meditation, or the thoughts of love, [swift
May sweep to my revenge.

Ghost. I find thee apt;
And duller shouldst thou be than the fat weed
That rots itself in ease on Lethe wharf, [hear:
Wouldst thou not stir in this. Now, Hamlet,
'Tis given out, that sleeping in mine orchard,
A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
Is by a forged process of my death
Rankly abus'd; but know, thou noble youth,
The serpent that did sting thy father's life,
Now wears his crown.

Ham. O, my prophetick soul! my uncle.

G. Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate beast,
With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts,
(O wicked wit, and gifts that have the power
So to seduce!) won to his shameful lust
The will of my most seeming virtuous queen:
O, Hamlet, what a falling-off was there!
From me, whose love was of that dignity,
That it went hand in hand even with the vow
I made to her in marriage; and to decline
Upon a wretch, whose natural gifts were poor
To those of mine!

But virtue, as it never will be mov'd,
Though lewdness court it in a shape of heaven;
So lust, though to a radiant angel link'd,
Will prey on garbage.

But, soft! methinks I scent the morning air;
Brief let me be:—Sleeping within mine orchard,
My custom always of the afternoon,
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed hebenon² in a vial,
And in the porches of mine ears did pour
The leperous distilment; whose effect
Holds such an enmity with blood of man,
That, swift as quicksilver, it courses through
The natural gates and alleys of the body;
And, with a sudden vigour, it doth posset
And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholesome blood; so did it mine;
And a most instant tetter³ bark'd about,
Most lazar-like,⁴ with vile and loathsome crust,
All my smooth body.

1 Display.

2 Henbane.

3 An eruptive disease.

4 Leprous.

Thus was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand,
Of life, of crown, of queen, at once despatch'd¹:
Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin,
Unhousel'd,² disappointed,³ unanel'd⁴:
No reckoning made, but sent to my account
With all my imperfections on my head:
O, horrible! O, horrible! most horrible!
If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not;
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A couch for luxury and horrid incest.
But, howsoever thou pursu'st this act,
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive
Against thy mother aught; leave her to heaven,
And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge,
To prick and sting her. Fare thee well at once!
The glow-worm shows the matin to be near,
And 'gins to pale his uneffectual fire:
Adieu, adieu, adieu! remember me. [Exit.

Ham. O all you host of heaven! O earth!

What else?

And shall I couple hell?—O fie!—Hold, hold,
my heart;

And you, my sinews, grow not instant old,
But bear me stiffly up!—Remember thee?
Ay, thou poor ghost, while memory holds a seat
In this distracted globe.⁵ Remember thee?
Yea, from the table of my memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records,
All saws⁶ of books, all forms, all pressures past,
That youth and observation copied there;
And thy commandment all alone shall live
Within the book and volume of my brain.
Unmix'd with baser matter: yes, by heaven.
O most pernicious woman!
O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!
My tables,⁷—meet it is, I set it down,
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;
At least, I am sure, it may be so in Denmark:

[Writing.

So, uncle, there you are. Now to my word;
It is, *Adieu, adieu!* remember me.
I have sworn't.

Hor. [Within.] My lord, my lord,—

Mar. [Within.] Lord Hamlet,—

Hor. [Within.] Heaven secure him.

Ham. So be it!

Mar. [Within.] Illo, ho, ho, my lord!

Ham. Hillo, ho, ho, boy! come, bird, come.

Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

Mar. How is't, my noble lord?

Hor. What news, my lord?

Ham. O wonderful!

Hor. Good, my lord, tell it.

Ham. No;

You will reveal it.

Hor. Not I, my lord, by heaven.

Mar. Nor I, my lord.

Ham. How say you then: would heart of man
once think it?—

But you'll be secret,—

Hor. Mar. Ay, by heaven, my lord.

Ham. There's ne'er a villain, dwelling in all
Denmark,

But he's an arrant knave.

Hor. There needs no ghost, my lord, come
from the grave,
To tell us this.

Ham. Why, right; you are in the right;
And so, without more circumstance at all,
I hold it fit, that we shake hands, and part:
You, as your business, and desire, shall point
For every man hath business, and desire, [you;—
Such as it is,—and, for my own poor part,
Look you, I will go pray.

Hor. These are but wild and whirling words,
my lord.

Ham. I am sorry they offend you, heartily; yes,
Faith, heartily.

Hor. There's no offence, my lord.

Ham. Yes, by saint Patrick, but there is,
Horatio,

And much offence too. Touching this vision here,
It is an honest ghost, that let me tell you;
For your desire to know what is between us,
O'er-master it as you may. And now, good friends,
As you are friends, scholars, and soldiers,
Give me one poor request.

Hor. What is't, my lord?

We will.

Ham. Never make known what you have seen
to-night.

Hor. Mar. My lord, we will not.

Ham. Nay, but swear't.

Hor. In faith,
My lord, not I.

Mar. Nor I, my lord, in faith.

Ham. Upon my sword.

Mar. We have sworn, my lord, already.

Ham. Indeed, upon my sword, indeed.

Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear.

Ham. Ha, ha, boy! say'st thou so? art thou
there, true-penny?

Come on,—you hear this fellow in the cellarage,—
Consent to swear.

Hor. Propose the oath, my lord.

Ham. Never to speak of this that you have
Swear by my sword. [seen,

Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear.

Ham. *Hic et ubique!* then we'll shift our
ground:—

Come hither, gentlemen,

And lay your hands again upon my sword:

Swear by my sword,

Never to speak of this that you have heard.

Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear by his sword.

Ham. Well said, old mole! canst work i' the
earth so fast? [friends.

A worthy pioneer!—Once more remove, good

Hor. O day and night, but this is wondrous
strange! [come.

Ham. And therefore as a stranger give it wel:
There are more things in heaven and earth,

Horatio,

Than art dreamt of in your philosophy.

But come;—

Here, as before, never, so help you mercy!

How strange or odd soe'er I bear myself,

As I, perchance, hereafter shall think meet

To put an antick disposition on,—

That you, at such times seeing me, never shall,
With arms encumber'd thus, or this head-shake,

1 Here and everywhere.

1 Bereft.

2 Without the sacrament.

3 Unprepared.

4 Without extreme unction.

5 (Head.)

6 Sayings.

7 Tablets.

Or by pronouncing of some doubtful phrase,
As, Well, well, we know;—or, We could, an if we would;—or, If we list to speak;—or, There be, an if they might;
 Or such ambiguous giving out, to note
 That you know aught of me:—This do you swear,
 So grace and mercy at your most need help you!
Ghost. [Beneath.] Swear. [men,
Ham. Rest, perturbed spirit! So gentle-
 With all my love I do commend me to you:
 And what so poor a man as Hamlet is
 May do, to express his love and friending to you,
 Heaven willing, shall not lack. Let us go in
 together;
 And still your fingers on your lips, I pray.
 The time is out of joint;—O cursed spite!
 That ever I was born to set it right!
 Nay, come, let's go together. *[Exeunt.]*

Act Second.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN POLONIUS' HOUSE.

Enter Polonius and Reynaldo.

Pol. Give him this money and these notes,
Rey. I will, my lord. *[Reynaldo.]*
Pol. You shall do marvellous wisely, good
 Reynaldo,
 Before you visit him, to make inquiry
 Of his behaviour.
Rey. My lord, I did intend it.
Pol. Marry, well said: very well said. Look
 you, sir,
 Inquire me first what Danskers¹ are in Paris;
 And how, and who, what means, and where
 they keep,
 What company, at what expense; and finding,
 By this encompassment and drift of question,
 That they do know my son, come you more nearer
 Than your particular demands will touch it:
 Take you, as 'twere, some distant knowledge of
 him;

*As thus,—I know his father, and his friends,
 And, impart, him;—Do you mark this, Reynaldo?*

Rey. Ay, very well, my lord.

Pol. And, in part, him; but, you may say, not
 But, if't be he I mean, he's very wild; *[well:]*
Addicted so and so;—and there put on him
 What forgeries you please; marry, none so rank
 As may dishonour him; take heed of that;
 But, sir, such wanton, wild, and usual slips,
 As are companions noted and most known
 To youth and liberty.

Rey. As gaming, my lord.

Pol. Ay, or drinking, fencing, swearing,
 quarrelling.

Rey. My lord, that would dishonour him.

P. Faith, no; as you may season it in the charge.
 You must not put another scandal on him,
 That he is open to incontinency; *[quaintly,*
 That's not my meaning: but breathe his faults so
 That they may seem the taints of liberty:
 The flash and outbreak of a fiery mind;
 A savageness in unclaimed blood,
 Of general assault.²

¹ Danes.

² Generally Hable to.

Rey. But, my good lord,—
Pol. Wherefore should you do this?
Rey. Ay, my lord,
 I would know that.
Pol. Marry, sir, here's my drift;
 And, I believe, it is a fetch¹ of warrant:
 You laying these slight sullies on my son,
 As 'twere a thing a little soil'd i' the working,
 Mark you.
 Your party in converse, him you would sound,
 Having ever seen in the prenominate² crimes,
 The youth you breathe of, guilty, be assur'd,
 He closes with you in this consequence:
Good sir, or so; or, friend, or gentleman,—
 According to the phrase, or the addition,
 Of man, and country.

Rey. Very good, my lord.

Pol. And then, sir, does he this,—He does—
 What was I about to say?—By the mass, I was
 about to say something:—Where did I leave?

Rey. At, closes in the consequence.

Pol. At, closes in the consequence,—Ay, marry;
 He closes with you thus:—*I know the gentleman;
 I saw him yesterday, or t'other day, [say,
 Or then, or then; with such, or such; and, as you
 There was he gaming; there o'ertook in his rouse;³
 There falling out at tennis: or so forth.—*
 See you now;

Your bait of falsehood takes this carp of truth;
 And thus do we of wisdom and of reach,
 With windlasses, and with assays of bias,
 By indirections find directions out;
 So, by former lecture and advice,
 Shall you, my son: You have me, have you not?

Rey. My lord, I have.

Pol. Then, fare you well.

Rey. Good my lord,——

Pol. Observe his inclination in yourself.

Rey. I shall, my lord.

Pol. And let him ply his musick.

Rey. Well, my lord. *[Exit.]*

Enter Ophelia.

Pol. Farewell!—How now, Ophelia? what's
 the matter? *[frighted!]*

Oph. O, my lord, my lord, I have been so af-

Pol. With what, in the name of heaven?

Oph. My lord, as I was sewing in my closet,
 Lord Hamlet,—with his doublet all unbrac'd;
 No hat upon his head; his stockings foul'd,
 Ungarter'd, and down-gyved⁴ to his ankle;
 Pale as his shirt; his knees knocking each other;
 And with a look so piteous in purport,
 As if he had been loosed out of hell,
 To speak of horrors,—he comes before me.

Pol. Mad for thy love?

Oph. My lord, I do not know;
 But, truly, I do fear it.

Pol. What said he?

O. He took me by the wrist, and held me hard;
 Then goes he to the length of all his arm;
 And with his other hand thus o'er his brow,
 He falls to such perusal of my face,
 As he would draw it. Long stay'd he so;
 At last,—a little shaking of mine arm,
 And thrice his head thus waving up and down,—

¹ Artifice.

³ Debauch.

² Already named.

⁴ Hanging down like fetters.

He rais'd a sigh so piteous and profound,
As it did seem to shatter all his bulk,
And end his being: That done, he lets me go:
And, with his head over his shoulder turn'd,
He seem'd to find his way without his eyes;
For out of doors he went without their helps,
And to the last, bended their light on me.

P. Come, go with me; I will go seek the king.
This is the very ecstasy of love;
Whose violent property foredoes¹ itself,
And leads the will to desperate undertakings,
As oft as any passion under heaven,
That does afflict our natures. I am sorry,—[late?
What, have you given him any hard words of
O. No, my good lord: but as you did com-
I did repel his letters, and denied [mand,
His access to me.

Pol. That bath made him mad.
I am sorry, that with better heed and judgment,
I had not quoted² him: I fear'd he did but trifle,
And meant to wreck thee; but, beshrew my
jealousy!

It seems, it is as proper to our age
To cast beyond ourselves in our opinions,
As it is common for the younger sort
To lack discretion. Come, go we to the king;
This must be known; which, being kept close,
might move
More grief to hide, than hate to utter love.
Come. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter King, Queen, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern,
and Attendants.

King. Welcome, dear Rosencrantz and
Guildenstern!

Moreover that we much did long to see you,
The need, we have to use you, did provoke
Our hasty sending. Something have you heard
Of Hamlet's transformation; so I call it,
Since not the exterior nor the inward man,
Resembles that it was: What it should be,
More than his father's death, that thus hath
put him

So much from the understanding of himself,
I cannot dream of: I entreat you both, [him:
That,—being of so young days brought up with
And, since, so neighbour'd to his youth and
humour,—

That you vouchsafe your rest here in our court
Some little time: so by your companies
To draw him on to pleasures; and to gather,
So much as from occasion you may glean,
Whether aught, to us unknown, afflicts him
That, open'd, lies within our remedy. [thus,

Queen. Good gentlemen, he hath much talk'd
of you;

And, sure I am, two men there are not living,
To whom he more adheres. If it will please you
To show us so much gentry, and good will,
As to expend your time with us awhile,
For the supply and profit of our hope,
Your visitation shall receive such thanks
As fits a king's remembrance.

Ros. Both your majesties
Might, by the sovereign power you have of us,

1 Destroy'd.

2 Observed.

Put your dread pleasures more into command
Than to entreaty.

Guil. But we both obey;
And here give up ourselves, in the full bent;
To lay our service freely at your feet,
To be commanded. [denstern.

King. Thanks, Rosencrantz, and gentle Guil-
Queen. Thanks, Guildenstern, and gentle Ro-
sencrantz:

And I beseech you instantly to visit
My too much chang'd son.—Go, some of you,
And bring these gentlemen where Hamlet is.

Guil. Heavens make our presence, and our
Pleasant and helpful to him! [practices,
Queen. Ay, amen!

[Exeunt Rosencrantz, Guildenstern,
and some Attendants.

Enter Polonius.

Pol. The ambassadors from Norway, my good
Are joyfully return'd. [lord,

King. Thou still hast been the father of good
news. [liege,

P. Have I, my lord? Assure you, my good
I hold my duty, as I hold my soul,
Both to my God, and to my gracious king:
And I do think, (or else this brain of mine
Hunts not the trail of policy so sure
As it hath us'd to do,) that I have found
The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy.

K. O, speak of that: that do I long to hear.
P. Give first admittance to the ambassadors;
My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.

King. Thyself do grace to them, and bring
them in. [Exit Polonius.

He tells me, my dear Gertrude, he hath found
The head and source of all your son's distemper.

Queen. I doubt it is no other but the main;
His father's death, and our o'erhasty marriage.

Re-enter Polonius, with Voltimand and
Cornelius.

King. Well, we shall sift him.—Welcome,
my good friends! [way?

Say, Voltimand, what from our brother Nor-
V. Most fair return of greetings, and desires.

Upon our first, he sent out to suppress
His nephew's levies; which to him appear'd
To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack¹;
But, better look'd into, he truly found

It was against your highness: Whereat griev'd,—
That so his sickness, age, and impotence,

Was falsely borne in hand,²—sends out arrests
On Fortinbras; which he in brief obeys;

Receives rebuke from Norway; and, in fine,
Makes vow before his uncle, never more

To give the assay of arms against your majesty.
Whereon old Norway, overcome with joy,

Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee;
And his commission to employ those soldiers

So levied as before, against the Polack:
With an entreaty, herein further shown,

[Gives a paper.
That it might please you to give quiet pass
Through your dominions for this enterprise;

On such regards of safety, and allowance,
As therein are set down.

1 Pola.

2 Imposed on.

King. It likes us well:
And, at our more consider'd time, we'll read,
Answer, and think upon this business.
Mean time, we thank you for your well-took
labour:

Go to your rest; at night we'll feast together:
Most welcome home!

[*Exeunt Voltimand and Cornelius.*]

Pol. This business is well ended.
My liege, and madam, to expostulate¹
What majesty should be, what duty is,
Why day is day, night, night, and time is time,
Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time,
Therefore,—since brevity is the soul of wit,
And tediousness the limbs and outward flour—
I will be brief: Your noble son is mad: [ishes,
Mad call I it: for, to define true madness,
What is't, but to be nothing else but mad?
But let that go.

Queen. More matter with less art.
Pol. Madam, I swear I use no art at all,
That he is mad, 'tis true: 'tis true, 'tis pity;
And pity 'tis 'tis true; a foolish figure;
But farewell it, for I will use no art.
Mad let us grant him then: and now remains,
That we find out the cause of this effect;
Or, rather say, the cause of this defect:
For this effect, defective, comes by cause:
Thus it remains, and the remainder thus.
Perepend.²

I have a daughter; have, while she is mine;
Who, in her duty and obedience, mark,
Hath given me this: Now gather and surmise.
—To the celestial, and my soul's idol, the most
beautified Ophelia,——

That's an ill phrase, a vile phrase; *beautified* is
a vile phrase; but you shall hear.—Thus:

In her excellent white bosom, these, &c.

Queen. Came this from Hamlet to her?

Pol. Good madam, stay awhile; I will be
faithful.—

Doubt thou, the stars are fire; [Reads.

Doubt that the sun doth move:

Doubt truth to be a liar;

But never doubt, I love.

O dear Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers; I
have not art to reckon my groans; but that
I love thee best, O most best, believe it. Adieu.

*Thine evermore, most dear lady, whilst
this machine is to him, HAMLET.*

This, in obedience, hath my daughter shown me:
And more above, hath his solicitings,
As they fell out by time, by means, and place,
All given to mine ear.

King. But how hath she
Received his love?

Pol. What do you think of me?

King. As of a man faithful and honourable.

Pol. I would fain prove so. But what might
you think,

When I had seen this hot love on the wing,
(As I perceiv'd it, I must tell you that,
Before my daughter told me,) what might you,
Or my dear majesty your queen here, think,
If I had play'd the desk, or table-book;
Or given my heart a working, mute and dumb;

1 Discuss.

2 Consider.

Or look'd upon this love with idle sight; [work,
What might you think? no, I went round¹ to
And my young mistress thus did I bespeak:
Lord Hamlet is a prince out of thy sphere;
This must not be: and then I precepts gave her,
That she should lock herself from his resort,
Admit no messengers, receive no tokens.
Which done, she took the fruits of my advice;
And he, repulsed, (a short tale to make,)
Fell into a sadness; then into a fast;
Thence to a watch; thence into weakness;
Thence to a lightness; and, by this declension,
Into the madness wherein now he raves,
And all we mourn for.

King. Do you think, 'tis this?

Queen. It may be, very likely.

Pol. Hath there been such a time, (I'd fain
know that,)

That I have positively said, 'Tis so,
When it prov'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this from this, if this be otherwise:

[*Pointing to his head and shoulder.*]

If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. You know, sometimes he walks four
hours together,

Here in the lobby.

Queen. So he does, indeed.

Pol. At such a time I'll loose my daughter
to him;

Be you and I behind an arras then;
Mark the encounter: if he love her not,
And be not from his reason fallen thereon,
Let me be no assistant for a state,
But keep a farm, and carters.

King. We will try it.

Enter Hamlet, reading.

Queen. But look, where sadly the poor wretch
comes reading.

Pol. Away, I do beseech you, both away;
I'll board him presently:—O, give me leave.—
[*Exeunt King, Queen, and Attendants.*]

How does my good lord Hamlet?

Ham. Well, grammarcy.

Pol. Do you know me, my lord?

Ham. Excellent well; you are a fishmonger.

Pol. Not I, my lord.

Ham. Then I would you were so honest a man.

Pol. Honest, my lord?

Ham. Ay, sir; to be honest, as this world goes,
is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.

Pol. That's very true, my lord.

Ham. For if the sun breed maggots in a dead
dog, being a god, kissing carrion,——Have you
a daughter?

Pol. I have, my lord.

Ham. Let her not walk i' the sun: conception²
is a blessing; but not as your daughter may con-
ceive—friend, look to't.

Pol. How say you by that? [*Aside.*] Still
harping on my daughter:—yet he knew me not
at first; he said I was a fishmonger; He is far
gone, far gone: and, truly in my youth I suffered

1 Roundly.

2 Understanding.

much extremity for love: very near this. I'll speak to him again.—What do you read, my lord?

Ham. Words, words, words!

Pol. What is the matter, my lord?

Ham. Between who?

Pol. I mean the matter that you read, my lord.

Ham. Slanders, sir: for the satirical rogues says here, that old men have grey beards; that their faces are wrinkled; their eyes purging thick amber, and plum-tree gum; and that they have a plentiful lack of wit: all of which, sir, though I most powerfully and potently believe, yet I hold it not honesty to have it thus set down; for yourself, sir, shall be as old as I am, if, like a crab, you could go backward.

P. [*Aside.*] Though this be madness, yet there's method in it. Will you walk out of the air, my lord?

Ham. Into my grave?

Pol. Indeed, that is out o' the air.—How pregnant sometimes his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity could not so prosperously be delivered of. I will leave him, and suddenly contrive the means of meeting between him and my daughter.—My honourable lord, I will most humbly take my leave of you.

Ham. You cannot, sir, take from me anything that I will more willingly part withal; except my life, except my life, except my life.

Pol. Fare you well, my lord.

Ham. These tedious old fools!

Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

P. You go to seek the lord Hamlet; there he is.

Ros. [*To Polonius.*] God save you sir!

[*Exit Polonius.*]

Guil. My honoured lord!—

Ros. My most dear lord!—

Ham. My excellent good friends! How dost thou, Guildenstern? Ah, Rosencrantz! Good lads, how do ye both?

Ros. As the indifferent children of the earth.

Guil. Happy, in that we are not over happy; On fortune's cap we are not the very button.

Ham. Nor the soles of her shoe?

Ros. Neither, my lord.

Ham. Then you live in the middle of her favours? Well, what news?

Ros. None, my lord: but that the world is grown honest.

Ham. Then is doomsday near: But your news is not true. Let me question more in particular: What have you, my good friends, deserved at the hands of fortune, that she sends you to prison hither?

Guil. Prison, my lord!

Ham. Denmark's a prison.

Ros. Then is the world one.

Ham. A goodly one; in which there are many confines, wards, and dungeons; Denmark being one of the worst.

Ros. We think not so, my lord.

Ham. Why, then 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison.

Ros. Why then your ambition makes it one; 'tis too narrow for your mind.

Ham. O heaven! I could be bounded in a nut-

shell, and count myself a king of infinite space; were it not that I have bad dreams.

Guil. Which dreams, indeed, are ambition; for the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.

Ham. A dream itself is but a shadow.

Ros. Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality, that it is but a shadow's shadow.

Ham. Then are our beggars, bodies; and our monarchs, and outstretched heroes, the beggars' shadows: Shall we to the court? for, by my fay, I cannot reason.

Ros. *Guil.* We'll wait upon you.

Ham. No such matter: I will not sort you with the rest of my servants; for, to speak to you like an honest man, I am most dreadfully attended. But, in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at Elsinore?

Ros. To visit you, my lord; no other occasion.

Ham. Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; but I thank you: and sure, dear friends, my thanks are too dear at a halfpenny. Were you not sent for? is it your own inclining? Is it a free visitation? Come, come; deal justly with me: come, come; nay speak.

Guil. What should we say, my lord?

Ham. Any thing—but to the purpose. You were sent for; and there is a kind of confession in your looks, which your modesties have not craft enough to colour: I know the good king and queen have sent for you.

Ros. To what end, my lord?

Ham. That you must teach me. But let me conjure you by the rights of our fellowship, by the consonancy of our youth, by the obligation of our ever-preserved love, and by what more dear a better proposer could charge you withal, be even and direct with me, whether you were sent for, or no?

Ros. [*To Guildenstern.*] What say you?

Ham. [*Aside.*] Nay, then I have an eye of you;—if you love me, hold not off.

Guil. My lord, we were sent for.

Ham. I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation prevent your discovery, and your secrecy to the king and queen moults no feather. I have of late, (but, wherefore, I know not,) lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercise; and indeed, it goes so heavily with my disposition, that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory: this most excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to me, than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving, how express and admirable! in action, how like an angel! in apprehension, how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? man delights not me,—nor woman neither; though by your smiling, you seem to say so.

Ros. My lord, there is no such stuff in my thoughts.

Ham. Why did you laugh then, when I said, Man delights not me?

Ros. To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what *lenten*¹ entertainment the players shall receive from you: we *coted*² them on the way: and hither are they coming, to offer you service.

Ham. He that plays the king, shall be welcome; his majesty shall have tribute of me; the adventurous knight shall use his foil, and target: the lover shall not sigh gratis; the humorous man shall end his part in peace: the clown shall make those laugh whose lungs are tickled o' the *sere*³; and the lady shall say her mind freely, or the blank verse shall halt for't. —What players are they?

Ros. Even those you were wont to take such delight in, the tragedians of the city.

Ham. How chanceth it they travel? their residence, both in reputation and profit, was better both ways.

Ros. I think their inhibition comes by the means of the late innovation.

Ham. Do they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the city? Are they so followed?

Ros. No, indeed, they are not.

Ham. How comes it? Do they grow rusty?

Ros. Nay, their endeavour keeps in the wonted pace: But there is, sir, an airy of children, little eyases,⁴ that cry out on the top of question,⁵ and are most tyrannically clapp'd for't: these are now the fashion; and so berattle the common stages (so they call them), that many, wearing rapiers, are afraid of goose quills, and dare scarce come thither.

Ham. What, are they children? who maintains them? how are they escorted⁶? Will they pursue the quality⁷ no longer than they can sing? will they not say afterwards, if they should grow themselves to common players, (as it is most like, if their means are no better,) their writers do them wrong, to make them exclaim against their own succession?

Ros. Faith, there has been much to do on both sides; and the nation holds it no sin, to tarre⁸ them on to controversy: there was, for a while, no money bid for argument, unless the poet and the player went to cuffs in the question.

Ham. Is it possible? [of brains.

Guil. O, there has been much throwing about *Ham.* Do the boys carry it away?

Ros. Ay, that they do, my lord; Hercules and his load, too.⁹

Ham. It is not very strange: for my uncle is king of Denmark, and those, that would make mouths at him while my father lived, give twenty, forty, fifty, an hundred ducats a-piece, for his picture in little. There is something in this more natural, if philosophy could find it out.

[*Flourish of Trumpets within.*

Guil. There are the players.

Ham. Gentlemen, you are welcome to Elsinore. Your hands. Come then: the appurtenance of welcome is fashion and ceremony: let me comply¹⁰ with you this in your garb; lest my extent

1 Spare. 6 Paid.
2 Overtook. 7 Profession.
3 Asthmatical. 8 Proveke.
4 Referring to children acting the plays. 9 The Globe playhouse.
5 Dialogue. 10 Compliment.

to the players, which, I tell you, must show fairly outward, should more appear like entertainment than yours. You are welcome; but my uncle-father, and aunt-mother, are deceived.

Guil. In what, my dear lord?

Ham. I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a hand-saw.

Enter Polonius.

Pol. Well be with you, gentlemen!

Ham. Hark you, Guildenstern;—and you too:—at each ear a hearer: that great baby, you see there, is not yet out of his swaddling-clouts.

Ros. Happily, he's the second time come to them; for they say an old man is twice a child.

Ham. I will prophesy, he comes to tell me of the players; mark it.—You say right, sir: o' Monday morning; 'twas then, indeed.

Pol. My lord, I have news to tell you.

Ham. My lord, I have news to tell you; When *Roscus* was an actor in Rome,—

Pol. The actors are come hither, my lord.

Ham. Buz, buz!

Pol. Upon my honour,—

Ham. Then came each actor on his ass,—

Pol. The best actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, [tragic-historical, tragic-comical-historical-pastoral,] scene indivisible, or poem unlimited: Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too light. For the law of writ¹ and the liberty, these are the only men.

Ham. O *Jephthah*, judge of Israel,—what a treasure hadst thou!

Pol. What a treasure had he, my lord?

Ham. Why—One fair daughter, and no more, The which he loved passing well.

Pol. [*Aside.*] Still on my daughter.

Ham. Am I not i' the right, old *Jephthah*?

Pol. If you call me *Jephthah*, my lord, I have a daughter, that I love passing well.

Ham. Nay, that follows not.

Pol. What follows then, my lord?

Ham. Why, As by lot, and then you know, *It came to pass, As most like it was*,—The first row of the pious chanson² will show you more; for look, my abridgment comes.

Enter four or five Players.

You are welcome, masters: welcome all;—I am glad to see thee well:—welcome, good friends:—O, old friend! Why, thy face is valanced³ since I saw thee last; Com'st thou to beard me in Denmark?—What! my young lady and mistress! your ladyship is nearer to heaven than when I saw you last, by the altitude of a chopine.⁴ Pray heaven, your voice, like a piece of uncurrent gold, be not cracked within the ring.—Masters, you are all welcome. We'll e'en to't like French falconers, fly at any thing we see: We'll have a speech straight: Come, give us a taste of your quality: come, a passionate speech.

1 *Play.* What speech, my lord?

Ham. I heard thee speak me a speech once,—but it was never acted;—or, if it was, not above once: for the play, I remember, pleased not the

1 Composition. 8 Fringed.
2 Christmas carols. 4 High clog or shoe.

million; 'twas a caviare¹ to the general²: but it was (as I received it, and others, whose judgments, in such matters, cried in the top³ of mine,) an excellent play; well digested in the scenes, set down with as much modesty as cunning. I remember, one said, there were no salads in the lines, to make the matter savoury; nor no matter in the phrase, that might indite⁴ the author of affection⁵: but called it, an honest method, as wholesome as sweet, and by very much more handsome than fine. One speech in it I chiefly loved: 'twas Æneas' tale to Dido; and thereabout of it especially, where he speaks of Priam's slaughter: If I live in your memory, begin at this line: let me see, let me see;—

*Therugged Pyrrhus, like the Hyrcanian beast,—
'tis not so; it begins with Pyrrhus.
The rugged Pyrrhus,—he, whose sable arms,
Black as his purpose, did the night resemble
When he lay couched in the ominous horse,
Hath now this dread and black complexion
smear'd*

*With heraldry more dismal: head to foot
Now is he total gules⁶; horribly trich'd⁷
With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sons;
Bak'd and impasted with the parching streets,
That lend a tyrannous and a fearful light
To their lord's murder: Roasted in wrath and
And thus o'er-sized with coagulate gore, [fire,
With eyes like carbuncles, the hellish Pyrrhus
Old grandsire Priam seeks;—So proceed you.*

Pol. My lord, well spoken; with good accent, and good discretion.

1 Play. Anon he finds him

*Striking too short at Greeks; his antique sword,
Rebellious to his arm, lies where it falls,
Repugnant to command: Unequal match'd,
Pyrrhus at Priam drives; in rage, strikes wide;
But with the whiff and wind of his fell sword
The unnerved father falls. Then senseless Ilium,
Seeming to feel this blow, with flaming top
Stoops to his base; and with a hideous crash
Takes prisoner Pyrrhus' ear; for, lo! his sword
Which was declining on the milky head
Of reverend Priam, seem'd i' the air to stick:
So, as a painted tyrant, Pyrrhus stood;
And, like a neutral to his will and matter,
Did nothing.*

*But, as we often see, against some storm,
A silence in the heavens, the rack⁸ stand still,
The bold winds speechless, and the orb below
As hush as death: anon the dreadful thunder
Doth rend the region: So, after Pyrrhus' pause,
A roused vengeance sets him new a work;
And never did the Cyclops' hammers fall
On Mars's armour, forg'd for proof eterne,⁹
With less remorse than Pyrrhus' bleeding sword
Now falls on Priam.—*

*Out, out, thou fickle Fortune! All you gods,
In general synod, take away her power;
Break all the spokes and felloes from her wheel,
And bowl the round nave down the hill of heaven,
As low as to the fiends!*

1 Undervalued (*figuratively*). 6 Red (in heraldry.)

2 Multitude.

3 Was above.

4 Convict.

5 Affection.

7 Smeared.

8 Fleeting clouds.

9 Eternal.

Pol. This is too long.

H. It shall to the barber's with your beard.—
Pr'ythee, say on:—He's for a jig, or he sleeps:—
say on: come to Hecuba.

1 Play. But who, ah woe! had seen the mobled¹

Ham. The mobled queen? [queen—

Pol. That's good; mobled queen is good.

1 Play. Run barefoot up and down, threat'nin'
the flames

*With bisson² rheum; a clout upon that head,
Where late the diadem stood; and, for a robe,
About her lank and all o'erteemed loins,
A blanket, in the alarm of fear caught up;
Who this had seen, with tongue in venom steep'd,
'Gainst fortune's state would treason have pro-
nounc'd:*

*But if the gods themselves did see her then,
When she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport
In mincing with his sword her husband's limbs;
The instant burst of clamour that she made,
(Unless things mortal move them not at all,)
Would have made milch³ the burning eye of
And passion in the gods. [heaven,*

Pol. Look, whether he has not turn'd his colour, and has tears in 's eyes.—Pr'ythee, no more.

Ham. 'Tis well: I'll have thee speak out the rest of this soon.—Good my lord, will you see the players well bestowed? Do you hear, let them be well used; for they are the abstract, and brief chronicles, of the time: After your death you were better have a bad epitaph, than their ill report while you live.

Pol. My lord, I will use them according to their desert.

Ham. Much better, man: Use every man after his desert, and who shall scape whipping? Use them after your own honour and dignity: The less they deserve, the more merit is your bounty. Take them in.

Pol. Come, sirs.

[Exit Polonius, with some of the Players.

Ham. Follow him, friends: we'll hear a play to-morrow.—Dost thou hear me, old friend; can you play the murder of Gonzago?

1 Play. Ay, my lord.

Ham. We'll have it to-morrow night. You could, for a need, study a speech of some dozen or sixteen lines, which I would set down, and insert in't: could you not?

1 Play. Ay, my lord.

H. Very well.—Follow that lord: and look you mock him not. [Exit Player.] My good friends, [To Ros. and Guil.] I'll leave you till night: you are welcome to Elsinore.

Ros. Good my lord!

[Exit Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

/ Ham. Ay, so adieu, and.—Now I am alone. O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I! Is it not monstrous, that this player here, But in a fiction, in a dream of passion, Could force his soul so to his own conceit, That from her working, all his visage wann'd; Tears in his eyes, distraction in 's aspect, A broken voice, and his whole function suiting With forms to his conceit? And all for nothing! For Hecuba!

What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba,

1 Muffled.

2 Blind.

3 Milky.

That he should weep for her? What would he do,
Had he the motive and the cue for passion,
That I have? He would drown the stage with
tears,

And cleave the general ear with horrid speech;
Make mad the guilty, and appal the free,
Confound the ignorant; and amaze, indeed,
The very faculties of eyes and ears.

Yet I,
A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak,¹

Like John-a-dreams,² unpregnant of³ my cause,
And can say nothing; no, not for a king,
Upon whose property, and most dear life,
A base defeat was made. Am I a coward?

Who calls me villain? breaks my pate across?
Plucks off my beard, and blows it in my face?
Tweaks me by the nose? gives me the lie i' the
throat,

As deep as to the lungs? Who does me this?
Ha!

Why, I should take it: for it cannot be,
But I am pigeon-liver'd, and lack gall
To make oppression bitter; or, ere this,
I should have fatted all the region kites [lain!
With this slave's offal: Bloody, murder'd vil-
Remorseless, treacherous, unnatural villain!

Why, what an ass am I? This is most brave;
That I, the son of a dear father murder'd,
Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,
Must, like a drab, unpack my heart with words,
And fall a cursing!

Fie upon't! foh! About my brains! Humph! I
have heard,

That guilty creatures, sitting at a play,
Have by the very cunning of the scene
Been struck so to the soul, that presently,
They have proclaim'd their malefactions;
For murder, though it have no tongue, will speak
With most miraculous organ. I'll have these
players

Play something like the murder of my father,
Before mine uncle: I'll observe his looks;
I'll tent⁴ him to the quick; if he do blench,⁵
I know my course. The spirit, that I have seen,
May be a devil: and the devil hath power
To assume a pleasing shape; yea, and, perhaps,
Out of my weakness, and my melancholy,
(As he is very potent with such spirits,)
Abuses me to damn me: I'll have grounds
More relative than this: The play's the thing,
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king.

[Exit.

Act Third.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosen-
crantz, and Guildenstern.

King. And can you, by no drift of conference
Get from him, why he puts on this confusion;
Grating so harshly all his days of quiet
With turbulent and dangerous lunacy?

R. He does confess, he feels himself distracted;
But from what cause he will by no means speak.

G. Nor do we find him forward to be sounded;

1 Pulling. 3 Having no due 4 Probe.
2 A silly fellow. sense of. 5 Shrink.

But with a crafty madness, keeps aloof,
When we would bring him on to some confes-
Of his true state. [sion

Queen. Did he receive you well?

Ros. Most like a gentleman. [tion.

Guil. But with much forcing of his disposi-
Ros. Niggard of question; but, of our de-
Most free in his reply. [mands,

Queen. Did you assay him
To any pastime?

R. Madam, it so fell out, that certain players
We o'er-raught¹ on the way: of these we told him;
And there did seem in him a kind of joy
To hear of it: They are about the court;
And, as I think, they have already order
This night to play before him.

Pol. 'Tis most true:
And he beseech'd me to entreat your majesties,
To hear and see the matter.

King. With all my heart: and it doth much
content me

To hear him so inclined.
Good gentlemen, give him a further edge,
And drive his purpose on to these delights.

Ros. We shall, my lord.

[Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

King. Sweet Gertrude, leave us too:
For we have closely sent for Hamlet hither;
That he, as 'twere by accident, may here
Affront² Ophelia:

Her father, and myself (lawful espials³),
Will so bestow ourselves, that, seeing, unseen,
We may of their encounter frankly judge;
And gather by him, as he is behav'd,
If't be the affliction of his love, or no,
That thus he suffers for.

Queen. I shall obey you:
And, for your part, Ophelia, I do wish,
That your good beauties be the happy cause
Of Hamlet's wildness: so shall I hope your vir-
Will bring him to his wonted way again, [tues
To both your honours.

Oph. Madam, I wish it may.

[Exit Queen.

Pol. Ophelia, walk you here:—Gracious, so
please you,

We will bestow ourselves:—Read on this book;
[To Ophelia.

That show of such an exercise may colour
Your loneliness.—We are oft to blame in this,—
'Tis too much prov'd,—that, with devotion's
And pious action, we do sugar o'er [visage
The devil himself.

King. [Aside.] O, 'tis too true! how smart
A lash that speech doth give my conscience!
The harlot's cheek, beautied with plastering art,
Is not more ugly to the thing that helps it,
Than is my deed to my most painted word:
O heavy burden!

Pol. I hear him coming; let's withdraw, my
lord. [Exeunt King and Polonius.

Enter Hamlet.

H. To be, or not to be, that is the question:—
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind, to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune;
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

1 Overtook. 2 Meet. 3 Spies.

And, by opposing, end them?—To die,—to sleep,—
No more;—and, by a sleep, to say we end
The heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to,—'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To die;—to sleep:—
To sleep! perchance to dream;—ay, there's
the rub;

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,¹
Must give us pause: There's the respect,²
That makes calamity of so long life:
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,

The pangs of despis'd love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels³ bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life!
But that the dread of something after death,—
The undiscover'd country, from whose bourne⁴
No traveller returns,—puzzles the will;
And makes us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought;
And enterprises of great pith and moment,
With this regard, their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action.—Soft you, now!
The fair Ophelia:—Nymph, in thy orisons⁵
Be all my sins remember'd.

Oph. Good my lord,
How does your honour for this many a day?

Ham. I humbly thank you; well.

Oph. My lord, I have remembrances of yours,
That I have longed long to re-deliver;
I pray you, now receive them.

Ham. No, not I:
I never gave you aught.

Oph. My honoured lord, you know right well,
you did; [pos'd
And, with them, words of so sweet breath com-
As made the things more rich: their perfume lost,
Take these again; for to the noble mind,
Rich gifts wax poor, when givers prove unkind.
There, my lord.

Ham. Ha, ha! are you honest?

Oph. My lord?

Ham. Are you fair?

Oph. What means your lordship?

Ham. That if you be honest and fair, you should
admit no discourse to your beauty.
Oph. Could beauty, my lord, have better
commerce than with honesty?

Ham. Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will
sooner debase honesty from what it is, than the
force of honesty can translate beauty into his
likeness; this was some time a paradox, but
now the time gives it proof. I did love you
once.

Oph. Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.

Ham. You should not have believed me: for
virtue cannot so inoculate our old stock, but we
shall relish of it: I lov'd you not.

Oph. I was the more deceived.

Ham. Get thee to a nunnery; Why wouldst
thou be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indif-
ferent honest; but yet I could accuse me of such
things, that it were better my mother had not
borne me: I am very proud, revengeful, am-
bitious; with more offences at my beck, than I
have thoughts to put them in, imagination to
give them shape, or time to act them in: What
should such fellows as I do crawling between
earth and heaven! We are arrant knaves, all;
believe none of us: Go thy ways to a nunnery.
Where's your father?

Oph. At home, my lord.

Ham. Let the doors be shut upon him; that
he may play the fool no where but in his own
house. Farewell.

Oph. O, help him, you sweet heavens!

Ham. If thou dost marry, I'll give thee this
plague for thy dowry: Be thou as chaste as ice,
as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny.
Get thee to a nunnery; farewell: Or, if thou
wilt needs marry, marry a fool; for wise men
know well enough, what monsters you make of
them. To a nunnery, go; and quickly too.
Farewell.

Oph. Heavenly powers, restore him.

Ham. I have heard of your paintings too, well
enough; Nature hath given you one face, and
you make yourselves another: you jig, you
amble, and you lip, and nick-name God's crea-
tures, and make your wantonness your igno-
rance: Go to; I'll no more of't; it hath made
me mad. I say, we will have no more marriages;
those that are married already, all but one,
shall live; the rest shall keep as they are. To
a nunnery, go. [Exit Hamlet.

Oph. O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!
The courtier's, soldier's, scholar's, eye, tongue,
sword:

The expectancy and rose of the fair state,
The glass of fashion, and the mould of form,
The observed of all observers! quite, quite down!
And I, of ladies most deject and wretched,
That suck'd the honey of his music vows,
Now see that noble and most sovereign reason,
Like sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh;
That unmatched'd form and feature of blown
Blasted with ecstasy¹; O, woe is me! [youth,
To have seen what I have seen, see what I see!

Re-enter King and Polonius.

King. Love! his affections do not that way tend;
Nor what he spake, though it lack'd form a little,
Was not like madness. There's something in his
O'er which his melancholy sits on brood; [soul,
And, I do doubt, the hatch, and the disclose,
Will be some danger: Which for to prevent,
I have, in quick determination,
Thus set it down; He shall with speed to England,
For the demand of our neglected tribute:
Haply, the seas, and countries different,
With variable objects, shall expel
This something-settled matter in his heart;
Whereon his brains, still beating, puts him thus
From fashion of himself. What think you on't?

Pol. It shall do well: but yet I do believe,

1 Frenzy.

1 Bustle. 2 Consideration 3 A small dagger. 4 Burdens. 5 Bounds. 6 Prayers.

The origin and commencement of his grief Sprung from neglected love.—How now Ophelia, You need not tell us what lord Hamlet said; We heard it all.—My lord, do as you please; But, if you hold it fit, after the play, Let his queen mother all alone entreat him To show his grief; let her be round¹ with him; And I'll be plac'd, so please you in the ear, Of all their conference: If she find him not, To England send him; or confine him, where Your wisdom best shall think.

King. It shall be so:
Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A HALL IN THE SAME.

Enter Hamlet, and certain Players.

Ham. Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue: but if you mouth it, as many of our players do, I had as lief² the town-crier spoke my lines. Nor do not saw the air too much with your hand, thus; but use all gently; for in the very torrent, tempest, (and as I may say) whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire and beget a temperance, that may give it smoothness. O, it offends me to the soul, to hear a robustious periwig-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters, to very rags, to split the ears of the groundlings³; who, for the most part, are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb shows and noise: I would have such a fellow whipt for o'er-doing Termagant; it out-herods Herod: Pray you, avoid it.

1 Play. I warrant your honour.

Ham. Be not too tame neither, but let your own discretion be your tutor: suit the action to the word, the word to the action: with this special observance, that you o'er-step not the modesty of nature: for any thing so overdone is from the purpose of playing, whose end, both at the first, and now, was, and is, to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure.⁴ Now this, overdone, or come tardy off, though it make the unskilful laugh, cannot but make the judicious grieve; the censure of which one, must, in your allowance, o'er-weigh a whole theatre of others. O, there be players, that I have seen play,—and heard others praise, and that highly,—not to speak it profanely, that, neither having the accent of Christians, nor the gait of Christian, pagan, nor man, have so strutted, and bellowed, that I have thought some of nature's journeymen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated humanity so abominably.

1 Play. I hope, we have reformed that indifferently with us.

Ham. O, reform it altogether. And let those, that play your clowns, speak no more than is set down for them: for there be of them, that will themselves laugh, to set on some quantity of barren spectators to laugh too; though, in the mean time, some necessary question of the play

be then to be considered: that's villainous; and shows a most pitiful ambition in the fool that uses it. Go, make you ready.—

[*Exeunt Players.*]

Enter Polonius, Rosencrantz, & Guildenstern.
How now, my lord? will the king hear this piece of work?

Pol. And the queen too, and that presently.

Ham. Bid the players make haste.—

[*Exit Polonius.*]

Will you two help to hasten them?

Both. Ay, my lord.

[*Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.*]

Ham. What, ho; Horatio?

Enter Horatio.

Hor. Here, sweet lord, at your service.

Ham. Horatio, thou art e'en as just a man As e'er my conversation cop'd withal.

Hor. O, my dear lord,—

Ham. Nay, do not think I flatter: For what advancement may I hope from thee, That no revenue hast, but thy good spirits, To feed, and clothe thee? Why should the poor be flatter'd?

No, let the candied tongue lick absurd pomp; And crook the pregnant¹ hinges of the knee, Where thrift may follow fawning. Dost thou hear? Since my dear soul was mistress of her choice, And could of men distinguish her election, She hath seal'd thee for herself: for thou hast been As one, in suffering all, that suffers nothing; A man, that fortune's buffets and rewards Hast ta'en with equal thanks: and bless'd are those

Whose blood and judgment are so well co-That they are not a pipe for fortune's finger To sound what stop she please: Give me that man That is not passion's slave, and I will wear him In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of heart, As I do thee.—Something too much of this.— There is a play to-night before the king; One scene of it comes near the circumstance, Which I have told thee of my father's death. I pray thee, when thou see'st that act afoot, Even with the very comment of thy soul Observe my uncle: if his occulted² guilt Do not itself unkennel in one speech, It is a damned ghost that we have seen; And my imaginations are as foul As Vulcan's stithy.³ Give him heedful note: For I mine eyes will rivet to his face: And after, we will both our judgments join In censure⁴ of his seeming.

Hor. Well, my lord: If he steal aught, the whilst this play is playing, And 'scape detecting, I will pay the theft.

Ham. They are coming to the play; I must be Get you a place. [Idle:]

Danish March. A Flourish. Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, and others.

King. How fares our cousin Hamlet?

Ham. Excellent, i' faith; of the camelion's dish: I eat the air, promise-crammed: You cannot feed capons so.

1 Ready. 2 Secret. 3 Smithy. 4 Judgment.

¹ Speak strongly to.

³ Spectators in the Pit.

² As willingly.

⁴ Impress.

King. I have nothing with this answer, Hamlet; these words are not mine.

Ham. No, nor mine now. [*To Polonius.*] My lord,—you played once in the university, you say?

Pol. That did I, my lord: and was accounted a good actor.

Ham. And what did you enact?

Pol. I did enact Julius Cæsar; I was kill'd i' the Capitol; Brutus killed me.

Ham. It was a brute part of him, to kill so capital a calf there.—Be the players ready?

Ros. Ay, my lord; they stay upon your patience.

Queen. Come hither, my dear Hamlet, sit by me.

Ham. No, good mother, here's metal more attractive.

Pol. [*To the King.*] O ho! do you mark that?

Ham. Lady, shall I lie in your lap?

[*Lying down at Ophelia's feet.*]

Oph. No, my lord.

Ham. I mean, my head upon your lap?

Oph. Ay, my lord.

Ham. Do you think, I meant country matters?

Oph. I think nothing, my lord.

Ham. That's a fair thought.

Oph. What is, my lord.

Ham. Nothing.

Oph. You are merry, my lord.

Ham. Who, I?

Oph. Ay, my lord.

Ham. O! your only jig-maker.¹ What should a man do, but be merry? for, look you, how cheerfully my mother looks, and my father died within these two hours.

Oph. Nay, 'tis twice two months, my lord.

Ham. So long? Nay, then let the devil wear black, for I'll have a suit of sables.² O heavens! die two months 'ago, and not forgotten yet? Then there's hope, a great man's memory may outlive his life half a year: But he must build churches then: or else shall he suffer not thinking on, with the hobby horse; whose epitaph is, *For, O, for, O, the hobby-horse is forgot.*

Trumpets sound. The dumb Show follows.

Enter a King and a Queen, very lovingly; the Queen embracing him, and he her. She kneels, and makes show of protestation unto him. He takes her up, and declines his head upon her neck; lays him down upon a bank of flowers; she, seeing him asleep, leaves him. Anon comes in a fellow, takes off his crown, kisses it, and pours poison in the King's ears, and exit. The Queen returns; finds the king dead, and makes passionate action. The poisoner, with some two or three Mutes, comes in again, seeming to lament with her. The dead body is carried away. The poisoner wooes the Queen with gifts; she seems loath and unwilling awhile, but, in the end, accepts his love. [*Exeunt.*]

Oph. What means this, my lord?

Ham. Marry, this is miching mallecho³; it means mischief.

Oph. Belike, this show imports the argument of the play.

¹ Metrical dialogues during dances. ² A rich dress.

³ Secret wickedness.

Enter Prologue.

Ham. We shall know by this fellow: the players cannot keep counsel; they'll tell all.

Oph. Will he tell us what this show meant?

Ham. Ay.

Oph. I'll mark the play.

Pro. For us, and for our tragedy,
Here stooping to your clemency,
We beg your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a prologue, or the poesy of a ring?

Oph. 'Tis brief, my lord.

Ham. As woman's love.

Enter a King and a Queen.

P. King. Full thirty times hath Phoebus' cart gone round

Neptune's salt wash, and Tellus' orb'd ground;
And thirty dozen moons, with borrow'd sheen,¹
About the world have times twelve thirties been;
Since love our hearts, and Hymen did our hands,
Unite commutual in most sacred bands.

P. Queen. So many journeys may the sun and moon

Make us again count o'er, ere love be done!
But, woe is me, you are so sick of late,
So far from cheer, and from your former state,
That I distrust you. Yet, though I distrust,
Discomfort you, my lord, it nothing must:
For women fear too much, even as they love;
And women's fear and love hold quantity;
In neither aught, or in extremity. [*know:*]
Now, what my love is, proof hath made you
And as my love is siz'd,² my fear is so.
Where love is great, the littlest doubts are fear;
Where little fears grow great, great love grows there.

P. King. 'Faith, I must leave thee, love, and shortly too;

My operant³ powers their functions leave to do;
And thou shalt live in this fair world behind,
Honour'd, belov'd, and, haply one as kind
For husband shalt thou—

P. Queen. O, confound the rest!
Such love must needs be treason in my breast:
In second husband let me be accus'd!

None wed the second, but who kill'd the first.
Ham. That's wormwood.

P. Queen. The instances,⁴ that second marriage move,

Are base respects of thrift, but none of love;
A second time, I kill my husband dead,
When second husband wins me to his bed.

P. King. I do believe, you think what now you speak;

But, what we do determine, oft we break.

Purpose is but the slave to memory:

Of violent birth, but poor validity:

Which now like fruit unripe, sticks on the tree:

But fall, unshaken, when they mellow be.

Most necessary 'tis, that we forget

To pay ourselves what to ourselves is debt:

What to ourselves in passion we propose,

The passion ending, doth the purpose lose.

The violence of either grief or joy

Their own enactures with themselves destroy:

Where joy most revels, grief doth most lament;

¹ Lustre. ² Measured. ³ Active. ⁴ Motives.

Grief joys, joy grieves, on slender accident.
The world is not for aye; nor 'tis not strange,
That even our loves should with our fortunes
change;

For 'tis a question left us yet to prove,
Whether love lead fortune, or else fortune love.
The great man down, you mark, his favourite
flies;

The poor advanc'd makes friends of enemies.
And hitherto doth love on fortune tend:
For who not needs shall never lack a friend;
And who in want a hollow friend doth try,
Directly seasons him his enemy.
But, orderly to end where I begun,—
Our wills, and fates, do so contrary run,
That our devices still are overthrown; {own:
Our thoughts are ours, there ends none of our
So think thou wilt no second husband wed;
But die thy thoughts, when thy first lord is dead.

P. Queen. Nor earth to give me food, nor
heaven light!

Sport and repose lock from me, day and night!
To desperation turn my trust and hope!
An anchor's¹ cheer in prison be my scope!
Each opposite, that blanks the face of joy,
Meet what I would have well, and it destroy!
Both here, and hence, pursue me, lasting strife,
If, once a widow, ever I be wife!

Ham. [To *Oph.*] If she should break it now,—
P. King. 'Tis deeply sworn. Sweet, leave me
here a while;

My spirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile
The tedious day with sleep. [*Sleeps.*]

P. Queen. Sleep rock thy brain;
And never come mischance between us twain!
[*Exit.*]

Ham. Madam, how like you this play?

Queen. The lady doth protest too much, me-
Ham. O, but she'll keep her word. [*thinks.*]

King. Have you heard the argument? Is
there no offence in't?

Ham. No, no, they do but jest, poison in jest;
no offence i' the world.

King. What do you call the play?

Ham. The mouse-trap. Marry, how? Tropi-
cally. This play is the image of a murder done in
Vienna: Gonzago is the duke's name; his wife,
Baptista: you shall see anon; 'tis a knavish piece
of work: But what of that? your majesty, and we
that have free souls, it touches us not: Let the
galled jade wince, our withers are unwrung.—

Enter Lucianus.

This is one Lucianus, nephew to the king.

Oph. You are as good as a chorus, my lord.

Ham. I could interpret between you and your
love, if I could see the puppets dallying.

Oph. You are keen, my lord, you are keen.

Ham. Begin, murderer;—leave thy horrible
faces, and begin. Come;—

—The croaking raven

Doth bellow for revenge.

Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugs fit,
and time agreeing;

Confederate season, else no creature seeing;

Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected,

With Hecat's ban² thrice blasted, thrice infected,

1 Anchoret.

2 Curse.

Thy natural magick and dire property,
On wholesome life usurp immediately.

[*Pours the Poison into the Sleeper's ears.*]

Ham. He poisons him i' the garden for his
estate. His name's Gonzago: the story is ex-
tant, and written in very choice Italian: You
shall see anon, how the murderer gets the love
of Gonzago's wife.

Oph. The king rises.

Ham. What! frighted with false fire!

Queen. How fares my lord?

Pol. Give o'er the play.

King. Give me some light:—away!

Pol. Lights, lights, lights!

[*Exeunt all but Hamlet and Horatio.*]

Ham. Why, let the stricken deer go weep,
The heart ungalld play:

For some must watch, while some must sleep;

Thus runs the world away.—

Would not this, sir, and a forest of feathers, (if
the rest of my fortunes turn Turk with me),
with two Provencal roses on my razed¹ shoes,
get me a fellowship in a cry² of players, sir.

Hor. Half a share.

Ham. A whole one, I.

For thou dost know, O Damon dear,

This realm dismantled was

Of Jove himself; and now reigns here

A very, very—peacock.

Hor. You might have rhymed.

Ham. O good Horatio, I'll take the ghost's
word for a thousand pound. Didst perceive?

Hor. Very well, my lord.

Ham. Upon the talk of the poisoning,—

Hor. I did very well note him.

Ham. Ah, ah!—Come, some musick; come,
the recorders.³—

For if the king like not the comedy,

Why then, belike,—he likes it not, perdy.—

Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Come, some musick.

Guil. Good my lord, vouchsafe me a word
with you.

Ham. Sir, a whole history.

Guil. The king, sir, —

Ham. Ay, sir, what of him?

Guil. Is, in his retirement, marvellous dis-

Ham. With drink, sir? [*tempered.*]

Guil. No, my lord, with choler.

Ham. Your wisdom should show itself more
richer, to signify this to the doctor; for, for
me to put him to his purgation, would, perhaps,
plunge him into more choler.

Guil. Good my lord, put your discourse into
some frame, and start not so wildly from my
affair.

Ham. I am tame, sir:—pronounce.

Guil. The queen, your mother, in most great
affliction of spirit, hath sent me to you.

Ham. You are welcome.

Guil. Nay, good my lord, this courtesy is not
of the right breed. If it shall please you to
make me a wholesome answer, I will do your
mother's commandment: if not, your pardon,
and my return, shall be the end of my business.

Ham. Sir, I cannot.

1 Slashed. 2 Company. 3 A kind of flute.

Guil. What, my lord?

Ham. Make you a wholesome answer; my wit's diseased: But, sir, such answer as I can make, you shall command: or, rather, as you say, my mother: therefore no more, but to the matter: My mother, you say, —

R. Then thus she says; Your behaviour hath struck her into amazement and admiration.

Ham. O wonderful son, that can so astonish a mother! — But is there no sequel at the heels of this mother's admiration? impart.

Ros. She desires to speak with you in her closet, ere you go to bed.

Ham. We shall obey, were she ten times our mother. Have you any further trade with us?

Ros. My lord, you once did love me.

H. And do still, by these pickers and stealers.¹

Ros. Good my lord, what is your cause of distemper? you do, surely, but bar the door upon your own liberty, if you deny your griefs to your friend.

Ham. Sir, I lack advancement.

Ros. How can that be, when you have the voice of the king himself for your succession in Denmark?

Ham. Ay, sir, but *While the grass grows*, — the proverb is something musty.

Enter the Players, with Recorders.

O, the recorders: — let me see one. — To withdraw with you: — Why do you go about to recover the wind of me, as if you would drive me into a toil?

Guil. O, my lord, if my duty be too bold, my love is too unmannerly.

Ham. I do not well understand that. Will you play upon this pipe?

Guil. My lord, I cannot.

Ham. I pray you.

Guil. Believe me, I cannot.

Ham. I do beseech you.

Guil. I know no touch of it, my lord.

Ham. 'Tis as easy as lying: govern these ventages² with your fingers and thumb, give it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most eloquent musick. Look you, these are the stops.

Guil. But these cannot I command to any utterance of harmony; I have not the skill.

Ham. Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me? You would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass: and there is much musick, excellent voice, in this little organ; yet cannot you make it speak. Do you think, I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me.

Enter Polonius.

Bless you, sir!

Pol. My lord, the queen would speak with you, and presently.

Ham. Do you see yonder cloud, that's almost in shape of a camel?

Pol. By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed.

¹ The hands.

² Holes.

Ham. Methinks, it is like a weasel.

Pol. It is backed like a weasel.

Ham. Or, like a whale?

Pol. Very like a whale.

Ham. Then will I come to my mother by and by. — They fool me to the top of my bent. — I will come by and by.

Pol. I will say so. [*Exit Polonius.*]

Ham. By and by is easily said. — Leave me, friends. [*Exeunt Ros. Guil. Hor. &c.*]

'Tis now the very witching time of night; When churchyards yawn, and hell itself breathes out

Contagion to this world: Now could I drink hot And do such bitter business as the day Would quake to look on. Soft; now to my mother. —

O, heart, lose not thy nature; let not ever The soul of Nero enter this firm bosom: Let me be cruel, not unnatural:

I will speak daggers to her, but use none;

My tongue and soul in this be hypocrites:

How in my words soever she be shent,¹

To give them seals² never, my soul, consent!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE III. — A ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter King, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.

K. I like him not; nor stands it safe with us, To let his madness range. Therefore, prepare I your commission will forthwith despatch, [you; And he to England shall along with you: The terms of our estate may not endure Hazard so near us, as doth hourly grow Out of his lunes.³

Guil. We will ourselves provide: Most holy and religious fear it is, To keep those many many bodies safe, That live, and feed, upon your majesty.

Ros. The single and peculiar life is bound, With all the strength and armour of the mind, To keep itself from 'noyance; but much more That spirit, upon whose weal depend and rest The lives of many. The cease of majesty Dies not alone; but, like a gulf, doth draw, What's near it, with it: it is a massy wheel, Fix'd on the summit of the highest mount, To whose huge spokes ten thousand lesser things

Are mortis'd and adjoin'd; which, when it falls, Each small annexment, petty consequence, Attends the boist'rous ruin. Never alone Did the king sigh, but with a general groan.

K. Arm you, I pray you, to this speedy For we will fetters put upon this fear, [voyage; Which now goes too free-footed.

Ros. Guil. We will haste us.

[*Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.*]

Enter Polonius.

Pol. My lord, he's going to his mother's closet: Behind the arras I'll convey myself, [home: To hear the process; I'll warrant, she'll tax him And, as you said, and wisely was it said, 'Tis meet that some more audience, than a mother,

¹ Reproved.

³ Lunacies.

² Put them in execution.

Since nature makes them partial, should o'erhear
The speech, of vantage. Fare you well, my liege;
I'll call upon you ere you go to bed,
And tell you what I know.

King. Thanks, dear my lord.
[Exit Polonius.]

O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven;
It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,
A brother's murder!—Pray can I not,
Though inclination be as sharp as will;
My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent;
And, like a man to double business bound,
I stand in pause where I shall first begin,
And both neglect. What if this cursed hand
Were thicker than itself with brother's blood?
Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens,
To wash it white as snow? Whereto serves mercy,
But to confront the visage of offence?
And what's in prayer, but this two-fold force,—
To be forestalled, ere we come to fall,
Or pardon'd, being down? Then I'll look up;
My fault is past. But, O, what form of prayer
Can serve my turn? Forgive me my foul murder!—
That cannot be; since I am still possess'd
Of those effects for which I did the murder,
My crown, mine own ambition, and my queen.
May one be pardon'd, and retain the offence?
In the corrupted currents of this world,
Offence's gilded hand may shove by justice;
And oft 'tis seen, the wicked prize itself
Buys out the law: But 'tis not so above:
There is no shuffling, there the action lies
In his true nature; and we ourselves compell'd,
Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults,
To give in evidence. What then? what rests?
Try what repentance can: What can it not?
Yet what can it, when one cannot repent?
O wretched state! O bosom, black as death!
O limed¹ soul; that struggling to be free,
Art more engag'd! Help, angels, make assay!
Bow, stubborn knees! and, heart, with strings of
Be soft as sinews of the new-born babe; [steel;
All may be well! [Retires and kneels.]

Enter Hamlet.

H. Now might I do it, pat, now he is praying;
And now I'll do't;—And so he goes to heaven:
And so am I reveng'd? That would be scann'd:
A villain kills my father; and, for that,
I, his sole son, do this same villain send
To heaven.
Why, this is hire and salary, not revenge.
He took my father grossly, full of bread;
With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as May;
And, how his audit stands, who knows, save
Heaven?
But in our circumstance and course of thought,
'Tis heavy with him: And am I then reveng'd,
To take him in the purging of his soul,
When he is fit and season'd for his passage?
No.
Up, sword; and know thou a more horrid hent²:
When he is drunk, asleep; or in his rage;
At gaming, swearing;—or about some act
That has no relish of salvation in't.—
Then trip him, that his heels may kick at heaven:
And that his soul may be as damn'd, and black,

¹ Caught.

² Purpose.

As hell, whereto it goes. My mother stays:
This physick but prolongs thy sickly days.

[Exit.]

The King rises and advances.

K. My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:
Words, without thoughts, never to heaven go.
[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Queen and Polonius.

Pol. He will come straight. Look, you lay
home to him: [with;
Tell him, his pranks have been too broad to bear
And that your grace hath screen'd and stood be-
tween
Much heat and him. I'll silence me e'en here.
Pray you, be round with him.

Queen. I'll warrant you;
Fear me not:—withdraw, I hear him coming.
[Polonius hides himself.]

Enter Hamlet.

Ham. Now, mother; what's the matter?
Queen. Hamlet, thou hast thy father much
offended.
H. Mother, you have my father much offended.
Queen. Come, come, you answer with an idle
tongue.
H. Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.
Queen. Why, how now, Hamlet?
Ham. What's the matter now?
Queen. Have you forgot me?
Ham. No, by the rood,¹ not so:
You are the queen, your husband's brother's
wife;
And,—would it were not so!—you are my mother.
Queen. Nay, then I'll set those to you that
can speak. [not budge;
Ham. Come, come, and sit you down; you shall
You go not, till I set you up a glass
Where you may see the inmost part of you.
Q. What wilt thou do? thou wilt not murder
Help, help, ho! [me?

Pol. [Behind.] What, ho! help!
Ham. How now! a rat? [Draws.
Dead, for a ducat, dead.

[Hamlet makes a pass through the Arras.
Pol. [Behind.] O, I am slain.
[Falls, and dies.]

Queen. O me, what hast thou done?
Ham. Nay, I know not:
Is it the king?

[Lifts up the Arras, and draws forth Polonius.
Queen. O, what a rash and bloody deed is this!
Ham. A bloody deed;—almost as bad, good
mother,

As kill a king, and marry to his brother.

Queen. As kill a king!
Ham. Ay, lady, 'twas my word.—
[To Polonius.] Thou wretched, rash, intruding
fool, farewell!

I took thee for thy better: take thy fortune:
Thou find'st, to be too busy, is some danger.—
Leave wringing of your hands: Peace; sit you
down,

And let me wring your heart: for so I shall,

¹ Cross.

If it be made of penetrable stuff;
If horrid custom have not braz'd it so,
That it be proof and bulwark against sense.

Queen. What have I done, that thou dar'st wag
thy tongue

In noise so rude against me?

Ham. Such an act,
That blurs the grace and blush of modesty;
Calls virtue, hypocrite; takes off the rose
From the fair forehead of an innocent love,
And sets a blister there; makes marriage vows
As false as dicers' oaths: O, such a deed
As from the body of contraction¹ plucks
The very soul; and sweet religion makes
A rhapsody of words: Heaven's face doth glow;
Yea, this solidity and compound mass,
With tristful² visage, as against the doom,
Is thought-sick at the act.

Queen. Ah me, what act,
That roars so loud, and thunders in the index³?

Ham. Look here, upon this picture, and on this;
The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.
See, what a grace was seated on this brow:
Hyperion's curls; the front of Jove himself;
An eye like Mars, to threaten and command;
A station like the herald Mercury,
New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill;
A combination, and a form, indeed,
Where every god did seem to set his seal,
To give the world assurance of a man: [follows:
This was your husband.—Look you now, what
Here is your husband; like a mildew'd ear,
Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you eyes?
Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,
And batten⁴ on this moor? Ha! have you eyes?
You cannot call it, love: for, at your age,
The hey-day in the blood is tame, it's humble,
And waits upon the judgment; And what judgment
[have,

Would step from this to this? Sense, sure, you
Else, could you not have motion: But, sure, that
Is applexed: for madness would not err; [sense
Nor sense to ecstasy⁵ was ne'er so thrall'd,
But it reserv'd some quantity of choice,
To serve in such a difference. What devil was't,
That thus hath cozen'd you at hoodman-blind⁶?
Eyes without feeling, feeling without sight,
Ears without hands or eyes, smelling sans⁷ all
Or but a sickly part of one true sense
Could not so mope.⁸
O shame! where is thy blush?

Queen. O Hamlet, speak no more:
Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul;
And there I see such black and grained spots,
As will not leave their tinct.

Ham. Nay, but to live
In an incestuous bed,—

Queen. O, speak to me no more;
These words, like daggers, enter in mine ears:
No more, sweet Hamlet.

Ham. A murderer, and a villain:
A slave, that is not twentieth part the tythe
Of your precedent lord:—a vice⁹ of kings:

A cutpurse of the empire and the rule;
That from a shelf the precious diadem stole,
And put it in his pocket!

Queen. No more.

Enter Ghost.

Ham. A king
Of shreds and patches:—
Save me, and hover o'er me with your wings,
You heavenly guards!—What would your gracious figure?

Queen. Alas, he's mad. [ious figure?
Ham. Do you not come your tardy son to chide,
That, laps'd in time and passion, lets go by
The important acting of your dread command;
O, say!

Ghost. Do not forget: This visitation
Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose.
But, look! amazement on thy mother sits:
O step between her and her fighting soul:
Conceit¹ in weakest bodies strongest works;
Speak to her, Hamlet.

Ham. How is it with you, lady?

Queen. Alas, how is't with you?
That you do bend your eye on vacancy,
And with the incorporal air do hold discourse?
Forth at your eyes your spirits wildly peep;
And, as the sleeping soldiers in the alarm,
Your bedded hair starts up. O gentle son,
Upon the heat and flame of thy distemper
Sprinkle cool patience. Whereon do you look?

Ham. On him! on him!—Look you, how pale
he glares! [stones,
His form and cause conjoin'd, preaching to
Would make them capable.²—Do not look upon
Lest with this piteous action, you convert [me;
My stern effects³: then what I have to do
Will want true colour; tears, perchance, for

Queen. To whom do you speak this? [blood.
Ham. Do you see nothing there?

Queen. Nothing at all; yet all, that is, I see.
Ham. Nor did you nothing hear?

Queen. No nothing, but ourselves.
H. Why, look you there! look, how it steals
My father, in his habit as he liv'd! [away!
Look, where he goes, even now, out at the portal!

[Exit Ghost.

Queen. This is the very coinage of your brain:
This bodiless creation ecstasy⁴
Is very cunning in.

Ham. Ecstasy!
My pulse, as yours, doth temperately keep time,
And makes as healthful music: It is not mad-
That I have utter'd: bring me to the test, [ness,
And I the matter will re-word; which madness
Would gambol from. Mother, for love of grace,
Lay not that flattering unction to your soul,
That not your trespass but my madness speaks:
It will but skin and film the ulcerous place;
Whiles rank corruption, mining all within,
Infects unseen. Confess yourself to heaven;
Repent what's past: avoid what is to come;
And do not spread the compost⁵ on the weeds,
To make them ranker. Forgive me this my
For in the fatness of these pursy times, [virtue:
Virtue itself of vices must pardon beg:
Yea, curb⁶ and woo, for leave to do him good.

1 Marriage contract. 6 Blindman's buff.
2 Sorrowful. 7 Without.
3 Index of contents. 8 Be so stupid.
4 Grow fat. 9 Mimick.
5 Frenzy.

1 Imagination. 3 Actions. 5 Manure.
2 Intelligent. 4 Frenzy. 6 Bend.

Q. O Hamlet! thou hast cleft my heart in twain.

Ham. O, throw away the worse part of it,
And live the purer with the other half.
Good night: but go not to my uncle's bed;
Assume a virtue, if you have it not.
That monster, custom, who all sense doth eat
Of habit's devil, is angel yet in this;
That to the use of actions fair and good
He likewise gives a frock, or livery,
That aptly is put on: Refrain to-night;
And that shall lend a kind of easiness
To the next abstinence: the next more easy:
For use almost can change the stamp of nature,
And either curb the devil, or throw him out
With wondrous potency. Once more good night!
And when you are desirous to be bless'd,
I'll blessing beg of you.—For this same lord,

[*Pointing to Polonius.*]

I do repent: But heaven hath pleas'd it so,—
To punish me with this, and this with me,
That I must be their scourge and minister.
I will bestow him, and will answer well
The death I gave him. So again good night!—
I must be cruel, only to be kind:
Thus bad begins, and worse remains behind.—
But one word more, good lady.

Queen. What shall I do?

Ham. Not this, by no means, that I bid you do:
Let the bloat king tempt you again to bed;
And let him for a pair of wanton kisses,
Make you to ravel all this matter out,
That I essentially am not in madness,
But mad in craft. 'Twere good, you let him know:
For who, that's but a queen, fair, sober, wise,
Would from a paddock,¹ from a bat, a gib,²
Such dear concernings hide? who would do so?
No, in despite of sense, and secrecy,
Unpeg the basket on the house's top,
Let the birds fly; and, like the famous ape,
To try conclusions,³ in the basket creep,
And break your own neck down.

Q. Bethou assur'd, if words be made of breath,
And breath of life, I have no life to breathe
What thou hast said to me.

Ham. I must to England; you know that?

Queen. Alack,

I had forgot; 'tis so concluded on.

Ham. There's letters seal'd: and my two
school-fellows,—

Whom I will trust, as I will adders fang'd,—
They bear the mandate; they must sweep my
way,

And marshal me to knavery: Let it work;
For 'tis the sport to have the engineer
Hoist with his own petard⁴: and it shall go hard,
But I will delve one yard below their mines,
And blow them at the moon: O, 'tis most sweet,
When in one line two crafts directly meet.—
This man shall set me packing.
I'll lug the body to the neighbour room:—
Mother, good night.—Indeed, this counsellor
Is now most still, most secret, and most grave,
Who was in life a foolish prating knave.
Come, sir, to draw toward an end with you:—
Mother, good night.

[*Exeunt severally; Hamlet dragging in Polonius.*]

1 Toad. 2 Cat. 3 Experiments. 4 Petard.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter King, Queen, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.

King. There's matter in these sighs; these
profound heaves;
You must translate: 'tis fit we understand them:
Where is your son?

Queen. Bestow this place on us a little while.—

[*To Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, who go out.*]

Ah, my good lord, what have I seen to-night!

King. What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet?

Queen. Mad as the sea, and wind, when both
contend

Which is the mightier: In his lawless fit,
Behind the arras hearing something stir,
Whips out his rapier, cries, *A rat! a rat!*
And, in this brainish apprehension, kills
The unseen good old man.

King. O heavy deed!

It had been so with us, had we been there:
His liberty is full of threats to all;
To you yourself, to us, to every one.
Alas! how shall this bloody deed be answer'd?
It will be laid to us, whose providence
Should have kept short, restrain'd, and out of
haunt,¹

This mad young man: but, so much was our love,
We would not understand what was most fit;
But, like the owner of a foul disease,
To keep it from divulging, let it feed
Even on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

Queen. To draw apart the body he hath kill'd;
O'er whom his very madness, like some ore,
Among a mineral² of metals base,
Shows itself pure; he weeps for what is done.

King. O, Gertrude, come away!

The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch,
But we will ship him hence: and this vile deed
We must, with all our majesty and skill,
Both countenance and excuse.—Ho! Guilden-
stern!

Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Friends both, go join with some further aid:
Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain,
And from his mother's closet hath he dragged
him:

Go seek him out: speak fair, and bring the body
Into the chapel. I pray you haste in this.

[*Exeunt Ros. and Guil.*]

Come, Gertrude, we'll call up our wisest friends:
And let them know both what we mean to do,
And what's untimely done: so, haply, slander,—
Whose whisper o'er the world's diameter,
As level as the cannon to his blank,³ {name,
Transports his poison'd shot,—may miss our
And hit the woundless air.—O come away!
My soul is full of discord, and dismay. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Hamlet.

Ham.—Safely stowed,—[*Ros. &c., within,*

1 Company. 2 Mine. 3 Mark.

Hamlet! lord Hamlet!/] But soft! what noise?
who calls on Hamlet? O, here they come.

Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Ros. What have you done, my lord, with the dead body?

H. Compounded it with dust, whereto 'tis kin.

Ros. Tell us where 'tis; that we may take it thence,

And bear it to the chapel.

Ham. Do not believe it.

Ros. Believe what?

Ham. That I can keep your counsel, and not mine own. Besides, to be demanded of a sponge—what replication should be made by the son of a king?

Ros. Take you me for a sponge, my lord?

H. Ay, sir; that soaks up the king's countenance, his rewards, his authorities. But such officers do the king best service in the end: He keeps them, like an ape, in the corner of his jaw; first mouthed, to be last swallowed: When he needs what you have gleaned, it is but squeezing you, and, sponge, you shall be dry again.

Ros. I understand you not, my lord.

Ham. I am glad of it: a knavish speech sleeps in a foolish ear.

Ros. My lord, you must tell us where the body is, and go with us to the king.

Ham. The body is with the king, but the king is not with the body. The king is a thing—

Guil. A thing, my lord?

Ham. Of nothing: bring me to him. Hide fox, and all after.¹ [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter King, attended.

King. I have sent to seek him, and to find the body.

How dangerous is it, that this man goes loose:
Yet must not we put the strong law on him:
He's lov'd of the distracted multitude,
Who like not in their judgment, but their eyes;
And, where 'tis so, the offender's scourge is weigh'd,

But never the offence. To bear all smooth and even,

This sudden sending him away must seem
Deliberate pause: Diseases, desperate grown,
By desperate appliance are relieved,

Enter Rosencrantz.

Or not at all.—How now? what hath befallen?

R. Where the dead body is bestow'd, my lord,
We cannot get from him.

King. But where is he?

Ros. Without, my lord; guarded, to know your pleasure.

King. Bring him before us.

Ros. Ho, Guildenstern? bring in my lord.

Enter Hamlet and Guildenstern.

King. Now, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

Ham. At supper.

King. At supper? Where?

Ham. Not where he eats, but where he is eaten: a certain convocation of politick worms

¹ A sport among children.

are e'en at him. Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we fat all creatures else, to fat us: and we fat ourselves for maggots: Your fat king, and your lean beggar, is but variable service; two dishes, but to one table; that's the end.

King. Alas, alas!

Ham. A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king; and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.

King. What dost thou mean by this?

Ham. Nothing, but to show you how a king may go a progress through the body of a beggar.

King. Where is Polonius?

Ham. In heaven; send thither to see: if your messenger find him not there, seek him i' the other place yourself. But, indeed, if you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby.

K. Go seek him there. [*To some Attendants.*]

Ham. He will stay till you come.

[*Exeunt Attendants.*]

K. Hamlet, this deed, for thine especial safety,—Which we do tender, as we dearly grieve [hence For that which thou hast done,—must send thee With fiery quickness: Therefore, prepare thy- The bark is ready, and the wind at help. [self; The associates tend, and every thing is bent For England.

Ham. For England?

King. Ay, Hamlet.

Ham. Good.

King. So is it, if thou knew'st our purposes.

Ham. I see a cherub, that sees them.—But come, for England!—Farewell, dear mother.

King. Thy loving father, Hamlet.

Ham. My mother: Father and mother is man and wife; man and wife is one flesh; and so, my mother. Come, for England!— [*Exit.*]

King. Follow him at foot: tempt him with speed aboard;

Delay it not, I'll have him hence to-night:

Away; for every thing is seal'd and done

That else leans on the affair: Pray you make haste. [*Exeunt Ros. and Guil.*]

And, England, if my love thou hold'st at aught, (As my great power thereof may give thee sense; Since yet thy cicatrice looks raw and red After the Danish sword, and thy free awe Pays homage to us,) thou may'st not coldly set¹ Our sovereign process; which imports at full, By letters conjuring to that effect, The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England; For like the hetic in my blood he rages, And thou must cure me: Till I know 'tis done, Howe'er my haps, my joys will ne'er begin. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—A PLAIN IN DENMARK.

Enter Fortinbras, and Forces, marching.

F. Go, captain, from me greet the Danish king; Tell him, that, by his licence, Fortinbras Craves the conveyance of a promised march Over his kingdom. You know the rendezvous. If that his majesty would aught with us, We shall express our duty in his eye,² And let him know so.

¹ Value.

² Presence.

Cap. I will do't, my lord.

For. Go softly on.

[*Exeunt Fortinbras and Forces.*]

Enter Hamlet, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern, &c.

Ham. Good sir, whose powers are these?

Cap. They are of Norway, sir.

Ham. How purpos'd, sir,

I pray you?

Cap. Against some part of Poland.

Ham. Who

Commands them, sir?

Cap. The nephew to old Norway, Fortinbras.

Ham. Goes it against the main of Poland, sir,
Or for some frontier?

Cap. Truly to speak, sir, and with no addition,
We go to gain a little patch of ground,
That hath in it no profit but the name.

To pay five ducats, five, I would not farm it;

Or will it yield to Norway, or the Pole,

A ranker rate, should it be sold in fee.

Ham. Why, then the Polack never will defend

Cap. Yes, 'tis already garrison'd. [it.]

Ham. Two thousand souls, and twenty thousand ducats,

Will not debate the question of this straw:

This is the imposthume of much wealth and peace;

That inward breaks, and shows no cause without

Why the man dies.—I humbly thank you, sir.

Cap. God be wi' you, sir. [*Exit Captain.*]

Ros. Will't please you go, my lord?

Ham. I will be with you straight. Go a little before. [*Exeunt Ros. and Guil.*]

How all occasions do inform against me,

And spur my dull revenge! What is a man,

If his chief good, and market of his time,

Be but to sleep, and feed? a beast, no more.

Sure, He, that made us with such large discourse,¹

Looking before, and after, gave us not

That capability and godlike reason

To fust² in us unus'd. Now, whether it be

Bestial oblivion, or some craven³ scruple

Of thinking too precisely on the event,—

A thought, which quarter'd, hath but one part wisdom,

And, ever, three parts coward,—I do not know

Why yet I live to say, *This thing's to do;*

Sith⁴ I have cause, and will, and strength, and means,

To do't. Examples, gross as earth, exhort me:

Witness this army of such mass, and charge,

Led by a delicate and tender prince:

Whose spirit, with divine ambition puff'd,

Makes mouths at the invisible event;

Exposing what is mortal, and unsure,

To all that fortune, death, and danger, dare,

Even for an egg-shell. Rightly to be great,

Is not to stir without great argument;

But greatly to find quarrel in a straw,

When honour's at the stake. How stand I then,

That have a father kill'd, a mother stain'd,

Excitements of my reason, and my blood,

And let all sleep? while, to my shame, I see

The imminent death of twenty thousand men,

That, for a fantasy, and trick of fame,

Go to their graves like beds; fight for a plot

1 Grasp of mind.

2 Grow mouldy.

3 Cowardly.

4 Since.

Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,
Which is not tomb enough, and continent
To hide the slain?—O, from this time forth
My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth!
[*Exit.*]

SCENE V.

EL SINORE. A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Queen and Horatio.

Queen.—I will not speak with her.

Hor. She is importunate; indeed, distract;
Her mood will needs be pitied.

Queen. What would she have?

Hor. She speaks much of her father; says,
she hears,

There's tricks i' the world; and hems, and beats
her heart;

Spurns enviously at straws: speaks things in
doubt,

That carry but half sense: her speech is nothing,
Yet the unshaped use of it doth move

The hearers to collection: they aim at it,

And botch¹ the words up fit to their own thoughts;
Which, as her winks, and nods, and gestures

yield them,
Indeed would make one think, there might be

thought,
Though nothing sure, yet much unhappily.

Queen. 'Twere good she were spoken with; for
she may strew

Dangerous conjectures in ill-breeding minds:

Let her come in. [*Exit Horatio.*]

To my sick soul, as sin's true nature is,

Each toy seems prologue to some great amiss:

So full of artless jealousy is guilt,

It spills itself in fearing to be spilt.

Re-enter Horatio, with Ophelia.

Oph. Where is the beauteous majesty of Den-

Queen. How now, Ophelia? [mark?]

Oph. How should I your true love know

From another one?

By his cockle hat and staff,

And his sandal shoon.² [*Singing.*]

Queen. Alas, sweet lady, what imports this song?

Oph. Say you? nay, pray you, mark.

He is dead and gone, lady. [*Sings.*]

He is dead and gone:

At his head a grass-green turf,

At his heels a stone.

O, ho!

Queen. Nay, but Ophelia,—

Oph. Pray, you mark.

White his shroud as the mountain snow,

[*Sings.*]

Enter King.

Queen. Alas, look here, my lord.

Oph. Larded oil with sweet flowers;

Which bewept to the grave did go,

With true-love showers.

King. How do you, pretty lady?

Oph. Well! they say the owl was a baker's

1 Patch.

2 Shoes.

daughter. We know what we are, but know not what we may be.

King. Conceit upon her father.

Oph. Pray, let us have no words of this; but when they ask you, what it means, say you this:

*Good morrow, 'tis Saint Valentine's day,
All in the morning betime,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine.*

King. How long hath she been thus?

Oph. I hope, all will be well. We must be patient: but I cannot choose but weep, to think, they should lay him i' the cold ground: My brother shall know of it, and so I thank you for your good counsel. Come, my coach! Good night, ladies; good night, sweet ladies: good night, good night. *[Exit.]*

King. Follow her close; give her good watch, I pray you. *[Exit Horatio.]*

O, this is the poison of deep grief; it springs All from her father's death: And now behold, O Gertrude, Gertrude, When sorrows come, they come not single spies, But in battalions! First, her father slain; Next, your son gone; and he most violent author Of his own just remove: The people muddled, Thick and unwholesome in their thoughts and whispers, For good Polonius' death; and we have done but greenly,

In hugger-mugger¹ to inter him: Poor Ophelia Divided from herself, and her fair judgment; Without the which we are pictures, or mere beasts. Last, and as much containing as all these, Her brother is in secret come from France: Feeds on his wonder, keeps himself in clouds, And wants not buzzers to infect his ear With pestilent speeches of his father's death; Wherein necessity, of matter beggar'd, Will nothing stick our person to arraign In ear and ear. O my dear Gertrude, this, Like to a murdering piece, in many places Gives me superfluous death! *[A Noise within.]*

Queen. Alack! what news is this?

Enter a Gentleman.

King. Attend.

Where are my Switzers? Let them guard the door: What is the matter?

Gent. Save yourself, my lord; *K* The ocean, overpeering of his list,² Eats not the flats with more impetuous haste, Than young Laertes, in a riotous head, O'erbears your officers! The rabble call him lord; And, as the world were now but to begin, Antiquity forgot, custom not known, The ratifiers and props of every word, They cry, *Choose we; Laertes shall be king!* Caps, hands, and tongues, applaud it to the Laertes shall be king, Laertes king! *[clouds,]*

Q. How cheerfully on the false trail³ they cry! O, this is counter,⁴ you false Danish dogs.

King. The doors are broke. *[Noise within.]*

Enter Laertes, armed; Danes following.

Laer. Where is this king?—Sirs, stand you all without.

Dan. No, let's come in.

Laer. I pray you, give me leave.

Dan. We will, we will.

[They retire without the door.]

Laer. I thank you:—keep the door. O thou vile king, Give me my father.

Queen. Calmly, good Laertes.

Laer. That drop of blood, that's calm, proclaims me bastard.

King. What is the cause, Laertes, That thy rebellion looks so giant-like?— Let him go, Gertrude; do not fear our person: There's such divinity doth hedge a king, That treason can but peep to what it would, Acts little of his will.—Tell me, Laertes, Why thou art thus incens'd;—Let him go, Gertrude;—*[trude;—]*

Laer. Where is my father?

King. Dead.

Queen. But not by him.

King. Let him demand his fill. *[with;]*

Laer. How came he dead? I'll not be juggled To hell, allegiance! vows, to the blackest devil! Conscience, and grace, to the profoundest pit! I dare damnation: To this point I stand— That both the worlds I give to negligence, Let come what comes; only I'll be reveng'd Most thoroughly for my father.

King. Who shall stay you?

Laer. My will; not all the world's:

Laer. For my means, I'll husband them so well, They shall go far with little.

King. Good Laertes,

If you desire to know the certainty Of your dear father's death, is't writ in your revenge,

That, sweepstake, you will draw both friend and Winner and loser? *[foe,]*

Laer. None but his enemies.

King. Will you know him then?

Laer. To his good friends thus wide I'll ope my arms;

And, like the kind life-rend'ring pelican, Repast them with my blood.

King. Why, now you speak

Like a good child and a true gentleman. That I am guiltless of your father's death, And am most sensibly in grief for it, It shall as level to your judgment 'pear, As day does to your eye.

Danes. *[Within.]* Let her come in.

Laer. How now! what noise is that?

Enter Ophelia, fantastically dressed with Straws and Flowers.

O heat, dry up my brains! tears seven times salt, Burn out the sense and virtue of mine eye!— By heaven, thy madness shall be paid with weight,

Till our scale turn the beam. O rose of May!

Dear maid, kind sister, sweet Ophelia!

O heavens! is't possible, a young maid's wits

Should be as mortal as an old man's life?

Nature is fine¹ in love: and, where 'tis fine,

It sends some precious instance of itself

After the thing it loves.

¹ Secretly. ³ Scent.

² Bounds. ⁴ Tracing the scent backwards.

¹ Ennobled.

Oph. They bore him barefac'd on the bier;
 Hey no nonny, nonny hey nonny:
 And in his grave rain'd many a tear;—

Fare you well, my dove!

Laer. Hadst thou thy wits, and didst persuade revenge,
 It could not move thus.

Oph. You must sing, *Down-a-down, an you call him a-down-a.* O, how the wheel¹ becomes it! It is the false steward, that stole his master's daughter.

Laer. This nothing's more than matter.

Oph. There's the rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray you, love, remember; and there is pansies, that's for thoughts.

Laer. A document in madness; thoughts and remembrance fitted.

Oph. There's fennel for you, and columbines:—there's rue for you; and here's some for me:—we may call it, herb of grace o' Sundays:—you may wear your rue with a difference.²—There's a daisy:—I would give you some violets; but they withered all, when my father died:—They say, he made a good end,——

For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy,——
[Sings.]

L. Thought and affliction, passion, hell itself,
 She turns to favour, and to prettiness.

Oph. And will he not come again? *[Sings.]*
And will he not come again?

No, no, he is dead,
 Go to thy death-bed,
 He never will come again.

*His beard was as white as snow,
 All flaxen was his poll:*

*He is gone, he is gone,
 And we cast away moan;
 Gramercy on his soul!*

And of all Christian souls! Adieu.

[Exit Ophelia.]

Laer. Do you see this, O Heaven?

K. Laertes, I must commune with your grief,
 Or you deny me right. Go but apart, [will,
 Make choice of whom your wisest friends you
 And they shall hear and judge 'twixt you and
 If by direct or by collateral hand [me:
 They find us touch'd, we will our kingdom give,
 Our crown, our life, and all that we call ours,
 To you in satisfaction; but, if not,
 Be you content to lend your patience to us,
 And we shall jointly labour with your soul
 To give it due content.

Laer. Let this be so;
 His means of death, his obscure funeral,—
 No trophy, sword, nor hatchment, o'er his bones,
 No noble rite, nor formal ostentation,—
 Cry to be heard, as 'twere from heaven to earth,
 That I must call't in question.

King. So you shall,
 And where the offence is, let the great axe fall.
 I pray you, go with me. *[Exeunt.]*

¹ The burthen (of the song).

² A play upon rue, the plant herb of grace, and also meaning sorrow.

SCENE VI.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Horatio, and a Servant.

Hor. What are they, that would speak with me?
Serv. Sailors, sir;

They say, they have letters for you.

Hor. Let them come in:—

[Exit Servant.]

I do not know from what part of the world
 I should be greeted, if not from lord Hamlet.

Enter Sailors.

1 Sail. God bless you, sir.

Hor. Let him bless thee too.

1 Sail. He shall, sir, an't please him. There's a letter for you, sir; it comes from the ambassador that was bound for England; if your name be Horatio, as I am let to know it is.

Hor. *[Reads.]* Horatio, when thou shalt have overlooked this, give these fellows some means to the king; they have letters for him. Ere we were two days old at sea, a pirate of very warlike appointment gave us chase: finding ourselves too slow of sail, we put on compelled valour: and in the grapple, I boarded them: on the instant they got clear of our ship; so I alone became their prisoner. They have dealt with me like thieves of mercy; but they knew what they did; I am to do a good turn for them. Let the king have the letters I have sent; and repair thou to me with as much haste as thou wouldst fly death. I have words to speak in thine ear will make thee dumb; yet are they much too light for the bore¹ of the matter. These good fellows will bring thee where I am. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their course for England; of them I have much to tell thee. Farewell.

He that thou knowest thine, HAMLET.

Come, I will give you way for these your letters; And don't the speedier, that you may direct me To him from whom you brought them.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter King and Laertes.

K. Now must your conscience my acquittance
 seal,

And you must put me in your heart for friend;
 Sith² you have heard, and with a knowing ear,
 That he, which hath your noble father slain,
 Pursu'd my life.

Laer. It well appears:—But tell me,
 Why you proceeded not against these feats,
 So crimeful and so capital in nature,
 As by your safety, greatness, wisdom, all things
 You mainly were stirr'd up. *[Else,*

King. O, for two special reasons:
 Which may to you, perhaps, seem much unsinew'd, *[mother,*
 But yet to me they are strong. The queen, his
 Lives almost by his looks; and for myself,
(My virtue, or my plague, be it either which,)

¹ Calibre.

² Since.

She is so conjunctive to my life and soul,
That, as the star moves not but in his sphere,
I could not but by her. • The other motive,
Why to a public count I might not go,
Is, the great love the general gender¹ bear him;
Who, dipping all his faults in their affection,
Work like the spring that turneth wood to stone,
Convert his gyves² to graces; so that my arrows,
Too slightly timber'd for so loud a wind,
Would have reverted to my bow again,
And not where I had aim'd them.

Laer. And so have I a noble father lost;
A sister driven into desperate terms;
Whose worth, if praises may go back again,
Stood challenger on mount of all the age
For her perfections:—But my revenge will come.

King. Break not your sleeps for that: you
must not think,

That we are made of stuff so flat and dull,
That we can let our beard be shook with danger,
And think it pastime. You shortly shall hear
I loved your father, and we love ourselves; [more:
And that, I hope, will teach you to imagine,—
How now? what news?

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Letters, my lord, from Hamlet:
This to your majesty; this to the queen.

King. From Hamlet? who brought them?

M. Sailors, my lord, they say: I saw them not;
They were given me by Claudio, he receiv'd them
Of him that brought them.

King. Laertes, you shall hear them:—
Leave us. [*Exit Messenger.*]

[*Reads.*] *High and mighty, you shall know,
I am set naked on your kingdom. To-morrow,
shall I beg leave to see your kingly eyes; when
I shall, first asking your pardon thereunto, re-
count the occasion of my sudden and more
strange return.* HAMLET.

What should this mean! Are all the rest come
Or is it some abuse, and no such thing? [back?

Laer. Know you the hand?

King. 'Tis Hamlet's character. *Naked*,—
And, in a postscript here, he says, *alone*:
Can you advise me?

L. I am lost in it, my lord. But let him come;
It warms the very sickness in my heart,
That I shall live and tell him to his teeth,
Thus diddest thou.

King. If it be so, Laertes,
As how should it be so? how otherwise?—
Will you be rul'd by me?

Laer. Ay, my lord;
So you will not o'er-rule me to a peace.

K. To thine own peace. If he be now return'd,—
As checking³ at his voyage, and that he means
No more to undertake it,—I will work him
To an exploit, now ripe in my device,
Under the which he shall not choose but fall:
And for his death no wind of blame shall breathe;
But even his mother shall uncharge the practice,
And call it, accident.

Laer. My lord, I will be rul'd;
The rather, if you could advise it so,
That I might be the organ.

1 Common people. 2 Chains. 3 Objecting to.

King. It falls right.

You have been talk'd of since your travel much,
And that in Hamlet's hearing, for a quality
Wherein, they say, you shine: your sum of parts
Did not together pluck such envy from him,
As did that one; and that, in my regard,
Of the unworthiest siege.¹

Laer. What part is that, my lord?

King. A very riband in the cap of youth,
Yet needful too; for youth no less becomes
The light and careless livery that it wears,
Than settled age his sables, and his weeds,
Importing health and graveness.—Two months
Here was a gentleman of Normandy,— [since,
I have seen myself, and serv'd against, the French,
And they can well on horseback: but this gallant
Had witchcraft in't; he grew unto his seat;
And to such wondrous doing brought his horse,
As he had been incorp'd and demi-natur'd
With the brave beast: so far he topp'd my
thought,

That I, in forgery of shapes and tricks,
Come short of what he did.

Laer. A Norman, was't?

King. A Norman.

Laer. Upon my life, Lamord.

King. The very same.

Laer. I know him well: he is the brooch² indeed,
And gem of all the nation.

King. He made confession of you;
And gave you such a masterly report,
For art and exercise in your defence,
And for your rapier most especial,
That he cried out, 'twould be a sight indeed,
If one could match you: the scrimers³ of their
nation,

He swore, had neither motion, guard, nor eye,
If you oppos'd them: Sir, this report of his
Did Hamlet so envenom with his envy,
That he could nothing do, but wish and beg
Your sudden coming o'er, to play with you.
Now, out of this,—

Laer. What out of this, my lord?

King. Laertes, was your father dear to you?
Or are you like the painting of a sorrow,
A face without a heart?

Laer. Why ask you this?

K. Not that I think, you did not love your father;
But that I know, love is begun by time;
And that I see, in passages of proof,⁴
Time qualifies the spark and fire of it.
There lives within the very flame of love
A kind of wick, or snuff, that will abate it;
And nothing is at a like goodness still;
For goodness, growing to a pleurisy,
Dies in his own too-much: That we would do,
We should do when we would; for this *would*
changes,

And hath abatements and delays as many,
As there are tongues, are hands, are accidents;
And then this *should* is like a spendthrift sigh,
That hurts by easing. But, to the quick o' the ulcer:
Hamlet comes back; What would you undertake,
To show yourself in deed your father's son
More than in words?

Laer. To cut his throat i' the church.

1 Seat.
2 Ornament.

3 Fencers.
4 Daily experience.

K. No place, indeed, should murder sanctuarize;
 Revenge should have no bounds. But, good Laertes, [ber?]
 Will you do this, keep close within your chamber—Hamlet, return'd, shall know you are come home: We'll put on those shall praise your excellence, And set a double varnish on the fame The Frenchman gave you; bring you, in fine, together,
 And wager o'er your heads: he, being remiss, Most generous, and free from all contriving, Will not peruse the foils; so that, with ease, Or with a little shuffling, you may choose A sword unbated,¹ and, in a pass of practice, Requite him for your father.

Laer. I will do't:
 And, for the purpose, I'll anoint my sword.
 I bought an unction of a mountebank,
 So mortal, that but dip a knife in it,
 Where it draws blood no cataplasm² so rare,
 Collected from all simples that have virtue
 Under the moon, can save the thing from death,
 That is but scratch'd withal: I'll touch my point
 With this contagion; that, if I gall him slightly,
 It may be death.

King. Let's further think of this;
 Weigh, what convenience, both of time and means,
 May fit us to our shape: if this should fail, [ance,
 And that our drift look through our bad perform-
 'Twere better not essay'd: therefore this project
 Should have a back, or second, that might hold,
 If this should blast in proof.³ Soft:—let me see:
 We'll make a solemn wager on your cunnings,⁴—
 I ha't:

When in your motion you are hot and dry,
 (As make your bouts more violent to that end),
 And that he calls for drink, I'll have preffer'd
 him
 A chalice for the nonce⁵; whereon but sipping,
 If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck,⁶
 Our purpose may hold there. But stay, what
 noise?

Enter Queen.

How now, sweet queen?

Q. One woe doth tread upon another's heel,
 So fast they follow:—Your sister's drown'd,
 Laer. Drown'd! O, where? [Laertes.

Q. There is a willow grows ascaunt⁷ the brook,
 That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream;
 There with fantastick garlands did she make
 Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples,
 And on the pendent boughs her coronet weeds
 Clambering to hang, an envious sliver broke;
 When down her weedy trophies, and herself,
 Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread
 wide;

And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up:
 Which time she chanted snatches of old tunes;
 As one incapable⁸ of her own distress,
 Or like a creature native and indu'd
 Unto that element: but long it could not be,
 Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,

Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay
 To muddy death.

Laer. Alas, then, she is drown'd?

Queen. Drown'd, drown'd.

L. Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia,
 And therefore I forbid my tears: But yet
 It is our trick; nature her custom holds,
 Let shamesay what it will: when these are gone,
 The woman will be out.—Adieu, my lord!
 I have a speech of fire, that fain would blaze,
 But that this folly drowns it. [Exit.

King. Let's follow, Gertrude:
 How much I had to do to calm his rage!
 Now fear I, this will give it start again;
 Therefore, let's follow. [Exeunt.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A CHURCH YARD.

Enter two Clowns, with Spades, &c.

1 Clo. Is she to be buried in Christian burial,
 that wilfully seeks her own salvation?

2 Clo. I tell thee, she is; therefore make her
 grave straight¹: the crowner hath set on her,
 and finds it Christian burial.

1 Clo. How can that be, unless she drowned
 herself in her own defence?

2 Clo. Why, 'tis found so.

1 Clo. It must be *se offendendo*; it cannot be
 else. For here lies the point: If I drown my-
 self wittingly, it argues an act: and an act hath
 three branches; it is, to act, to do, and to per-
 form: Argal, she drowned herself wittingly.

2 Clo. Nay, but hear you, goodman delver.

1 C. Give me leave. Here lies the water; good:
 here stands the man; good: If the man go to
 this water, and drown himself, it is, will he, nill
 he, he goes; mark you that: but if the water
 come to him, and drown him, he drowns not
 himself: Argal, he, that is not guilty of his own
 death, shortens not his own life.

2 Clo. But is this law?

1 Clo. Ay, marry is't; crowner's quest law.

2 Clo. Will you ha' the truth on't? If this
 had not been a gentlewoman, she should have
 been buried out of Christian burial.

1 Clo. Why, there thou say'st: And the more
 pity; that great folks shall have countenance in
 this world to drown or hang themselves, more
 than their even² Christian. Come, my spade.
 There is no ancient gentlemen but gardeners,
 ditchers, and grave-makers; they hold up
 Adam's profession.

2 Clo. Was he a gentleman?

1 Clo. He was the first that ever bore arms.

2 Clo. Why, he had none.

1 Clo. What, art a heathen? How dost thou
 understand the Scripture? The Scripture says,
 Adam digg'd: Could he dig without arms? I'll
 put another question to thee: if thou answerest
 me not to the purpose, confess thyself—

2 Clo. Go to.

1 C. What is he, that builds stronger than either
 the mason, the shipwright, or the carpenter?

1 Immediately.

2 Equal.

3 G

1 Not blunted.

5 A cup for the purpose.

2 Poutlice.

6 Thrust.

3 In proving.

7 Across.

4 Skill.

8 Insensible.

2 *Clo.* The gallows-maker; for that frame outlives a thousand tenants.

1 *Clo.* I like thy wit well, in good faith; the gallows does well: but how does it well? it does well to those that do ill: now thou dost ill, to say, the gallows is built stronger than the church; argal, the gallows may do well to thee. To 't again; come.

2 *Clo.* Who builds stronger than a mason, a shipwright, or a carpenter?

1 *Clo.* Ay, tell me that, and unyoke.¹

2 *Clo.* Marry, now I can tell.

1 *Clo.* To 't.

2 *Clo.* Mass, I cannot tell.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio at a distance.

1 *Clo.* Cudgel thy brains no more about it; for your dull ass will not mend his pace with beating; and, when you are asked this question next, say, a grave-maker; the houses that he makes, last till doomsday. Go, get thee to Vaughan and fetch me a stoup of liquor. [*Exit 2 Clown.*]

1 *Clown digs, and sings.*

*In youth, when I did love, did love,
Methought, it was very sweet,
To contract, O, the time, for, ah, my beloved
O, methought, there was nothing meet.*

H. Has this fellow no feeling of his business? he sings at grave-making.

Hor. Custom hath made it in him a property of easiness.

Ham. 'Tis e'en so: the hand of little employment hath the daintier sense.

1 *Clo.* But age, with his stealing steps,
Hath clau'd me in his clutch,
And hath shipped me into the land,
As if I had never been such.

[*Throws up a Skull.*]

H. That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once: How the knave jowls it to the ground, as if it were Cain's jaw-bone, that did the first murder! This might be the pate of a politician, which this ass now o'er-reaches; one that would circumvent any body, might it not?

Hor. It might, my lord.

H. Or of a courtier; which could say, *Good morrow, sweet lord! How dost thou, good lord?* This might be my lord Such-a-one, that praised my lord Such-a-one's horse, when he meant to beg it, might it not?

Hor. Ay, my lord.

H. Why, e'en so: and now my lady Worm's; chapless, and knocked about the mazzard² with a sexton's spade: Here's fine revolution, an we had the trick to see 't. Did these bones cost no more the breeding, but to play at loggats³ with them? mine ache to think on 't.

1 *Clo.* A pick-axe, and a spade, a spade, [*Sings.*]

For—and a shrouding sheet:

O, a pit of clay for to be made

For such a guest is meet.

[*Throws up a Skull.*]

1 Give over.

2 Jaw.

2 A game played with pins thrown to a mark.

H. There's another: Why may not that be the skull of a lawyer? Where be his quiddits¹ now, his quilllets,² his cases, his tenures, and his tricks? why does he suffer this rude knave now to knock him about the sconce with a dirty shovel, and will not tell him of his action of battery? Humph! This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognizances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries: Is this the fine of his fines, and the recovery of his recoveries, to have his fine pate full of fine dirt? will his vouchers vouch him no more of his purchases, and double ones too, than the length and breadth of a pair of indentures? The very conveyances of his land will hardly lie in this box; and must the inheritor himself have no more? ha?

Hor. Not a jot more, my lord.

Ham. Is not parchment made of sheep-skins?

Hor. Ay, my lord, and of calves' skins too.

Ham. They are sheep, and calves, which seek out assurance in that. I will speak to this fellow:—Whose grave's this, sirrah?

1 *Clo.* Mine, sir.—

O, a pit of clay for to be made [*Sings.*]
For such a guest is meet.

Ham. I think it be thine, indeed; for thou liest in 't.

1 *Clo.* You lie out on't, sir, and therefore it is not yours: for my part, I do not lie in't, yet it is mine.

Ham. Thou dost lie in't, to be in't, and say it is thine: 'tis for the dead, not for the quick; therefore thou liest.

1 *Clo.* 'Tis a quick lie, sir; 'twill away again from me to you.

Ham. What man dost thou dig it for?

1 *Clo.* For no man, sir.

Ham. What woman then?

1 *Clo.* For none neither.

Ham. Who is to be buried in't?

1 *Clo.* One, that was a woman, sir; but, rest her soul, she's dead.

Ham. How absolute the knave is! we must speak by the card,³ or equivocation will undo us. By Heaven, Horatio, these three years I have taken note of it; the age is grown so picked,⁴ that the toe of the peasant comes so near the heel of the courtier, he galls his kibe.⁵—How long hast thou been a grave-maker?

1 *Clo.* Of all the days i' the year, I came to't that day that our last king Hamlet overcame Fortinbras.

Ham. How long's that since?

1 *Clo.* Cannot you tell that? every fool can tell that: It was that very day that young Hamlet was born: he that is mad, and sent into England. [*Land?*]

Ham. Ay, marry, why was he sent into Eng-

1 *Clo.* Why, because he was mad: he shall recover his wits there; or, if he do not, 'tis no great matter there.

Ham. Why?

1 *Clo.* 'Twill not be seen in him there; there the men are as mad as he.

1 Subtleties.

2 Frivolous distinctions.

3 Carefully.

4 Smart.

5 Chap.

Ham. How came he mad?

1 *Clo.* Very strangely, they say.

Ham. How strangely?

1 *Clo.* Faith, e'en with losing his wits.

Ham. Upon what ground?

1 *Clo.* Why, here in Denmark; I have been sexton here, man and boy, thirty years.

Ham. How long will a man lie i' the earth ere he rot?

1 *Clo.* If he be not rotten before he die, (as we have many now-a-days, that will scarce hold the laying in,) he will last you some eight year or nine year: a tanner will last you nine year.

Ham. Will he more than another?

1 *Clo.* Why, sir, his hide is so tanned with his trade, that he will keep out water a great while; and water is a sore decayer of your dead body. Here's a skull now hath lain you i' the earth three-and-twenty years.

Ham. Whose was it?

1 *Clo.* A mad fellow's it was; Whose do you think it was?

Ham. Nay, I know not.

1 *Clo.* A pestilence on him for a mad rogue! He poured a flagon of Rhenish on my head once. This same skull, sir, was Yorick's skull, the king's jester.

Ham. This?

[*Takes the Skull.*]

1 *Clo.* E'en that.

Ham. Alas! poor Yorick!—I knew him, Horatio; a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy: he hath borne me on his back a thousand times; and now how abhorred in my imagination it is! my gorge rises at it. Here hung those lips, that I have kissed I know not how oft. Where be your gibes now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roar? not one now, to mock your own grinning? quite chap-fallen? Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this favour! she must come: make her laugh at that.—Prythee, Horatio, tell me one thing.

Hor. What's that, my lord?

Ham. Dost thou think, Alexander looked o' this fashion i' the earth?

Hor. E'en so.

Ham. And smelt so? pah!

[*Throws down the Skull.*]

Hor. E'en so, my lord.

Ham. To what base uses we may return, Horatio! Why may not imagination trace the noble dust of Alexander, till he find it stopping a bung-hole?

Hor. 'Twere to consider too curiously, to consider so.

Ham. No, faith, not a jot: but to follow him thither with modesty enough, and likelihood to lead it: As thus; Alexander died, Alexander was buried, Alexander returneth to dust; the dust is earth; of earth we make loam: And why of that loam, whereto he was converted, might they not stop a beer-barrel?

Imperious² Cæsar, dead, and turn'd to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away:

O, that the earth, which kept the world in awe,
Should patch a wall to expell the winter's flaw³!

But soft! but soft! aside:—Here comes the king.
Enter Priests, &c. in Procession; the Corpse of Ophelia, Laertes, and Mourners following; King, Queen, their Trains, &c.

The queen, the courtiers: Who is this they follow?
And with such maimed rites! This doth betoken,
The corse, they follow, did with desperate hand
Fordo¹ its own life. 'Twas of some estate:
Couch we a while, and mark.

[*Retiring with Horatio.*]

Laer. What ceremony else?

Ham. That is Laertes,

A very noble youth: Mark.

Laer. What ceremony else?

1 *Priest.* Her obsequies have been as far enlarg'd
As we have warranty: Her death was doubtful;
And, but that great command^oers ways the order,
She should in ground unsanctified have lodg'd
Till the last trumpet; for charitable prayers,
Shards,² flints, and pebbles, should be thrown
on her,

Yet here she is allow'd her virgin crants,³
Her maiden strewments, and the bringing home
Of bell and burial.

Laer. Must there no more be done?

1 *Priest.* No more be done!

We should profane the service of the dead,
To sing a requiem, and such rest to her
As to peace-parted souls.

Laer. Lay her i' the earth;—

And from her fair and unpolluted flesh,
May violets spring!—I tell thee, churlish priest,
A minist'ring angel shall my sister be,
When thou liest howling.

Ham. What, the fair Ophelia!

Queen. Sweets to the sweet: Farewell!

[*Scattering Flowers.*]

I hop'd, thou shouldst have been my Hamlet's
wife;

I thought, thy bride-bed to have deck'd, sweet
And not have strew'd thy grave.

Laer. O treble woe

Fall ten times treble on that curs'd head,
Whose wicked deed thy most ingenious sense
Depriv'd thee of!—Hold off the earth a while,
Till I have caught her once more in mine arms:

[*Leaps into the Grave.*]

Now pile your dust upon the quick⁴ and dead;
Till of this flat a mountain you have made
To o'ertop old Pelion, or the skyish head
Of blue Olympus.

Ham. [*Advancing.*] What is he, whose grief
Bears such an emphasis? whose phrase of sorrow
Conjures the wand'ring stars, and makes them
stand

Like wonder-wounded hearers? this is I,

Hamlet the Dane. [*Leaps into the Grave.*]

Laer. The devil take thy soul!

[*Grappling with him.*]

Ham. Thou pray'st not well.

I pry'thee, take thy fingers from my throat;
For, though I am not splenetic and rash,
Yet have I in me something dangerous,
Which let thy wisdom fear: hold off thy hand.
King. Pluck them asunder.

Queen. Hamlet, Hamlet!

All. Gentlemen,—

1 Complexion.

2 Imperial.

3 Blast.

1 Undo. 2 Broken tiles. 3 Garlanda. 4 Living.

Hor. Good my lord, be quiet.
[The Attendants part them, and they come out of the Grave.]

H. Why, I will fight with him upon this theme,
 Until my eyelids will no longer wag.

Queen. O my son! what theme?

Ham. I lov'd Ophelia: forty thousand brothers
 Could not, with all their quantity of love,
 Make up my sum.—What wilt thou do for her?

King. O, he is mad, Laertes.

Queen. For love of Heaven, forbear him.

Ham. Show me what thou'lt do:

Woul't weep? woul't fight? woul't fast? woul't
 tear thyself?

Woul't drink up Esil¹? eat a crocodile?

I'll do't.—Dost thou come here to whine?

To outface me with leaping in her grave?

Be buried quick with her, and so will I:

And, if thou prate of mountains, let them throw
 Millions of acres on us; till our ground,
 Singeing his pate against the burning zone,
 Make Ossa like a wart! Nay, an thou'lt mouth,
 I'll rant as well as thou.

Queen. This is mere madness;
 And thus a while the fit will work on him;

Anon, as patient as the female dove,

When that her golden couplets are disclosed,²

His silence will sit drooping.

Ham. Hear you, sir,
 What is the reason that you use me thus?

I lov'd you ever: But it is no matter;

Let Hercules himself do what he may,

The cat will mew, and dog will have his day.

[Exit.]

King. I pray thee, good Horatio, wait upon
 him.— *[Exit Horatio.]*

[To Laertes.] Strengthen your patience in our
 last night's speech;

We'll put the matter to the present push.—

Good Gertrude, set some watch over your son.—

This grave shall have a living monument:

An hour of quiet shortly shall we see;

Till then, in patience our proceeding be. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II.—A HALL IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio.

Ham. So much for this, sir: now, shall you
 see the other;—

You do remember all the circumstance?

Hor. Remember it, my lord!

Ha. Sir, in my heart there was a kind of fighting,
 That would not let me sleep: methought, I lay
 Worse than the mutines³ in the bilboes.⁴ Rashly,
 And prais'd be rashness for it,—Let us know,
 Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well,
 When our deep plots do pall⁵; and that should
 teach us,

There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
 Rough-hew them how we will.

Hor. That is most certain.

Ham. Up from my cabin,
 My sea-gown scarf'd about me, in the dark
 Grop'd I to find out them: had my desire;
 Finger'd their packet: and, in fine, withdrew

To mine own room again: making so bold,
 My fears forgetting manners, to unseal
 Their grand commission; where I found, Horatio,
 A royal knavery; an exact command,—
 Larded with many several sorts of reasons,
 Importing Denmark's health, and England's too,
 With, ho! such bugs¹ and goblins in my life,
 That, on the supervise, no leisure bated,
 No, not to stay the grinding of the axe,
 My head should be struck off.

Hor. Is't possible?

Ham. Here's the commission; read it at more
 leisure.

But wilt thou hear now how I did proceed?

Hor. Ay, beseech you.

Ham. Being thus benetted round with villanies,
 Or² I could make a prologue to my brains,
 They had begun the play;—I sat me down;
 Devis'd a new commission; wrote it fair:
 I once did hold it, as our statist³ do,
 A baseness to write fair, and labour'd much
 How to forget that learning; but, sir, now
 It did me yeoman's service: Wilt thou know
 The effect of what I wrote?

Hor. Ay, good my lord.

Ham. An earnest conjuration from the king,—
 As England was his faithful tributary; [ish;
 As love between them like the palm might flourish;
 As peace should still her wheaten garland wear,
 And stand a comma⁴ 'tween their amities;
 And many such like as of great charge,—
 That, on the view and knowing of these contents,
 Without debatement further, more, or less,
 He should the bearers put to sudden death,
 Not shriving⁵ time allowed.

Hor. How was this seal'd?

Ham. Why, even in that was heaven ordinant;
 I had my father's signet in my purse,
 Which was the model of that Danish seal:
 Folded the writ up in form of the other;
 Subscrib'd it; gave't the impression; plac'd it
 safely,

The changeling never known: Now the next day
 Was our sea-fight; and what to this was sequent
 Thou know'st already.

Hor. So Guildenstern and Rosencrantz go to't.

Ham. Why man, they did make love to this
 employment;

They are not near my conscience; their defeat
 Does by their own insinuation grow:

'Tis dangerous, when the baser nature comes
 Between the pass and fell incensed points
 Of mighty opposites.

Hor. Why, what a king is this!

Ham. Does it not, think thee, stand me now
 upon?

He that hath kill'd my king, seduc'd my mother;
 Popp'd in between the election and my hopes;
 Thrown out his angle for my proper life, [ence,
 And with such cozenage; is't not perfect consci-
 To quit him with this arm? and is't not to be
 To let this canker of our nature come [curs'd,
 In further evil?

Hor. It must be shortly known to him from
 England,

What is the issue of the business there.

¹ Supposed to be River Yail.

⁴ Fetters.

² Hatched.

⁵ Fail.

³ Mutineers.

¹ Bugbears.

³ Statesmen.

⁵ Confessing.

² Before.

⁴ Connection.

Ham. It will be short: the interim is mine; And a man's life no more than to say, one. But I am very sorry, good Horatio, That to Laertes I forgot myself; For by the image of my cause, I see The portraiture of his: I'll count¹ his favours: But, sure, the bravery of his grief did put me Into a towering passion.

Hor. Peace; who comes here?

Enter Osric.

Os. Your lordship is right welcome back to Denmark.

H. I humbly thank you, sir.—Dost know this

Hor. No, my good lord. [waterfly?

Ham. Thy state is the more gracious; for 'tis a vice to know him: He hath much land, and fertile; let a beast be lord of beasts, and his crib shall stand at the king's mess: 'Tis a chough²; but, as I say, spacious in the possession of dirt.

Os. Sweet lord, if your lordship were at leisure, I should impart a thing to you from his majesty.

Ham. I will receive it, with all diligence of spirit: Your bonnet to his right use; 'tis for the head.

Os. I thank your lordship, 'tis very hot.

Ham. No, believe me, 'tis very cold; the wind is northerly.

Os. It is indifferent cold, my lord, indeed.

Ham. But yet, methinks, it is very sultry and hot; or my complexion—

Os. Exceedingly, my lord: it is very sultry—as 'twere,—I cannot tell how.—My lord, his majesty bade me signify to you, that he has laid a great wager on your head: Sir, this is the matter,—

Ham. I beseech you, remember—

[*Hamlet moves him to put on his hat.*

Os. Nay, good my lord; for my ease, in good faith. Sir, here is newly come to court, Laertes: believe me, an absolute gentleman, full of most excellent differences,³ of very soft society, and great showing: Indeed, to speak feelingly of him, he is the card⁴ or calendar of gentry, for you shall find in him the continent⁵ of what part a gentleman would see.

Ham. Sir, his defilement suffers no perdition in you;—though, I know, to divide him inventorially, would dizzy the arithmetic of memory; and yet but raw neither, in respect of his quick sail. But, in the verity of extolment, I take him to be a soul of great article; and his infusion of such dearth and rareness, as, to make true diction of him, his semblable is his mirror; and, who else would trace him, his umbrage, nothing more.

Os. Your lordship speaks most infallibly of him.

Ham. The concernancy, sir? why do we wrap the gentleman in our more rawer breath?

Os. Sir?

Hor. Is't not possible to understand in another tongue? You will do't, sir, really.

Ham. What imports the nomination of this gentleman?

Os. Of Laertes?

Hor. His purse is empty already; all his golden words are spent.

Ham. Of him, sir.

Os. I know, you are not ignorant—

Ham. I would, you did, sir; yet, in faith, if you did, it would not much approve me;—Well, sir.

Os. You are not ignorant of what excellence Laertes is—

Ham. I dare not confess that, lest I should compare with him in excellence; but, to know a man well, were to know himself.

Os. I mean, sir, for his weapon; but in the imputation laid on him by them, in his meed² he's unfellowed.

Ham. What's his weapon?

Os. Rapier and dagger.

Ham. That's two of his weapons: but, well.

Os. The king, sir, hath wagered with him six Barbary horses: against the which he has impawned,³ as I take it, six French rapiers and poniards, with their assigns, as girdle, hangers, and so; Three of the carriages, in faith, are very dear to fancy, very responsive to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberal conceit.

Ham. What call you the carriages?

Hor. I knew you must be edified by the margin⁴ ere you had done.

Os. The carriages, sir, are the hangers.

Ham. The phrase would be more german⁵ to the matter, if we could carry a cannon by our sides; I would, it might be hangers till then. But, on: Six Barbary horses against six French swords, their assigns, and three liberal conceited carriages; that's the French bet against the Danish: Why is this impawned, as you call it?

Os. The king, sir, hath laid, that in a dozen passes between yourself and him, he shall not exceed you three hits; he hath laid, on twelve for nine; and it would come to immediate trial, if your lordship would vouchsafe the answer.

Ham. How, if I answer, no?

Os. I mean, my lord, the opposition of your person in trial.

Ham. Sir, I will walk here in the hall: If it please his majesty, it is the breathing time of day with me: let the foils be brought, the gentleman willing, and the king hold his purpose, I will win for him, if I can; if not, I will gain nothing but my shame, and the odd hits.

Os. Shall I deliver you so?

Ham. To this effect, sir; after what flourish your nature will.

Os. I commend my duty to your lordship.

[*Exit.*

Ham. Yours, yours.—He does well to commend it himself; there are no tongues else for's turn.

Hor. This lapwing runs away with the shell on his head.

Ham. He did comply with⁶ his dug, before he sucked it. Thus has he (and many more of the

1 Value.

4 Chart.

1 Recommend.

4 Explanatory notes.

2 Jackdaw.

5 To contain.

2 Praise.

5 Akin.

3 Distinguishing excellencies.

3 Staked.

6 Compliment.

same breed, that, I know, the drossy¹ age dotes on,) only got the tune of the time, and outward habit of encounter; a kind of yesty collection, which carries them through and through the most fond and winnowed opinions; and do but blow them to their trial, the bubbles are out.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. My lord, his majesty commended him to you by young Osric, who brings back to him, that you attend him in the hall: He sends to know, if your pleasure hold to play with Laertes, or that you will take longer time.

Ham. I am constant to my purposes, they follow the king's pleasure; if his fitness speaks, mine is ready; now, or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

Lord. The king, and queen, and all are coming down.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The queen desires you, to use some gentle entertainment to Laertes, before you fall to play.

Ham. She well instructs me. [*Exit Lord.*]

Hor. You will lose this wager, my lord.

Ham. I do not think so; since he went into France, I have been in continual practice; I shall win at the odds. But thou wouldst not think, how ill all's here about my heart: but it is no matter.

Hor. Nay, good my lord,——

Ham. It is but foolery; but it is such a kind of gain-giving,² as would, perhaps, trouble a woman.

Hor. If your mind dislike any thing, obey it: I will forestal their repair hither, and say, you are not fit.

Ham. Not a whit, we defy augury; there is a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all: Since no man, of aught he leaves, knows, what is't to leave betimes? Let be.

Enter King, Queen, Laertes, Lords, Osric, and Attendants, with Foils, &c.

King. Come, Hamlet, come, and take this hand from me.

[*The King puts the hand of Laertes into that of Hamlet.*]

Ham. Give me your pardon, sir: I have done you wrong;

But pardon it, as you are a gentleman.

This presence knows, and you must needs have heard,

How I am punish'd with a sore distraction.

What I have done,

That might your nature, honour, and exception,

Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.

Was't Hamlet wronged Laertes? Never, Hamlet:

If Hamlet from himself, be ta'en away,

And, when he's not himself, does wrong Laertes,

Then Hamlet does it not, Hamlet denies it.

Who does it then? His madness; If't be so,

Hamlet is of the faction that is wrong'd;

His madness is poor Hamlet's enemy.

Sir, in this audience,

Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd evil

Free me so far in your most generous thoughts,

¹ Worthless.

² Misgiving.

That I have shot my arrow o'er the house,
And hurt my brother.

Laer. I am satisfied in nature,
Whose motive, in this case, should stir me most
To my revenge: but in my terms of honour,
I stand aloof; and will no reconciliation,
Till by some elder masters of known honour,
I have a voice and precedent of peace,
To keep my name ungor'd: But till that time,
I do receive your offer'd love like love,
And will not wrong it.

Ham. I embrace it freely;
And will this brother's wager frankly play.—
Give us the foils; come on.

Laer. Come, one for me.

Ham. I'll be your foil, Laertes; in mine ignorance
Your skill shall, like a star i' the darkest night,
Stick fiery off indeed.

Laer. You mock me, sir.

Ham. No, by this hand.

King. Give them the foils, young Osric.—
Cousin Hamlet;
You know the wager?

Ham. Very well, my lord;

Your grace hath laid the odds o' the weaker side.

King. I do not fear it:—I have seen you both:—
But since he's better'd, we have therefore odds.

Laer. This is too heavy, let me see another.

Ham. This likes me well: These foils have all
a length? [*They prepare to play.*]

Os. Ay, my good lord.

King. Set me the stoups¹ of wine upon that
table:—

If Hamlet give the first or second hit,
Or quit in answer of the third exchange,
Let all the battlements their ordnance fire,
The king shall drink to Hamlet's better breath;
And in the cup an union² shall he throw,
Richer than that which four successive kings
In Denmark's crown have worn; Give me the
cups;

And let the kettle to the trumpet speak,
The trumpet to the cannoneer without,
The cannons to the heavens, the heaven to earth,
Now the King drinks to Hamlet.—Come, begin;—
And you, the judges, bear a wary eye.

Ham. Come on, sir.

Laer. Come, my lord. [*They play.*]

Ham. One.

Laer. No.

Ham. Judgment.

Os. A hit, a very palpable hit.

Laer. Well,—again.

King. Stay, give me drink: Hamlet, this pearl
is thine;

Here's to thy health. Give him the cup.

[*Trumpets sound; and Cannon shot off
within.*]

Ham. I'll play this bout first, set it by a while.
Come.—Another hit; What say you? [*They play.*]

Laer. A touch, a touch, I do confess.

King. Our son shall win.

Queen. He's fat, and scant of breath.—

Here, Hamlet, take my napkin, rub thy brows:
The queen carouses to thy fortune, Hamlet.

Ham. Good madam,——

¹ Large jugs.

² A valuable pearl.

King. Gertrude, do not drink.

Queen. I will, my lord;—I pray you, pardon me.

K. [Aside.] It is the poison'd cup; it is too late.

Ham. I dare not drink yet, madam; by and by.

Queen. Come, let me wipe thy face.

Laer. My lord, I'll hit him now.

King. I do not think it.

Laer. [Aside.] And yet it is almost against my conscience.

Ham. Come, for the third, Laertes: You do but dally;

I pray you, pass with your best violence;

I am afeard, you make a wanton¹ of me.

Laer. Say you so? come on. [*They play.*]

Osr. Nothing neither way.

Laer. Have at you now.

[*Laertes wounds Hamlet; then, in scuffling, they change Rapiers, and Hamlet wounds Laertes.*]

King. Part them, they are incens'd.

Ham. Nay, come again. [*The Queen falls.*]

Osr. Look to the queen there, ho!

Hor. They bleed on both sides;—How is it, my lord?

Osr. How is't, Laertes?

Laer. Why, as a woodcock to my own springe, I am justly kill'd with mine own treachery.

Ham. How does the queen?

King. She swoons to see them bleed.

Queen. No, no, the drink, the drink,—O my dear Hamlet!

The drink, the drink;—I am poison'd! [*Dies.*]

Ham. O villainy!—Ho! let the door be lock'd: Treachery! seek it out. [*Laertes falls.*]

L. It is here, Hamlet: Hamlet, thou art slain;

No medicine in the world can do thee good,

In thee there is not half an hour's life;

The treacherous instrument is in thy hand,

Unbated,² and envenom'd: the foul practice

Hath turn'd itself on me; lo, here I lie,

Never to rise again: Thy mother's poison'd;

I can no more; the king, the king's to blame.

Ham. The point

Envenom'd too!—Then, venom, to thy work. [*Stabs the King.*]

Osr. and Lords. Treason! treason!

King. O, yet defend me, friends, I am but hurt.

Ham. Here thou incestuous, murd'rous, damned Dane,

Drink off this potion:—Is thy union here? Follow my mother. [*King dies.*]

Laer. He is justly serv'd;

It is a poison temper'd by himself.—

Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet:

Mine and my father's death come not upon thee;

Nor thine on me! [*Dies.*]

Ham. Heaven make thee free of it! I follow thee.

I am dead, Horatio:—Wretched queen, adieu!—

You that look pale and tremble at this chance,

That are but mutes or audience to this act,

Had I but time, (as this fell sergeant,³ death,

Is strict in his arrest,) O, I could tell you,—

But let it be:—Horatio, I am dead;

Thou livest; report me and my cause aright

To the unsatisfied.

¹ Feeble effeminate person.

³ Officer.

² Unblunted.

Hor. Never believe it;

I am more an antique Roman than a Dane,

Here's yet some liquor left.

Ham.

As thou'rt a man,—

Give me the cup; let go; by heaven I'll have it.—

O good Horatio, what a wounded name,

Things standing thus unknown, shall live behind

If thou diest ever hold me in thy heart, [me?

Absent thee from felicity awhile,

And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain,

To tell my story.—

[*March afar off, and Shot within.*]

What warlike noise is this?

Osr. Young Fortinbras, with conquest come from Poland,

To the ambassadors of England gives

This warlike volley.

Ham.

O, I die, Horatio;

The potent poison quite o'er-crows my spirit;

I cannot live to hear the news from England:

But I do prophesy the election lights

On Fortinbras; he has my dying voice;

So tell him, with the occurrents,¹ more or less,

Which have solicited,²—the rest is silence. [*Dies.*]

Hor. Now cracks a noble heart;—Good night, sweet prince;

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

Why does the drum come hither? [*March within.*]

Enter Fortinbras, the English Ambassadors, and others.

Fort. Where is this sight?

Hor. What is it you would see?

If aught of woe, or wonder, cease your search.

Fort. This quarry³ cries on havoc⁴!—O proud death!

What feast is toward in thine eternal cell,

That thou so many princes, at a shot,

So bloodily hast struck?

1 Amb. The sight is dismal;

And our affairs from England come too late:

The ears are senseless, that should give us hearing,

To tell him, his commandment is fulfill'd,

That Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead:

Where should we have our thanks?

Hor. Not from his mouth,

Had it the ability of life to thank you;

He never gave commandment for their death.

But since, so jump⁵ upon this bloody question,

You from the Polack⁶ wars, and you from England,

Are here arriv'd; give order that these bodies

High on a stage be placed to the view;

And let me speak, to the yet unknowing world,

How these things come about: Soshall you hear

Of carnal, bloody, and unnatural acts;

Of accidental judgments, casual slaughters;

Of deaths put on by cunning, and forc'd cause;

And in this upshot, purposes mistook

Fall'n on the inventors' heads: all this can I

Truly deliver.

Fort. Let us haste to hear it,

And call the noblest to the audience.

For me, with sorrow I embrace my fortune;

¹ Occurrences.

⁴ A word of censure.

² Incited.

⁵ Exactly.

³ Heap of dead game.

⁶ Polish.

I have some rights of memory¹ in this kingdom,
Which now to claim my vantage doth invite me.

Hor. Of that I shall have also cause to speak,
And from his mouth whose voice will draw on
more:

But let this same be presently perform'd,
Even while men's minds are wild; lest more
mischance,

On plots and errors, happen.

Fort.

Let four captains

Bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage;
For he was likely, had he been put on, [sage,
To have prov'd most royally: and, for his pas-
The soldier's musick, and the rites of war,
Speak loudly for him.—

Take up the bodies:—Such a sight as this
Becomes the field, but here shows much amiss.
Go, bid the soldiers shoot. [A dead March.

[*Exeunt, bearing off the dead Bodies; after
which, a Peal of Ordnance is shot of.*

Othello, the Moor of Venice.

Persons Represented.

DUKE OF VENICE.

BRABANTIO, a Senator.

Two other Senators.

GRATIANO, Brother to Brabantio.

LODOVICO, Kinsman to Brabantio.

OTHELLO, the Moor.

CASSIO, his Lieutenant.

IAGO, his Ancient.

RODERIGO, a Venetian Gentleman.

MONTANO, Othello's Predecessor in the Govern-
ment of Cyprus.

Clown, Servant to Othello.

Herald.

DESDEMONA, Daughter to Brabantio, and Wife
to Othello.

EMILIA, Wife to Iago.

BIANCA, Mistress to Cassio.

Officers, Gentlemen, Messengers, Musicians,
Sailors, Attendants, &c.

SCENE.—For the first Act, in Venice; during the rest of the Play, at a Sea-port in Cyprus.

Act First.

SCENE I.—VENICE. A STREET.

Enter Roderigo and Iago.

Rod. Tush, never tell me, I take it much
unkindly,

That thou, Iago,—who hast had my purse,
As if the strings were thine,—shouldst know of

Iago. But you will not hear me:— [this.
If ever I did dream of such a matter,
Abhor me.

Rod. Thou told'st me, thou didst hold him in
thy hate.

Iago. Despise me, if I do not. Three great
ones of the city,

In personal suit to make me his lieutenant,
Oft capp'd to him:—and, by the faith of man,
I know my price, I am worth no worse a place:
But he, as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them, with a bombast circumstance,²
Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war;

And, in conclusion, nonsuits
My mediators; for *certain*,³ says he,

I have already chose my officer.

And what was he?

Forsooth, a great arithmetician,

One Michael Cassio, a Florentine,

A fellow almost curs'd in a fair wife;

That never set a squadron in the field,

¹ Remembered rights.

² Circumlocution.

³ Certainly.

Nor the division of a battle knows [rick,¹
More than a spinster; unless the bookish theo-
Wherein the togéd² consuls can propose
As masterly as he: mere prattle, without prac-
tice,

Is all his soldiiership. But he, sir, had the
election:

And I,—of whom his eyes had seen the proof,
At Rhodes, at Cyprus; and on other grounds
Christian and heathen,—must be be-lee'd and
calm'd

By debtor and creditor, this counter-caster;³
He, in good time, must his lieutenant be,

And I, sir, (bless the mark!) his Moorship's
ancient.⁴

Rod. By heaven, I rather would have been
his hangman.

Iago. But there's no remedy, 'tis the curse
of service;

Preferment goes by letter, and affection,
Not by the old gradation, where each second
Stood heir to the first. Now, sir, be judge your-
Whether I in any just term am affind⁵ [self,
To love the Moor.

Rod. I would not follow him then.

Iago. O, sir, content you;

I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
We cannot all be masters, nor all masters
Cannot be truly follow'd. You shall mark
Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave,

¹ Theory.

² Official robe.

³ Reckoner.

⁴ Colours bearer.

⁵ Related.

That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,
Wears out his time, much like his master's ass,
For nought but provender; and, when he's old,
cashier'd;

Whip me such honest knaves: Others there are,
Who, trimm'd in forms and visages of duty,
Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves;
And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,
Do well thrive by them, and when they have
lin'd their coats,

Do themselves homage: these fellows have some
And such a one do I profess myself. [soul;

For, sir,
It is as sure as you are Roderigo,
Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago:
In following him, I follow but myself;
Heaven is my judge, not I for love and duty,
But seeming so, for my peculiar end:
For when my outward action doth demonstrate
The native act and figure of my heart
In compliment extern, 'tis not long after
But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve
For daws to peck at: I am not what I am.

R. What a full fortune does the thick-lips owe,¹
If he can carry't thus!

Iago. Call up her father,
Rouse him: make after him, poison his delight,
Proclaim him in the streets; incense her kinsmen,
And, though he in a fertile climate dwell,
Plague him with flies; though that his joy be joy,
Yet throw such changes of vexation on't,
As it may lose some colour.

Rod. Here is her father's house; I'll call aloud.
I. Do; with like timorous accent, and dire yell,
As when, by night and negligence, the fire
Is spread in populous cities.

R. What ho! Brabantio! signior Brabantio, ho!
Iago. Awake! what ho! Brabantio! thieves!
thieves! thieves!

Look to your house, your daughter, and your
Thieves! thieves! [bags!

Brabantio, above, at a Window.

B. What is the reason of this terrible summons?
What is the matter there?

Rod. Signior, is all your family within?

Iago. Are your doors lock'd?

Bra. Why? wherefore ask you this?

Iago. 'Zounds, sir, you are robb'd; for shame,
put on your gown;

Your heart is burst, you have lost half your soul;
Arise, arise;

Awake the snorting citizens with the bell,
Or else the devil will make a grandsire of you;
Arise, I say.

Bra. What, have you lost your wits?

Rod. Most reverend signior, do you know my

Bra. Not I: What are you? [voice.

Rod. My name is—Roderigo.

Bra. The worse welcome;

I have charg'd thee, not to haunt about my doors:
In honest plainness thou hast heard me say,
My daughter is not for thee; and now, in madness,
Being full of supper, and distempering draughts,
Upon malicious bravery, dost thou come
To start my quiet.

Rod. Sir, sir, sir, sir,——

¹ Possessa.

Bra. But thou must needs be sure,
My spirit, and my place, have in them power
To make this bitter to thee.

Rod. Patience, good sir.

Bra. What tell'st thou me of robbing? this is
My house is not a grange.¹ [Venice;

Rod. Most grave Brabantio,

In simple and pure soul I come to you.

Iago. 'Zounds, sir, you are one of those, that
will not serve God, if the devil bid you. Be-
cause we come to do you service, you think we
are ruffians.

Bra. What profane wretch art thou!

Iago. I am one, sir, that comes to tell you,
your daughter and the Moor are now together.

Bra. Thou art a villain.

Iago. You are—a senator.

Bra. This thou shalt answer: I know thee,
Roderigo. [sech you,

Rod. Sir, I will answer anything. But I be-
lieve't be your pleasure, and most wise consent,
(As partly, I find, it is,) that your fair daughter,
At this odd-even² and dull watch o' the night,
Transported—with no worse nor better guard,
But with a knave of common hire, a gondolier,—
To the embrace of a lascivious Moor,—

If this be known to you, and your allowance,³
We then have done you bold and saucy wrongs;
But, if you know not this, my manners tell me,
We have your wrong rebuke. Do not believe,
That, from the sense of all civility,

I thus would play and trifle with your reverence:
Your daughter,—if you have not given her leave,
I say, again, hath made a gross revolt;
Tying her duty, beauty, wit, and fortunes,
In an extravagant⁴ and wheeling stranger,
Of here and every where: Straight satisfy your-
self if she be in her chamber, or your house, [self:
Let loose on me the justice of the state
For thus deluding you.

Bra. Strike on the tinder, ho!

Give me a taper;—call up all my people:—

This accident is not unlike my dream,

Belief of it oppresses me already:—

Light, I say! light! [Exit from above.

Iago. Farewell; for I must leave you:

It seems not meet, nor wholesome to my place,
To be produc'd (as, if I stay, I shall,)

Against the Moor: For, I do know, the state,—
However this may gall him with some check,—
Cannot with safety cast him; for he's embark'd

With such loud reason to the Cyprus' wars,
(Which even now stand in act,) that, for their

Another of his fathom they have not, [souls,
To lead their business: in which regard,

Though I do hate him as I do hell pains,

Yet, for necessity of present life,

I must show out a flag and sign of love,

Which is indeed but sign. That you shall surely
find him,

Lead to the Sagittary⁵ the rais'd search;

And there will I be with him. So farewell. [Exit.

*Enter below, Brabantio, and Servants, with
Torches.*

Bra. It is too true an evil: gone she is;

¹ A lone farm-house. ⁴ Wandering.

² Midnight.

³ Name of Othello's house.

⁵ Approbation.

And what's to come of my despis'd time,¹
Is nought but bitterness.—Now, Roderigo,
Where didst thou see her?—O, unhappy girl!—
With the Moor, say'st thou?—Who would be a
father?² [me
How didst thou know 'twas she? O, thou deceiv'st
Past thought!—What said she to you?—Get
more tapers:

Raise all my kindred.—Are they married, think
Rod. Truly, I think, they are. [you?
Bra. O heaven! how got she out?—O treason
of the blood!—

Fathers, from hence trust not your daughters'
minds [charms,
By what you see them act.—Are there not
By which the property of youth and maidhood
May be abus'd? Have you not read, Roderigo,
Of some such thing?

Rod. Yes, sir; I have indeed.

Bra. Call up my brother.—O, that you had
had her!—

Some one way, some another.—Do you know
Where we may apprehend her and the Moor?

Rod. I think, I can discover him: if you please
To get good guard, and go along with me.

Bra. Pray you, lead on. At every house I'll call;
I may command at most;—Get weapons, ho!
And raise some special officers of night.—
On, good Roderigo:—I'll deserve your pains.

[Exit.

SCENE II.—ANOTHER STREET.

Enter Othello, Iago, and Attendants.

I. Though in the trade of war I have slain men,
Yet do I hold it very stuff o' the conscience,
To do no contriv'd murder; I lack iniquity
Sometimes to do me service: Nine or ten times
I had thought to have yerk'd³ him here under the

Oth. 'Tis better as it is. [ribs.

Iago. Nay, but he prated,
And spoke such scurvy and provoking terms
Against your honour,
That, with the little godliness I have,
I did full hard forbear him. But, I pray, sir,
Are you fast married? for, be sure of this,—
That the magnifico⁴ is much beloved;
And hath, in his effect, a voice potential
As double as the duke's; he will divorce you;
Or put upon you what restraint and grievance
The law (with all his might to enforce it on,)
Will give him cable.

Oth. Let him do his spite:
My services, which I have done the signiory,
Shall out-tongue his complaints. 'Tis yet to know,
(Which when I know that boasting is an honour,
I shall promulgate,) I fetch my life and being
From men of royal siege⁴; and my demerits⁵
May speak, unbann'd, to as proud a fortune
As this that I have reach'd: For know, Iago,
But that I love the gentle Desdemona,
I would not my unhouse'd free condition
Put into circumscription and confine
For the sea's worth. But, look! what lights
come yonder?

Enter Cassio, at a distance, and certain Officers
with Torches.

I. These are the raised father, and his friends:
You were best go in.

Oth. Not I: I must be found;
My parts, my title, and my perfect soul,
Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

Iago. By Janus, I think no.
O. The servants of the duke and my lieutenant.
The goodness of the night upon you, friends!
What is the news?

Cas. The duke does greet you, general;
And he requires your haste, post-haste appear-
Even on the instant. [ance,

Oth. What is the matter, think you?

Cas. Something from Cyprus, as I may divine;
It is a business of some heat: the galleys
Have sent a dozen sequent messengers
This very night at one another's heels;
And many of the consuls, rais'd, and met,
Are at the duke's already: You have been hotly
called for;

When, being not at your lodging to be found,
The senate hath sent about three several quests,¹
To search you out.

Oth. 'Tis well I am found by you.

I will but spend a word here in the house,
And go with you. [Exit.

Cas. Ancient, what makes he here?

Iago. He hath to-night boarded a land carack²;
If it prove lawful prize, he's made for ever.

Cas. I do not understand.

Iago. He's married.

Cas. To who?

Re-enter Othello.

Iago. Marry, to—Come, captain, will you go?

Oth. Have with you.

Cas. Here comes another troop to seek for you.

Enter Brabantio, Roderigo, and Officers of Night,
with Torches and Weapons.

Iago. It is Brabantio:—general, be advis'd;
He comes to bad intent.

Oth. Hola! stand there!

Rod. Signior, it is the Moor.

Bra. Down with him, thief!

[They draw on both sides.

Iago. You, Roderigo! come, sir, I am for you.

Oth. Keep up your bright swords, for the dew
will rust them.—

Good signior, you shall more command with
Than with your weapons. [years,

Bra. O thou foul thief, where hast thou stow'd
my daughter?

Wretch that thou art, thou hast enchanted her:
For I'll refer me to all things of sense,
If she in chains of magick were not bound,
Whether a maid—so tender, fair, and happy;
So opposite to marriage, that she shunn'd
The wealthy curled darlings of our nation,
Would ever have, to incur a general mock,
Run from her guardage, to the sooty bosom
Of such a thing as thou: to fear, not to delight,
Judge me the world, if 'tis not gross in sense,
That thou hast practis'd on her with foul charms;
Abus'd her delicate youth with drugs, or minerals,

1 Old age.

2 Struck.

3 (Brabantio.)

4 Seat, i.e. ancestry.

5 Demerits has the same meaning
in Shakespeare as merits.

1 Messages.

2 A rich vessel.

'Tis probable, and palpable to thinking.
I therefore apprehend and do attach thee,
For an abuser of the world, a practiser
Of arts inhibited and out of warrant:—
Lay hold upon him; if he do resist,
Subdue him at his peril.

Oth. Hold your hands,
Both you of my inclining, and the rest:
Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it
Without a prompter. — Where will you that I go
To answer this your charge?

Bra. To prison: till fit time
Of law, and course of direct session,
Call thee to answer.

Oth. What if I do obey?
How may the duke be therewith satisfied;
Whose messengers are here about my side,
Upon some present business of the state,
To bring me to him?

Off. 'Tis true, most worthy signior,
The duke's in council; and your noble self,
I am sure, is sent for.

Bra. How! the duke in council!
In this time of the night!—Bring him away:
Mine's not an idle cause: the duke himself,
Or any of my brothers of the state,
Cannot but feel this wrong, as 'twere their own;
For if such actions may have passage free,
Bond-slaves, and pagans, shall our statesmen be.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A COUNCIL CHAMBER.

*The Duke, and Senators, sitting at a Table;
Officers attending.*

Duke. There is no composition¹ in these news,
That gives them credit.

1 Sen. Indeed, they are disproportion'd;
My letters say, a hundred and seven galleies.

Duke. And mine a hundred and forty.

2 Sen. And mine, two hundred:
But though they jump not on a just account,
As in these cases, where the aim² reports,
'Tis oft with difference,) yet do they all confirm
A Turkish fleet, and bearing up to Cyprus.

Duke. Nay, it is possible enough to judgment;
I do not so secure me in the error,
But the main article I do approve
In fearful sense.

Sailor. [*Within.*] What ho! what ho! what ho!

Enter an Officer, with a Sailor.

Off. A messenger from the galleies.

Duke. Now? the business?

Sailor. The Turkish preparation makes for
Rhodes:

So was I bid report here to the state,
By signior Angelo.

Duke. How say you by this change?

1 Sen. This cannot be,
By no assay of reason; 'tis a pageant,
To keep us in false gaze: When we consider
The importance of Cyprus to the Turk;
And let ourselves again but understand,
That, as it more concerns the Turk than Rhodes,
So may he with more facile question³ bear it,
For that it stands not in such warlike brace,⁴

But altogether lacks the abilities
That Rhodes is dress'd in:—if we make thought
of this,

We must not think, the Turk is so unskilful,
To leave that latest which concerns him first;
Neglecting an attempt of ease, and gain,
To wake and wage,¹ a danger profitless.

Duke. Nay, in all confidence, he's not for
Rhodes.

Off. Here is more news.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The Ottomites, reverend and gracious,
Steering with due course toward the isle of
Rhodes,

Have there injoin'd them with an after fleet.

1 Sen. Ay, so I thought:—How many, as you
guess?

Mess. Of thirty sail: and now do they re-stem
Their backward course, bearing with frank ap-
pearance

[*tano,*]
Their purposes toward Cyprus.—Signior Mon-
Your trusty and most valiant servitor,
With his free duty recommends you thus,
And prays you to believe him.

Duke. 'Tis certain then for Cyprus.—

Marcus Lucchesé, is he not in town?

1 Sen. He's now in Florence.

Duke. Write from us; wish him post post-
haste: dispatch.

[*Moor.*]
1 S. Here comes Brabantio, and the valiant

*Enter Brabantio, Othello, Iago, Roderigo, and
Officers.*

Du. Valiant Othello, we must straight employ
Against the general enemy Ottoman. [*You*
I did not see you; welcome, gentle signior;

[*To Brabantio.*]

We lack'd your counsel and your help to-night.

B. So did I yours: Good your grace, pardon me;
Neither my place, nor aught I heard of business,
Hath rais'd me from my bed; nor doth the general
Take hold on me; for my particular grief [*care*
Is of so flood-gate and o'erbearing nature,
That it engulfs and swallows other sorrows,
And it is still itself.

Duke. Why, what's the matter?

Bra. My daughter! O, my daughter!

Sen. Dead?

Bra. Ay, to me;

She is abus'd, stol'n from me, and corrupted
By spells and medicines bought of mountebanks;
For nature so preposterously to err,
Being not deficient, blind, or lame of sense,
Sans² witchcraft could not—

D. Whoe'er he be, that, in this foul proceeding,
Hath thus beguil'd your daughter of herself,
And you of her, the bloody book of law
You shall yourself read in the bitter letter,
After your own sense; yea, though our proper son
Stood in your action.³

Bra. Humbly I thank your grace.
Here is the man, this Moor; whom now, it seems,
Your special mandate, for the state affairs,
Hath hither brought.

Duke & Sen. We are very sorry for it.

Duke. What, in your own part, can you say to
this? [*To Othello.*]

1 Combat.

2 Without.

3 Accusation.

1 Consistency.

2 Conjecture.

3 Easy disputa.

4 State of defence.

Bra. Nothing but this is so.

Oth. Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors,
My very noble and approv'd good masters,
That I have ta'en away this old man's daughter,
It is most true; true, I have married her;
The very head and front of my offending
Hath this extent, no more. Rude am I in my speech,
And little blessed with the set phrase of peace,
For since these arms of mine had seven years' pith,
Till now some nine moons wasted, they have us'd
Their dearest action¹ in the tented field:
And little of this great world can I speak,
More than pertains to feats of broil and battle;
And therefore little shall I grace my cause,
In speaking for myself: Yet, by your gracious pa-
I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver [tience,
Of my whole course of love; what drugs, what
charms,

What conjuration, and what mighty magick,
(For such proceeding I am charg'd withal,)
I won his daughter with.

Bra. A maiden never bold;
Of spirit so still and quiet, that her motion
Blush'd at herself; and she,—in spite of nature,
Of years, of country, credit, every thing,—
To fall in love with what she fear'd to look on?
It is a judgment maim'd, and most imperfect,
That will confess—perfection so could err
Against all rules of nature, and must be driven
To find out practices of cunning hell,
Why this should be. I therefore vouch again,
That with some mixtures powerful o'er the blood,
Or with some dram conjur'd to this effect,
He wrought upon her.

Duke. To vouch this is no proof;
Without more certain and more over test,²
Than these thin habits, and poor likelihoods
Of modern seeming,³ do prefer against him.

1 Sen. But, Othello, speak;—
Did you by indirect and forced courses
Subdue and poison this young maid's affections?
Or came it by request, or such fair question
As soul to soul affordeth?

Oth. I do beseech you,
Send for the lady to the Sagittary,⁴
And let her speak of me before her father:
If you do find me foul in her report,
The trust, the office, I do hold of you,
Not only take away, but let your sentence
Even fall upon my life.

Duke. Fetch Desdemona hither.

Oth. Ancient, conduct them; you best know the
place.— [Exeunt Iago, and Attendants.
And, till she come, as truly as to heaven
I do confess the vices of my blood,
So justly to your grave ears I'll present
How I did thrive in this fair lady's love,
And she in mine.

Duke. Say it, Othello.

Oth. Her father lov'd me, oft invited me;
Still question'd me the story of my life,
From year to year; the battles, sieges, fortunes,
That I have pass'd.
I ran it through, even from my boyish days,
To the very moment that he bade me tell it.

¹ Best exertion.

² Open proof.

³ Slight appearances.

⁴ The Sign of the fictitious
creature so called.

Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances,
Of moving accidents, by flood and field;
Of hair-breadth scapes i' the imminent deadly
Of being taken by the insolent foe, [breach
And sold to slavery; of my redemption thence,
And portance¹ in my travel's history:
Wherein of antres² vast, and desarts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose heads
touch heaven,

It was my hint to speak, such was the process,
And of the Cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders. These things to
Would Desdemona seriously incline: [hear,
But still the house affairs would draw her thence;
Which ever as she could with haste despatch,
She'd come again, and with a greedy ear
Devour up my discourse: Which I observing,
Took once a pliant hour; and found good means
To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart,
That I would all my pilgrimage dilate,
Whereof by parcels she had something heard,
But not intently³: I did consent;
And often did beguile her of her tears,
When I did speak of some distressful stroke,
That my youth suffer'd. My story being done,
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs:
She swore,—In faith, 'twas strange, 'twas
passing strange;

'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful:
She wish'd, she had not heard it; yet she wish'd
That heaven had made her such a man: she
thank'd me;

And bade me, if I had a friend that lov'd her,
I should but teach him how to tell my story,
And that would woo her. Upon this hint, I spake;
She lov'd me for the dangers I had pass'd;
And I lov'd her that she did pity them.
This only is the witchcraft I have us'd;
Here comes the lady, let her witness it.

Enter Desdemona, Iago, and Attendants.

Duke. I think, this tale would win my daughter
Good Brabantio, [too.—
Take up this mangled matter at the best:
Men do their broken weapons rather use,
Than their bare hands.

Bra. I pray you, hear her speak;
If she confess, that she was half the wooer,
Destruction on my head, if my bad blame
Light on the man!—Come hither, gentle mistress;
Do you perceive in all this noble company,
Where most you owe obedience?

Des. My noble father,
I do perceive here a divided duty:
To you I am bound for life and education;
My life, and education, both do learn me
How to respect you; you are the lord of duty,
I am hitherto your daughter: But here's my
husband;

And so much duty as my mother show'd
To you, preferring you before her father,
So much I challenge that I may profess
Due to the Moor, my lord.

Bra. Then I have done.—
Please it your grace, on to the state affairs:
I had rather to adopt a child, than get it.—

¹ My behaviour. ² Caves and dens. ³ Attentively.

Come hither, Moor:

I here do give thee that with all my heart,
Which, but thou hast already, with all my heart
I would keep from thee.—For your sake, jewel,
I am glad at soul I have no other child;
For thy escape would teach me tyranny,
To hang clogs on them.—I have done, my lord.

Duke. Let me speak like yourself, and lay a sentence,

Which, as a grise,¹ or step, may help these lovers
Into your favour.

When remedies are past, the griefs are ended,
Byseeing the worst, which late on hopes depended.
To mourn a mischief that is past and gone,
Is the next way to draw new mischief on.

What cannot be preserv'd when fortune takes,
Patience her injury a mockery makes. [thief;
The robb'd, that smiles, steals something from the
He robs himself, that spends a bootless grief.

Bra. So let the Turk of Cyprus us beguile;
We lose it not, so long as we can smile.

He bears the sentence well, that nothing bears
But the free comfort which from thence he hears:
But he bears both the sentence and the sorrow,
That, to pay grief, must of poor patience borrow.
These sentences, to sugar, or to gall,
Being strong on both sides are equivocal:
But words are words; I never yet did hear,
That the bruised heart was pierced through the
ear.

I humbly beseech you, proceed to the affairs of

Duke. The Turk with a most mighty preparation
makes for Cyprus:—Othello, the fortitude²
of the place is best known to you: And though
we have there a substitute of most allowed sufficiency,
yet opinion, a sovereign mistress of effects,
throws a more safer voice on you: you
must therefore be content to slubber³ the gloss
of your new fortunes with this more stubborn
and boisterous expedition.

Oth. The tyrant custom, most grave senators,
Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war
My thrice-driven bed of down: I do agnize⁴
A natural and prompt alacrity,
I find in hardness, and do undertake
These present wars against the Ottomites.
Most humbly therefore bending to your state,
I crave it disposition for my wife;
Due reference of place, and exhibition,⁵
With such accommodation, and besort,
As levels with her breeding.

Duke. If you please,
Be't at her father's.

Bra. I'll not have it so.

Oth. Nor I.

Des. Nor I; I would not there reside,
To put my father in impatient thoughts,
By being in his eye. Most gracious duke,
To my unfolding lend a gracious ear;
And let me find a charter in your voice,
To assist my simpleness.

Duke. What would you, Desdemona?

Des. That I did love the Moor to live with him,
My downright violence and storm of fortunes
May trumpet to the world; my heart's subdued
Even to the very quality of my lord:

I saw Othello's visage in his mind;
And to his honours, and his valiant parts,
Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate.
So that, dear lords, if I be left behind,
A moth of peace, and he go to the war,
I shall a heavy interim support
By his dear absence: Let me go with him.

O. Your voices, lords:—beseech you, let her will
Have a free way.

Vouch with me, heaven; I therefore beg it not,
To please the palate of my appetite;
Nor to comply with heat (the young affects,
In me defunct) and proper satisfaction;
But to be free and bounteous to her mind:
And heaven defend¹ your good souls, that you
think

I will your serious and great business scant,
For² she is with me: No; when light-wing'd toys
Of feather'd Cupid seel³ with wanton dulness
My speculative and active instruments,
That my disports corrupt and taint my business,
Let housewives make a skillet⁴ of my helm,
And all indign and base adversities
Make head against my estimation!

Duke. Be it as you shall privately determine,
Either for her stay, or going: the affair cries—
haste,

And speed must answer it; you must hence to—
Des. To-night, my lord? [night.

Duke. This night.

Oth. With all my heart.

Duke. At nine i' the morning here we'll meet
Othello, leave some officer behind, [again.
And he shall our commission bring to you;
With such things else of quality and respect,
As doth import you.

Oth. Please your grace, my ancient;
A man he is of honesty and trust:
To his conveyance I assign my wife,
With what else needful your good grace shall
To be sent after me. [think

Duke. Let it be so.—

Good night to every one.—[To *Brabantio*.] And,
noble signior,

If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.

1 Sen. Adieu, brave Moor! use Desdemona well.

B. Look to her, Moor; have a quick eye to see;
She has deceiv'd her father, and may thee.

[*Exeunt Duke, Senators, Officers, &c.*

Oth. My life upon her faith.—Honest Iago,
My Desdemona must I leave to thee;
I pr'ythee, let thy wife attend on her;
And bring them after in the best advantage.—
Come, Desdemona; I have but an hour
Of love, of worldly matters and direction,
To spend with thee: we must obey the time.

[*Exeunt Othello and Desdemona.*

Rod. Iago.

Iago. What say'st thou, noble heart?

Rod. What will I do, thinkst thou?

Iago. Why, go to bed, and sleep.

Rod. I will incontinently⁵ drown myself.

Iago. Well, if thou dost, I shall never love
thee after it. Why, thou silly gentleman!

Rod. It is silliness to live, when to live is a

1 Degree.

3 Obscure.

5 Income.

2 Strength.

4 Acknowledge.

1 Forbid.

3 Blind.

5 Immediately.

2 Because.

4 Kettle.

torment: and then have we a prescription to die, when death is our physician.

Iago. O villainous! I have looked upon the world for four times seven years! and since I could distinguish between a benefit and an injury, I never found a man that knew how to love himself. Ere I would say, I would drown myself for the love of a Guinea-hen, I would change my humanity with a baboon.

Rod. What should I do? I confess it is my shame to be so found; but it is not in my virtue to amend it.

Iago. Virtue? a fig! 'tis in ourselves, that we are thus, or thus. Our bodies are our gardens; to the which, our wills are gardeners: so that if we will plant nettles, or sow lettuce; set hyssop, and weed up thyme; supply it with one herb, or distract it with many; either to have it steril with idleness, or manured with industry: why, the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills. If the balance of our lives had not one scale of reason to poise another of sensuality, the blood and baseness of our natures would conduct us to most preposterous conclusions: But we have reason to cool our raging motions, our carnal stings, our unbitted lusts; whereof I take this, that you call—love, to be a sect, or scion.

Rod. It cannot be.

Iago. It is merely a lust of the blood, and a permission of the will. Come, be a man: Drown thyself? drown cats, and blind puppies. I have professed me thy friend, and I confess me knit to thy deserving with cables of perdurable¹ toughness; I could never better stead thee than now. Put money in thy purse; follow these wars; defeat thy favour² with an usurped beard; I say, put money in thy purse. It cannot be, that Desdemona should long continue her love to the Moor,—put money in thy purse;—nor he his to her: it was a violent commencement, and thou shalt see an answerable sequestration; put but money in thy purse.—These Moors are changeable in their wills:—fill thy purse with money: the food that to him now is as luscious as locusts, shall be to him shortly as bitter as coloquintida. She must change, she will find the error of her choice.—She must change, she must; therefore put money in thy purse.—If thou wilt needs damn thyself, do it a more delicate way than drowning.—drowning thyself is clean out of the way: seek thou rather to be hanged in compassing thy joy than to be drowned and go without it.

Rod. Wilt thou be fast to my hopes, if I depend on the issue?

Iago. Thou art sure of me;—Go, make money:—I have told thee often, and I retell thee again and again, I hate the Moor: My cause is hearted: thine hath no less reason: Let us be conjunctive in our revenge against him: thou dost thyself a pleasure, and me a sport. There are many events in the womb of time, which will be delivered. Traverse; go: provide thy money. We will have more of this to-morrow.—Adieu.

Rod. Where shall we meet i' the morning?

¹ Lasting. ² Change thy countenance.

Iago. At my lodging.

Rod. I'll be with thee betimes.

Iago. Go to; farewell. Do you hear, Roderigo?

Rod. What say you?

Iago. No more of drowning, do you hear?

Rod. I am changed. I'll sell all my land.

Iago. Go to; farewell; put money enough in your purse. [Exit Roderigo.]

Thus do I ever make my fool my purse: [fane, For I mine own gain'd knowledge should profit. If I would time expend with such a snipe, But for my sport and profit. I hate the Moor; And it is thought abroad, that in my bed He has done me wrong, I know not if't be true; But I, for mere suspicion in that kind, Will do, as if for surety. He holds me well; The better shall my purpose work on him. Cassio's a proper man: Let me see now; To get his place, and to plume up my will; A double knavery,—How? how?—Let me see:—After some time, to abuse Othello's ear, That he is too familiar with his wife:—He hath a person, and a smooth dispose, To be suspected; fram'd to make women false. The Moor is of a free and open nature, That thinks men honest that but seem to be so; And will as tenderly be led by the nose, As asses are.

I have't;—it is engender'd:—Hell and night Must bring this monstrous birth to the world's light. [Exit.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

A SEA-PORT TOWN IN CYPRUS. A PLATFORM.

Enter Montano and two Gentlemen.

Mon. What from the cape can you discern at sea? [flood;

1 Gent. Nothing at all: it is a high-wrought I cannot, 'twixt the heaven and the main, Descrie a sail. [land:

Mon. Methinks, the wind hath spoke aloud at A fuller blast ne'er shook our battlements:

If it hath ruffian'd so upon the sea, What ribs of oak, when mountains melt on them,

Can hold the mortise? what shall we hear of this?

2 Gent. A segregation¹ of the Turkish fleet: For do but stand upon the foaming shore, The chiding billow seems to pelt the clouds; The wind-shak'd surge, with high and monstrous main,

Seems to cast water on the burning bear,² And quench the guards of the ever-fixed pole: I never did like molestation view On th' enchanted flood.

Mon. If that the Turkish fleet Be not inshelter'd and embay'd, they are It is impossible they bear it out. [drown'd:

Enter a third Gentleman.

3 Gent. News, lords! our wars are done; The desperate tempest hath so bang'd the Turks, That their designment halts: A noble ship of Venice

¹ Separation. ² (The constellation.)

Hath seen a grievous wreck and sufferance
On most part of their fleet.

Mon. How! is this true?

3 Gent. The ship is here put in,
A Veronese; Michael Cassio,
Lieutenant to the warlike Moor, Othello,
Is come on shore: the Moor himself's at sea,
And is in full commission here for Cyprus.

Mon. I am glad on't; 'tis a worthy governor.

3 Gent. But this same Cassio,—though he
speak of comfort,

Touching the Turkish loss,—yet he looks sadly,
And prays the Moor besafe; for they were parted
With foul and violent tempest.

Mon. 'Pray heaven he be;
For I have serv'd him, and the man commands
Like a full soldier. Let's to the sea-side, ho!
As well to see the vessel that's come in,
As throw out our eyes for brave Othello;
Even till we make the main, and the aerial blue,
An indistinct regard.

3 Gent. Come, let's do so;
For every minute is expectancy
Of more arrivance.

Enter Cassio.

Cas. Thanks to the valiant of this warlike isle,
That so approve the Moor; O, let the heavens
Give him defence against the elements,
For I have lost him on a dangerous sea!

Mon. Is he well shipp'd?

Cas. His bark is stoutly timber'd, and his pilot
Of every expert and approv'd allowance¹;
Therefore my hopes, not surfeited to death,
Stand in bold cure.

[*Within.*] A sail, a sail, a sail!

Enter another Gentleman.

Cas. What noise?

4 Gent. The town is empty; on the brow o'
the sea
Stand ranks of people, and they cry—a sail.

Cas. My hopes do shape him for the governor.

2 Gent. They do discharge their shot of cour-
tesy:—[*Guns heard.*]
Our friends, at least.

Cas. I pray you, sir, go forth,
And give us truth who 'tis that is arriv'd.

2 Gent. I shall. [*Exit.*]

M. But, good lieutenant, is your general wiv'd?

Cas. Most fortunately; he hath achiev'd a maid
That paragon's description, and wild fame;
One that excels the quirks of blazoning pens,
And in the essential vesture of creation,
Does bear all excellency.—How now? who has
put in?

Re-enter second Gentleman.

2 Gent. 'Tis one Iago, ancient to the general.

Cas. He has had most favourable and happy
speed:

Tempests themselves, high seas, and howling
winds,

The gutter'd rocks, and congregated sands,—
Traitors ensteep'd to clog the guiltless keel,
As having sense of beauty, do omit
Their mortal² natures, letting go safely by
The divine Desdemona.

¹ Allowed and approved expertness. ² Destructive.

Mon.

What is she?

Cas. She that I spake of, our great captain's
captain,

Left in the conduct of the bold Iago;
Whose footing here anticipates our thoughts,
A se'night's speed.—Great Jove, Othello guard,
And swell his sail with thine own powerful
breath;

That he may bless this bay with his tall ship,
Give renew'd fire to our extincted spirits,
And bring all Cyprus comfort!—O behold,

*Enter Desdemona, Emilia, Iago, Roderigo,
and Attendants.*

The riches of the ship is come on shore!
Ye men of Cyprus, let her have your knees;—
Hail to thee, lady! and the grace of heaven,
Before, behind thee, and on every hand,
Enwheel thee round!

Des. I thank you, valiant Cassio.

What tidings can you tell me of my lord?

Cas. He is not yet arriv'd; nor know I aught
But that he's well, and will be shortly here.

Des. O, but I fear;—How lost you company?

Cas. The great contention of the sea and skies
Parted our fellowship: But, hark! a sail.

[*Cry within, A sail, a sail! Then Guns heard.*]

2 Gent. They give their greeting to the citadel;
This likewise is a friend.

Cas. See for the news.—

[*Exit Gentleman.*]

Good ancient, you are welcome;—Welcome,
mistress;—[*To Emilia.*]

Let it not gall your patience, good Iago,
That I extend my manners; 'tis my breeding
That gives me this bold show of courtesy.

[*Kissing her.*]

Iago. Sir, would she give you so much of
her lips,

As of her tongue she oft bestows on me,
You'd have enough.

Des. Alas, she has no speech.

Iago. In faith, too much:

I find it still, when I have list to sleep:
Marry, before your ladyship, I grant,
She puts her tongue a little in her heart,
And chides with thinking.

Emil. You have little cause to say so.

Iago. Come on, come on; you are pictures
out of doors,

Bells in your parlours, wild cats in your kitchens,
Saints in your injuries, devils being offended.

Des. O, fie upon thee, slanderer!

Iago. Nay, it is true, or else I am a Turk.

Emil. You shall not write my praise,

Iago. No, let me not.

Des. What wouldst thou write of me, if thou
shouldst praise me?

Iago. O, gentle lady, do not put me to't;
For I am nothing, if not critical.

Des. Come on, assay:—There's one gone to
the harbour?

Iago. Ay, madam.

Des. I am not merry; but I do beguile
The thing I am, by seeming otherwise.—
Come, how wouldst thou praise me?

Iago. I am about it; but, indeed, my invention
Comes from my pate, as birdlime does from frize:

It plucks out brains and all: But my muse
And thus she is deliver'd. [labours,
If she be fair and wise,—fairness and wit,
The one's for use, the other useth it.

Des. Well prais'd! How if she be black and witty?

Iago. If she be black, and thereto have a wit,
She'll find a white that shall her blackness fit.

Des. Worse and worse.

Emil. How, if fair and foolish?

Iago. She never yet was foolish that was fair.

Des. These are old fond¹ paradoxes, to make
fools laugh i' the alehouse. What miserable
praise hast thou for her that's foul and foolish?

Iago. There's none so foul, and foolish there-
unto,

But does foul pranks which fair and wise ones do.
Des. O heavy ignorance!—thou praisest the
worst best. But what praise couldst thou be-
stow on a deserving woman indeed? one, that,
in the authority of her merit, did justly put on
the vouch of very malice itself?

Iago. She that was ever fair, and never proud;
Had tongue at will, and yet was never loud;
She that, being anger'd, her revenge being nigh,
Bade her wrong stay, and her displeasure fly:
She that in wisdom never was so frail

To change the cod's head for the salmon's tail²;
She that could think, and ne'er disclose her mind,
See suitors looking, and not look behind;
She was a wight,—if ever such wight were,—

Des. To do what?

Iago. To suckle fools, and chronicle small beer.

Des. O most lame and impotent conclusion!—
Do not learn of him, Emilia, though he be thy
husband.—How say you, Cassio? is he not a
most profane and liberal counsellor?

Cas. He speaks home, madam; you may relish
him more in the soldier, than in the scholar.

Iago. [Aside.] He takes her by the palm:
Ay, well said, whisper: with as little a web as
this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay,
smile upon her, do: I will gyve³ thee in thine own
courtship. You say true; 'tis so, indeed: if
such tricks as these strip you out of your lieu-
tenantry, it had been better you had not kissed
your three fingers so oft. Very good; well
kissed! an excellent courtesy! 'tis so, indeed.
[Trumpet.] The Moor, I know his trumpet.

Cas. 'Tis truly so.

Des. Let's meet him, and receive him.

Cas. Lo, where he comes!

Enter Othello, and Attendants.

Oth. O my fair warrior!

Des. My dear Othello!

Oth. It gives me wonder great as my content,
To see you here before me. O my soul's joy!
If after every tempest come such calms,
May the winds blow till they have waken'd
death!

And let the labouring bark climb hills of seas,
Olympus-high; and duck again as low
As hell's from heaven! If it were now to die,
'Twere now to be most happy; for, I fear,
My soul hath her content so absolute,

¹ Foolish.

² Give a good dish for a bad one.

³ Shackle.

That not another comfort like to this
Succeeds in unknown fate.

Des. The heavens forbid,
But that our loves and comforts should increase,
Even as our days do grow!

Oth. Amen to that, sweet powers!—
I cannot speak enough of this content,
It stops me here; it is too much of joy:
And this, and this, the greatest discords be,
[Kissing her.]

That e'er our hearts shall make!

Iago. [Aside.] O you are well tun'd now!
But I'll set down the pegs that make this musick,
As honest as I am.

Oth. Come, let's to the castle.—
News, friends; our wars are done, the Turks are
drown'd.

How do our old acquaintance of this isle?—
Honey, you shall be well desir'd in Cyprus,
I have found great love amongst them. O my
I prattle out of fashion, and I dote [sweet,
In mine own comforts.—I prythee, good Iago,
Go to the bay, and disembark my coffers:
Bring thou the master to the citadel:
He is a good one, and his worthiness
Does challenge much respect.—Come, Desde-
mona, once more well met at Cyprus. [mona,

[Exit Othello, Desdemona, and
Attendants.]

Iago. Do thou meet me presently at the har-
bour. Come hither. If thou be'st valiant as
(they say) base men, being in love, have then a
nobility in their natures more than is native
to them,—list me.¹ The lieutenant to-night
watches on the court of guard:—First, I must
tell thee this—Desdemona is directly in love
with him.

Rod. With him! why, 'tis not possible.

Iago. Lay thy finger—thus, and let thy soul
be instructed. Mark me with what violence she
first loved the Moor, but for bragging, and telling
her fantastical lies: And will she love him still
for prating? let not thy discreet heart think it.
Her eye must be fed; and what delight shall
she have to look on the devil? There should be,
—loveliness in favour; sympathy in years, man-
ners, and beauties; all which the Moor is de-
fective in: Now, for want of these, her delicate
tenderness will find herself abused, and begin to
disrelish and abhor the Moor; very nature will
compel her to some second choice. Now, sir,
this granted, (as it is a most pregnant and un-
forced position,) who stands so eminently in the
degree of this fortune, as Cassio does? a knave
very voluble; no further conscionable, than in
putting on the mere form of civil and humane
seeming, for the better compassing of his hidden
affection? why, none; why, none: A subtle
knave; besides, the knave is handsome, young;
and hath all those requisites in him, that folly
and green minds look after: A pestilent com-
plete knave; and the woman hath found him
already.

Rod. I cannot believe that in her; she is full
of most blessed condition.²

Iago. Blessed figs end! if she had been blessed,
she would never have loved the Moor: Didst

¹ Listen to me.

² Qualities.

thou not see her touch the palm of his hand? didst not mark that?

Rod. Yes, that I did; but that was but courtesy.

Iago. Lechery, by this hand: an index, and obscure prologue to foul thoughts. They met so near with their lips, that their breaths embraced together. Villainous thoughts, Roderigo, when these mutualities so marshal the way. But, sir, be you rul'd by me: I have brought you from Venice. Watch you to-night; for the command, I'll lay't upon you: Cassio knows you not;—I'll not be far from you: Do you find some occasion to anger Cassio, either by speaking too loud, or tainting his discipline; or from what other course you please, which the time shall more favourably minister.

Rod. Well.

Iago. Sir, he is rash, and very sudden in choler; and, haply, with his truncheon may strike at you: Provoke him, that he may: for, even out of that, will I cause these of Cyprus to mutiny; whose qualification shall come into no true taste again, but by the displanting of Cassio. So shall you have a shorter journey to your desires, by the means I shall then have to prefer them; and the impediment most profitably removed, without the which there were no expectation of our prosperity.

Rod. I will do this, if I can bring it to any opportunity.

Iago. I warrant thee. Meet me by and by at the citadel: I must fetch his necessaries ashore. Farewell. *[Exit.]*

Rod. Adieu.

Iago. That Cassio loves her, I do well believe it; That she loves him, 'tis apt, and of great credit: The Moor,—howbeit that I endure him not,—Is of a constant, loving, noble nature; And, I dare think, he'll prove to Desdemona A most dear husband. Now I do love her too; Not out of absolute lust, (though, peradventure, I stand accountant for as great a sin,) But partly led to diet my revenge, For that I do suspect the Moor Othello Hath wrong'd me in my bed: the thought whereof Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards; And nothing can or shall content my soul, Till I am even with him, wife for wife; Or, failing so, yet that I put the Moor At least into a jealousy so strong That judgment cannot cure. Which thing to do,—If this poor trash¹ of Venice, whom I trace For his quick hunting, stand the putting on, I'll have our Michael Cassio on the hip; Abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb,²—For I fear Cassio with my night-cap too; Make the Moor thank me, love me, and reward For making him egregiously an ass, *[me,* And practising upon his peace and quiet, Even to madness. 'Tis here, but yet confus'd; Knavery's plain face is never seen, till us'd. *[Exit.]*

SCENE II.—A STREET.

Enter a Herald, with a Proclamation, People following.

Her. It is Othello's pleasure, our noble and

1 Worthless fellow. 2 In the grossest manner.

valiant general, that, upon certain tidings now arrived, importing the mere¹ perdition of the Turkish fleet, every man put himself into triumph; some to dance, some to make bonfires, each man to what sport and revels his addiction leads him; for, besides these beneficial news, it is the celebration of his nuptials: So much was his pleasure should be proclaimed. All offices are open; and there is full liberty of feasting, from this present hour of five, till the bell hath told eleven. Heaven bless the isle of Cyprus, and our noble general, Othello. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III.—A HALL IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Othello, Desdemona, Cassio, and Attendants.

Oth. Good Michael, look you to the guard to-night;

Let's teach ourselves that honourable stop, Not to out-sport discretion.

Cas. Iago hath direction what to do; But, notwithstanding, with my personal eye Will I look to't.

Oth. Iago is most honest. *[Ileat,* Michael, good night: To-morrow, with our ear—Let me have speech with you.—Come, my dear love. *[To Desdemona.]*

[Exeunt Oth. Des. and Attendants.]

Enter Iago.

Cas. Welcome, Iago: We must to the watch.

Iago. Not this hour, lieutenant: 'tis not yet ten o'clock: Our general cast² us thus early, for the love of his Desdemona; whom let us not therefore blame.

Cas. She's a most exquisite lady.

Iago. What an eye she has.

Cas. An inviting eye; and yet methinks right modest.

Iago. And, when she speaks, is it not an alarm to love?

Cas. She is, indeed, perfection.

Iago. Well, happiness to them! Come, lieutenant, I have a stoop of wine; and here without are a brace of Cyprus gallants that would fain have a measure to the health of the black Othello.

Cas. Not to-night, good Iago; I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.

Iago. O, they are our friends; but one cup; I'll drink for you.

Cas. I have drunk but one cup to-night, and that was craftily qualified³ too, and, behold what innovation it makes here: I am unfortunate in the infirmity, and dare not task my weakness with any more.

Iago. What, man! 'tis a night of revels; the gallants desire it.

Cas. Where are they?

Iago. Here at the door; I pray you, call them in. *Cas.* I'll do't; but it dislikes me. *[Exit Cassio.]*

Iago. If I can fasten but one cup upon him, With that which he hath drunk to-night already, He'll be as full of quarrel and offence

1 Entire. 2 Dismissed. 3 Mixed with water.

As my young mistress' dog. Now, my sick fool,
 Roderigo, [outward,
 Whom love has turn'd almost the wrong side
 To Desdemona hath to-night carous'd
 Potations pottle deep; and he's to watch:
 Three lads of Cyprus,—noble swelling spirits,
 That hold their honours in a wary distance,
 The very elements of this warlike isle,—
 Have I to-night fluster'd with flowing cups,
 And they watch too. Now, 'mongst this flock
 of drunkards,

Am I to put our Cassio in some action
 That may offend the isle:—But here they come:
 If consequence do but approve my dream,
 My boat sails freely, both with wind and stream.

*Re-enter Cassio, with him Montano, and
 Gentlemen.*

Cas. Fore heaven, they have given me a
 rouse¹ already.

Mon. Good faith, a little one; not past a
 pint, as I am a soldier.

Iago. Some wine, ho!

*And let me the canakin, clink, clink; [Sings.
 And let me the canakin, clink;*

A soldier's a man;

A life's but a span;

Why then, let a soldier drink.

Some wine, boys! *[Wine brought in.*

Cas. That's an excellent song.

Iago. I learned it in England, where (indeed)
 they are most potent in potting: your Dane,
 your German, and your Hollander,—Drink, ho!
 —are nothing to your English. *[Sings.]*

C. Is your Englishman so expert in his drink-

Iago. Why, he drinks you, with facility, your
 Dane dead drunk; and can overthrow both your
 Almain² and your Hollander.

Cas. To the health of our general.

Mon. I am for it, lieutenant; and I'll do you
 justice.

Iago. O sweet England!

King Stephen was a worthy peer,³

His breeches cost him but a crown;

He held them sixpence all too dear,

With that he call'd the tailor—lown.⁴

He was a wight of high renown,

And thou art but of low degree;

'Tis pride that pulls the country down,

Then take thine aid cloak about thee.

Some wine, ho!

Cas. Why, this is a more exquisite song than
 the other.

Iago. Will you hear it again?

Cas. No: for I hold him to be unworthy of his
 place, that does those things.—Well,—Heaven's
 above all; and there be souls that must be
 saved, and there be souls must not be saved.

Iago. It's true, good lieutenant.

Cas. For mine own part,—no offence to the
 general, or any man of quality,—I hope to be
 saved.

Iago. And so do I too, lieutenant.

Cas. Ay, but, by your leave, not before me;
 the lieutenant is to be saved before the ancient.
 Let's have no more of this; let's to our affairs.—

¹ Carouse. ² German. ³ Lord. ⁴ Base fellow.

Forgive us our sins!—Gentlemen, let's look to
 our business. Do not think, gentlemen, I am
 drunk: this is my ancient;—this is my right
 hand, and this is my left hand:—I am not
 drunk now; I can stand well enough, and speak
 well enough.

All. Excellent well.

Cas. Why, very well, then: you must not
 think then that I am drunk. *[Exit.]*

Mon. To the platform, masters; come let's
 set the watch.

Iago. You see this fellow that is gone before;—
 He is a soldier, fit to stand by Caesar

And give direction; and do but see his vice;

'Tis to his virtue a just equinox,

The one as long as the other: 'tis pity of him.

I fear, the trust Othello puts him in,

On some odd time of his infirmity,

Will shake this island.

Mon. But is he often thus?

Iago. 'Tis evermore the prologue to his sleep:

He'll watch the horologe a double set,¹

If drink rock not his cradle.

Mon. *[Sings.]* It were well,

The general were put in mind of it.

Perhaps he sees it not; or his good nature

Prizes the virtue that appears in Cassio,

And looks not on his evils: Is not this true?

Enter Roderigo.

Iago. *[Aside.]* How now, Roderigo?

I pray you, after the lieutenant; go.

[Exit Roderigo.]

Mon. And 'tis great pity, that the noble Moor
 Should hazard such a place, as his own second,
 With one of an ingraft² infirmity:

It were an honest action, to say

So to the Moor.

Iago. Not I, for this fair island:

I do love Cassio well; and would do much
 To cure him of this evil. But hark! what noise?

[Cry within.—Help! help!]

Re-enter Cassio, driving in Roderigo.

Cas. You rogue! you rascal!

Mon. What's the matter, lieutenant?

Cas. A knave!—teach me my duty!

I'll beat the knave into a twiggen³ bottle.

Rod. Beat me!

Cas. Dost thou prate, rogue?

[Striking Roderigo.]

Mon. Nay, good lieutenant; *[Staying him.]*

I pray you, sir, hold your hand.

Cas. Let me go, sir,

Or I'll knock you o'er the mazzard.⁴

Mon. Come, come, you're drunk.

Cas. Drunk!

[They fight.]

Iago. Away, I say! go out, and cry—a mutiny.

[Aside to Rod., who goes out.]

Nay, good lieutenant,—alas, gentlemen,—

Help, ho!—Lieutenant,—sir,—Montano,—sir,—

Help, masters!—Here's a goodly watch, indeed!

[Bell rings.]

Who's that that rings the bell? The town will rise.

Lieutenant, hold, you will be sham'd for ever.

¹ While the clock strikes two rounds.

² Booted. ³ A wickered. ⁴ Jaw or head.

Enter Othello, and Attendants.

Oth. What is the matter here?

Mon. I bleed still, I am hurt to the death;—
he dies.

Oth. Hold, for your lives.

Iago. Hold, hold, lieutenant, sir, Montano,—
gentlemen,—

Have you forgot all sense of place and duty?

Hold, hold! the general speaks to you; hold,
for shame! [this]

O. Why, how now, ho! from whence ariseth
Are we turn'd Turks; and to ourselves do that,
Which heaven hath forbid the Ottomites? [brawl:]
For Christian shame, put by this barbarous
He that stirs next to carve for his own rage,
Holds his soul light; he dies upon his motion.—
Silence that dreadful bell, it frights the isle
From her propriety.—What is the matter, mas-
ters?

Honest Iago, that look'st dead with grieving,
Speak, who began this? on thy love, I charge thee.

Iago. I do not know;—friends all but now,
even now,

In quarter, and in terms: and then, but now,
(As if some planet had unwitting men,)

Swords out, and tilting one at other's breast,

In opposition bloody. I cannot speak

Any beginning to this peevish odds;

And 'would in action glorious I had lost

These legs, that brought me to a part of it!

O. How comes it, Michael, you are thus forgot?

Cas. I pray you pardon me, I cannot speak.

Oth. Worthy Montano, you were wont be civil;

The gravity and stillness of your youth

The world hath noted, and your name is great

In mouths of wisest censure; What's the matter,

That you unlace your reputation thus,

And spend your rich opinion, for the name

Of a night brawler? give me answer to it.

Mon. Worthy Othello, I am hurt to danger;

Your officer, Iago, can inform you,—

While I spare speech, which something now
offends me;—

Of all that I do know: nor know I aught

By me that's said or done amiss this night;

Unless self-charity be sometime a vice;

And to defend ourselves it be a sin,

When violence assails us.

Oth. Now, by heaven,

My blood begins my safer guides to rule;

And passion, having my best judgment collied,¹

Assays to lead the way: If once I stir,

Or do but lift this arm, the best of you

Shall sink in my rebuke. Give me to know

How this foul rout began, who set it on;

And he that is approv'd² in this offence,

Though he had twin'd with me, both at a birth,

Shall lose me.—What! in a town of war,

Yet wild, the people's hearts brimful of fear,

To manage private and domestick quarrel,

In night, and on the court and guard of safety!

'Tis monstrous.—Iago, who began it?

Mon. If partially affin'd,³ or leagu'd in office,

Thou dost deliver more or less than truth,

Thou art no soldier.

Iago. Touch me not so near:

I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth,

1 Darkened.

2 Convicted.

3 Related.

Than it should do offence to Michael Cassio;
Yet, I persuade myself, to speak the truth
Shall nothing wrong him.—Thus it is, general
Montano and myself being in speech,

There comes a fellow, crying out for help;

And Cassio following him with determin'd sword,

To execute upon him: Sir, this gentleman

Steps into Cassio, and entreats his pause;

Myself the crying fellow did pursue,

Lest, by his clamour, (as it so fell out,)

The town might fall in fright: he, swift of foot,

Outran my purpose; and I return'd the rather

For that I heard the clink and fall of swords,

And Cassio high in oath; which, till to-night,

I ne'er might say before: when I came back,

(For this was brief,) I found them close together,

At blow, at thrust; even as again they were,

When you yourself did part them.

More of this matter can I not report:—

But meh are men; the best sometimes forget:—

Thou Cassio did some little wrong to him,—

As men in rage strike those that wish them best;—

Yet, surely, Cassio, I believe, receiv'd,

From him that fled, some strange indignity,

Which patience could not pass.

Oth. I know, Iago,

Thy honesty and love doth mince this matter,

Making it light to Cassio:—Cassio, I love thee:

But never more be officer of mine.—

Enter Desdemona, attended.

Look, if my gentle love be not rais'd up;—

I'll make thee an example.

Des. What's the matter, dear?

O. All's well now, sweeting; Come away to

Sir, for your hurts, [bed.]

Myself will be your surgeon? Lead him off.

[*To Montano, who is led off.*]

Iago, look with care about the town;

And silence those whom this vile brawl distract-
Come, Desdemona; 'tis the soldier's life, [ed.]

To have their balmy slumbers wak'd with strife.

[*Exeunt all but Iago and Cassio.*]

Iago. What, are you hurt, lieutenant?

Cas. Ay, past all surgery.

Iago. Marry, heaven forbid!

Cas. Reputation, reputation, reputation! O,

I have lost my reputation! I have lost the im-
mortal part, sir, of myself, and what remains is

bestial.—My reputation, Iago, my reputation.

Iago. As I am an honest man, I thought you

had received some bodily wound; there is more

offence in that, than in reputation. Reputation

is an idle and most false imposition; oft got

without merit, and lost without deserving: You

have lost no reputation at all, unless you repute

yourself such a loser. What, man! there are

ways to recover the general again: You are but

now cast¹ in his mood,² a punishment more in

policy than in malice; even so as one would beat

his offenceless dog, to affright an imperious lion:

sue to him again, and he's yours.

Cas. I will rather sue to be despised, than to

deceive so good a commander, with so slight, so

drunken, and so indiscreet an officer. Drunk?

and speak parrot?³ and squabble? swagger?

swear? and discourse fustian with one's own

1 Dismissed.

2 Anger.

3 Talk idly.

shadow?—O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee—devil!

Iago. What was he that you followed with your sword? What had he done to you?

Cas. I know not.

Iago. Is it possible?

Cas. I remember a mass of things, but nothing distinctly; a quarrel, but nothing wherefore.—O, that men should put an enemy in their mouths, to steal away their brains! that we should, with joy, revel, pleasure, and applause, transform ourselves into beasts!

Iago. Why, but you are now well enough: How came you thus recovered?

C. It hath pleased the devil, drunkenness, to give place to the devil, wrath: one unperfectness shows me another, to make me frankly despise myself.

Iago. Come, you are too severe a moralist: As the time, the place, and the condition of this country stands, I could heartily wish this had not befallen; but since it is as it is, mend it for your own good.

Cas. I will ask him for my place again; he shall tell me, I am a drunkard! Had I as many mouths as Hydra, such an answer would stop them all. To be now a sensible man, by and by a fool, and presently a beast! O strange!—Every inordinate cup is unblessed, and the ingredient is a devil.

Iago. Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used; exclaim no more against it. And, good lieutenant, I think, you think I love you.

Cas. I have well approved it, sir.—I drunk!

Iago. You, or any man living, may be drunk at some time, man. I'll tell you what you shall do. Our general's wife is now the general:—I may say so in this respect, for that he hath devoted and given up himself to the contemplation, mark, and denotement of her parts and graces:—confess yourself freely to her; importune her; she'll help to put you in your place again: she is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition, that she holds it a vice in her goodness, not to do more than she is requested: This broken joint, between you and her husband, entreat her to splinter; and, my fortunes against any lay¹ worth naming, this crack of your love shall grow stronger than it was before.

Cas. You advise me well. [kindness.]

I. I protest in the sincerity of love, and honest

Cas. I think it freely; and, betimes in the morning, I will beseech the virtuous Desdemona to undertake for me: I am desperate of my fortunes, if they check me here.

Iago. You are in the right. Good night, lieutenant; I must to the watch.

Cas. Good night, honest Iago. [Exit Cassio.]

Iago. And what's he then, that says,—I play the villain?

When this advice is free, I give, and honest, Probal² to thinking, and (indeed) the course To win the Moor again? For, 'tis most easy The inclining Desdemona to subdue In any honest suit: she's fram'd as fruitful³

¹ Bet.

² Probable.

³ Bountiful.

As the free elements. And then for her To win the Moor, were't to renounce his baptism, All seals and symbols of redeem'd sin,— His soul is so enfetter'd to her love, That she may make, unmake, do what she list, With his weak function. How am I then a villain, To counsel Cassio to this parallel course,¹ Directly to his good? Divinity of hell! When devils with their blackest sins put on, They do suggest at first with heavenly shows, As I do now: For while this honest fool Plies Desdemona to repair his fortunes, And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor, I'll pour this pestilence into his ear,— That she repeals² him for her love of him; And, by how much she strives to do him good, She shall undo her credit with the Moor. So will I turn her virtue into pitch; And out of her own goodness make the net, That shall enmesh them all. How now, Roderigo?

Enter Roderigo.

Rod. I do follow here in the chase, not like a hound that hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My money is almost spent; I have been to-night exceedingly well cudgelled; and, I think, the issue will be—I shall have so much experience for my pains: and so, with no money at all, and a little more wit, return to Venice.

Iago. How poor are they, that have no patience!—

What wound did ever heal, but by degrees? Thou know'st we work by wit, and not by witchcraft;

And wit depends on dilatory time.

Does't not go well? Cassio hath beaten thee, And thou, by that small hurt, hath cashier'd³ Cassio;

Though other things grow fair against the sun, Yet fruits, that blossom first, will first be ripe: Content thyself a while: 'tis almost morn: Pleasure, and action, make the hours seem short. Retire thee; go where thou are billeted: Away, I say; thou shalt know more hereafter: Nay, get thee gone. [Exit Rod.] Two things are to be done,—

My wife must move for Cassio to her mistress: I'll set her on;

Myself, the while to draw the Moor apart, And bring him jump³ when he may Cassio find Soliciting his wife:—Ay, that's the way; Dull not device by coldness and delay. [Exit.]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Enter Cassio, and some Musicians.

C. Masters, play here, I will content your pains, Something that's brief; and bid—good-morrow, general. [Music.]

Enter Clown.

Cl. Masters, here's money for you: and the general so likes your musick, that he desires you, of all loves, to make no more noise with it.

1 Mus. Well, sir, we will not.

¹ Line of action.

² Recals.

³ Exactly.

Clo. If you have any musick that may not be heard, to't again: but, as they say, to hear musick, the general does not greatly care.

1 Mus. We have none such, sir.

Clo. Then put up your pipes in your bag, for I'll away: Go; vanish into air; away.

[*Exeunt Musicians.*]

Cas. Dost thou hear, my honest friend? [you.

Clo. No, I hear not your honest friend; I hear

Cas. Prythee, keep up thy quillets.¹ There's a poor piece of gold for thee: if the gentlewoman that attends the general's wife be stirring, tell her there's one Cassio entreats her a little favour of speech: Wilt thou do this?

Clo. She is stirring, sir; if she will stir hither, I shall seem to notify unto her. [*Exit.*]

Enter Iago.

Cas. Do, good my friend.—In happy time, Iago.

Iago. You have not been a-bed then?

Cas. Why, no; the day had broke Before we parted. I have made bold, Iago, To send into your wife: My suit to her is, that she will to virtuous Desdemona Procure me some access.

Iago. I'll send her to you presently; And I'll devise a mean to draw the Moor Out of the way, that your converse and business May be more free. [*Exit.*]

Cas. I humbly thank you for't. I never knew A Florentine more kind and honest.

Enter Emilia.

E. Good morrow, good lieutenant: I am sorry For your displeasure; but all will soon be well. The general, and his wife, are talking of it; And she speaks for you stoutly. The Moor replies, That he, you hurt, is of great fame in Cyprus, And great affinity; & that, in wholesome wisdom, He might not but refuse you; but, he protests, he loves you;

And needs no other suitor, but his likings, To take the saf'st occasion by the front, To bring you in again.

Cas. Yet, I beseech you,— If you think fit, or that it may be done, Give me advantage of some brief discourse With Desdemona alone.

Emil. Pray you, come in; I will bestow you where you shall have time To speak your bosom freely.

Cas. I am much bound to you.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Othello, Iago, and Gentlemen.

Oth. These letters give, Iago, to the pilot; And, by him, do my duties to the state: That done, I will be walking on the works. Repair there to me.

Iago. Well, my good lord, I'll do't.

O. This fortification, gentlemen,—shall we see't?

Gent. We'll wait upon your lordship. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—BEFORE THE CASTLE.

Enter Desdemona, Cassio, and Emilia.

Des. Be thou assur'd, good Cassio, I will do all my abilities in thy behalf.

¹ Nice distinctions.

Emil. Good madam, do; I know it grieves As if the case were his. [my husband,

Des. O, that's an honest fellow.—Do not doubt, Cassio,

But I will have my lord and you again As friendly as you were.

Cas. Bounteous madam,

Whatever shall become of Michael Cassio, He's never any thing but your true servant.

Des. O, sir, I thank you: You do love my lord: You have known him long; and be you well assur'd,

He shall in strangeness stand no further off Than in a politick distance.

Cas. Ay, but, lady,

That policy may either last so long, Or feed upon such nice and waterish diet, Or breed itself so out of circumstance, That, I being absent, and my place supplied, My general will forget my love and service.

Des. Do not doubt that; before Emilia here, I give thee warrant of thy place: assure thee, If I do vow a friendship, I'll perform it To the last article: my lord shall never rest; I'll watch him tame,¹ & talk him out of patience; His bed shall seem a school, his board a shrift; I'll intermingle every thing he does With Cassio's suit: Therefore be merry, Cassio; For thy solicitor shall rather die, Than give thy cause away.

Enter Othello, and Iago, at a distance.

Emil. Madam, here comes My lord.

Cas. Madam, I'll take my leave.

Des. Why, stay, And hear me speak.

Cas. Madam, not now; I am very ill at ease, Unfit for mine own purposes.

Des. Well, well,

Do your discretion. [*Exit Cassio.*]

Iago. Ha! I like not that.

Oth. What dost thou say?

Iago. Nothing, my lord: or if—I know not what.

Oth. Was not that Cassio, parted from my wife?

Iago. Cassio, my lord? No, sure, I cannot think it, That he would steal away so guilty-like, Seeing you coming.

Oth. I do believe 'twas he.

Des. How now, my lord?

I have been talking with a suitor here, A man that languishes in your displeasure.

Oth. Who is't, you mean?

D. Why, your lieutenant Cassio. Good my lord,

If I have any grace, or power to move you, His present reconciliation take:

For, if he be not one that truly loves you, That errs in ignorance, and not in cunning, I have no judgment in an honest face:

I pry'thee, call him back.

Oth. Went he hence now?

Des. Ay, sooth; so humbled,

That he hath left part of his grief with me;

I suffer with him. Good love, call him back.

O. Not now, sweet Desdemona; some other time.

Des. But shall't be shortly?

Oth. The sooner, sweet, for you.

¹ Hawks are tamed by keeping them from sleep.

Des. Shall 't be to night at supper?

Oth. No, not to-night.

Des. To-morrow dinner then?

Oth. I shall not dine at home;

I meet the captains at the citadel. *[morn:]*

Des. Why then, to-morrow night; or Tuesday

Or Tuesday noon, or night; or Wednesday morn;—

I pray thee, name the time: but let it not

Exceed three days: in faith, he's penitent;

And yet his trespass, in our common reason,

(Save that, they say, the wars must make ex-
amples

Out of their best,) is not almost a fault

To incur a private check: When shall he come?

Tell me, Othello. I wonder in my soul,

What you could ask me, that I should deny,

Or stand so mammering² on. What! Michael

Cassio,

That came a wooing with you; and many a time,

When I have spoke of you dispraisingly,

Hath ta'en your part; to have so much to do

To bring him in! Trust me, I could do much.

Oth. Pr'ythee, no more; let him come when he

I will deny thee nothing. *[will:]*

Des. Why this is not a boon:

'Tis as I should entreat you wear your gloves,

Or feed on nourishing dishes, or keep you warm;

Or sue to you to do peculiar profit

To your own person: Nay, when I have a snit,

Wherein I mean to touch your love indeed,

It shall be full of poise³ and difficulty,

And fearful to be granted.

Oth. I will deny thee nothing:

Whereon, I do beseech thee, grant me this,

To leave me but a little to myself.

Des. Shall I deny you? no: Farewell, my lord.

Oth. Farewell, my Desdemona: I will come

to thee straight.

Des. Emilia, comes—Be it as your fancies teach

What's'er you be, I am obedient. *[you:]*

[Exit, with Emilia.]

O. Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul,

But I do love thee! and when I love thee not,

Chaos is come again.

Iago. My noble lord,—

Oth. What dost thou say, Iago?

Iago. Did Michael Cassio, when you woo'd my

know of your love? *[Lady:]*

Oth. He did, from first to last: Why dost

thou ask?

Iago. But for a satisfaction of my thought;

No further harm.

Oth. Why of thy thought, Iago?

Iago. I did not think, he had been acquainted

with her.

Oth. O, yes; and went between us very oft.

Iago. Indeed?

Oth. Indeed! ay, indeed;—Discern'st thou

anight in that?

Is he not honest?

Iago. Honest, my lord?

Oth. Ay, honest.

Iago. My lord, for aught I know.

Oth. What dost thou think?

Iago. Think, my lord?

Oth. Think, my lord!

By heaven, he echoes me,

1 (Best man.) 2 Hesitating. 3 Weight.

As if there were some monster in his thought
Too hideous to be shown.—Thou dost mean
something: *[that]*

I heard thee say but now,—Thou lik'd'st not

When Cassio left my wife; What didst not like?

And, when I told thee—he was of my counsel

In my whole course of wooing, thou cry'd'st,

Indeed?

And didst contract and purse thy brow together

As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain

Some horrible conceit: If thou dost love me,

Show me thy thought.

Iago. My lord, you know I love you.

Oth. I think thou dost:

And, for I know thou art full of love and honesty,

And weigh'st thy words before thou giv'st them

breath:— *[more:]*

Therefore these stops of thine fright me the

For such things, in a false disloyal knave,

Are tricks of custom; but, in a man that's just,

They are close demeriments, working from the

That passion cannot rule. *[heart:]*

Iago. For Michael Cassio,—

I dare be sworn, I think that he is honest.

Oth. I think so too.

Iago. Men should be what they seem;

Or, those that be not, 'would they might seem

none!

Oth. Certain, men should be what they seem.

Iago. Why then,

I think that Cassio is an honest man.

Oth. Nay, yet there's more in this:

I pray thee, speak to me as to thy thinkings,

As thou dost intimate; and give thy worst

Of the worst of words. *[thoughts]*

Iago. Good my lord, pardon me;

Though I am bound to every act of duty,

I am not bound to that all slaves are free to,

Utter my thoughts? Why, say, they are vile

and false,—

As where's that palace, wherein foul things

Sometimes intrude not? Who has a breast so

But some uncleanly apprehensions *[pass:]*

Keep secrets,¹ and law days, and in session sit

With meditations lawful?

O. Thou dost conspire against thy friend, Iago,

If thou but think'st him wrong'd, and mak'st him

A stranger to thy thoughts. *[ear:]*

Iago. I do beseech you,—

Though I, perchance, am vicious in my guess,

As, I confess, it is my nature's plague

To spy into abuses; and, oft, my jealousy

Shapes faults that are not,—I entreat you then,

From one that so imperfectly conjects,²

You take no notice, nor build yourself a trouble

Out of his scattering and unsure observance;

If it were not for your quiet, nor your good,

Nor for my manhood, honesty, or wisdom,

To let you know my thoughts.

Oth. What dost thou mean?

Iago. Good name, in man, and woman, dear

my lord,

Is the immediate jewel of their souls:

Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis some-

thing, nothing;

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to these

sands;

1 Courts of inquiry.

2 Conjectures.

But he that filches from me my good name,
 Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
 And makes me poor indeed.

Oth. By heaven, I'll know thy thought.

Iago. You cannot, if my heart were in your
 Nor shall not, whilst 'tis in my custody. [hand;

Oth. Ha!

Iago. O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
 It is the green-ey'd monster, which doth mock
 The meat it feeds on: That husband lives in bliss,
 Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger;
 But, O, what dreadful minutes tells he o'er,
 Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strongly

Oth. O misery! [loves!

I. Poor, and content, is rich, and rich enough,
 But riches, fineless,¹ is as poor as winter,
 To him that ever fears he shall be poor:—
 Good heaven, the souls of all my tribe defend
 From jealousy.

Oth. Why, why is this?
 Think'st thou, I'd make a life of jealousy,
 To follow still the changes of the moon
 With fresh suspicions? No: to be once in doubt,
 Is—once to be resolv'd: Exchange me for a goat,
 When I shall turn the business of my soul
 To such exsufflicate and blown surmises,
 Matching thy inference. 'Tis not to make me
 jealous, [pany,

To say,—my wife is fair, feeds well, loves com-
 Is free of speech, sings, plays, and dances well;
 Where virtue is, these are more virtuous:
 Nor from mine own weak merits will I draw
 The smallest fear, or doubt of her revolt;
 For she had eyes, and chose me: No, Iago;
 I'll see, before I doubt; when I doubt, prove;
 And, on the proof, there is no more but this,—
 Away at once with love, or jealousy.

Iago. I am glad of this, for now I shall have
 reason

To show the love and duty that I bear you
 With frankerspirit: Therefore, as I am bound,
 Receive it from me—I speak not yet of proof.
 Look to your wife: observe her well with Cassio;
 Wear your eye—thus, not jealous, nor secure:
 I would not have your free and noble nature,
 Out of self-bounty, be abus'd; look to't:
 I know our country disposition well:
 In Venice, they do let heaven see the pranks
 They dare not show their husbands; their best
 conscience

Is—not to leave undone, but keep unknown.

Oth. Dost thou say so?

Iago. She did deceive her father, marrying you;
 And when she seem'd to shake, and fear your
 She lov'd them most. [looks,

Oth. And so she did.

Iago. Why, go to, then.
 She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,
 To seal² her father's eyes up close as oak,—
 He thought 'twas witchcraft:—But I am much
 to blame;

I humbly do beseech you of your pardon,
 For too much loving you.

Oth. I am bound to thee for ever.

Iago. I see this hath a little dash'd your spirits.

¹ Unbounded.

² An expression from falconry: to seal a hawk is to
 sew up his eye-lids.

Oth. Not a jot, not a jot.

Iago. Trust me, I fear it has.
 I hope, you will consider, what is spoke
 Comes from my love;—But, I do see, you are
 mov'd:—

I am to pray you, not to strain my speech
 To grosser issues,¹ nor to larger reach,
 Than to suspicion.

Oth. I will not.

Iago. Should you do so, my lord,
 My speech should fall into such vile success
 As my thoughts aim not at. Cassio's my worthy
 friend:

My lord, I see you are mov'd.

Oth. No, not much mov'd:—
 I do not think but Desdemona's honest.

Iago. Long live she so! and long live you to
 think so!

Oth. And yet, how nature, erring from itself,—

Iago. Ay, there's the point:—As,—to be bold
 with you,—

Not to affect many proposed matches,
 Of her own clime, complexion, and degree;
 Where to, we see, in all things nature tends:
 Foh! one may smell, in such, a will most rank,
 Foul disproportion, thoughts unnatural,—
 But, pardon me: I do not, in position,
 Distinctly speak of her: though I may fear,
 Her will, recoiling to her better judgment,
 May fall to match you with her country forms,
 And (happily) repent.

Oth. Farewell, farewell:

If more thou dost perceive, let me know more;
 Set on thy wife to observe: Leave me, Iago.

Iago. My lord, I take my leave. [Going.

Oth. Why did I marry?—This honest creature,
 doubtless, [folds,

Sees and knows more, much more, than he un-
Iago. My lord, I would, I might entreat your
 honour

To scan this thing no further; leave it to time:
 And though it be fit that Cassio have his place,
 (For, sure, he fills it up with great ability,)
 Yet, if you please to hold him off a while,
 You shall by that perceive him and his means:
 Note, if your lady strain his entertainment³
 With any strong or vehement importunity;
 Much will be seen in that. In the mean time,
 Let me be thought too busy in my fears,
 (As worthy cause I have, to fear—I am,)
 And hold her free, I do beseech your honour.

Oth. Fear not my government.

Iago. I once more take my leave. [Exit.

Oth. This fellow's of exceeding honesty,
 And knows all qualities, with a learned spirit,
 Of human dealings: If I do prove her haggard,³
 Though that her jesses⁴ were my dear heart-
 strings,

I'd whistle her off, and let her down the wind,
 To prey at fortune. Haply, for I am black;
 And have not those soft parts of conversation
 That chamberers have:—Or, for I am declin'd
 Into the vale of years;—yet that's not much;
 She's gone; I am abus'd; and my relief

¹ Conclusions.

² Re-admission to his office.

³ A term of reproach.

⁴ Straps of leather by which a hawk is held on the fist.

Must be—to loathe her. O curse of marriage,
That we can call these delicate creatures ours,
And not their appetites! I had rather be a toad,
And live upon the vapour of a dungeon,
Than keep a corner in the thing I love, [ones;
For others' uses. Yet, 'tis the plague of great
Prerogativ'd are they, less than the base;
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death.
But Desdemona comes! if she be false,

Enter Desdemona and Emilia.

O, then heaven mock itself!—I'll not believe it.

Des. How now, my dear Othello?

Your dinner, and the generous islanders

By you invited, do attend your presence.

Oth. I am to blame. [well?

Des. Why is your speech so faint? are you not

Oth. I have a pain upon my forehead here.

Des. Why that's with watching; 'twill away
Let me but bind it hard, within this hour [again,
It will be well.

Oth. Your napkin is too little;

[*He puts the Handkerchief from him,
and it drops.*

Let it alone. Come, I'll go in with you.

Des. I am very sorry that you are not well.

[*Exeunt Oth. and Des.*

Emil. I am glad I have found this napkin;
This was her first remembrance from the Moor:
My wayward husband hath a hundred times
Woo'd me to steal it; but she so loves the token,
(For he conjur'd her, she would ever keep it,)
That she reserves it ever more about her,
To kiss and talk to. I'll have the work ta'en out,
And give it Iago:

What he'll do with it, heaven knows, not I;
I nothing, but to please his fantasy.

Enter Iago.

Iago. How now! what do you here alone?

Emil. Do not you chide; I have a thing for you.

Iago. A thing for me?—it is a common thing.

Emil. Ha!

Iago. To have a foolish wife.

Emil. O, is that all? What will you give me
For that same handkerchief? [now

Iago. What handkerchief?

Emil. What handkerchief?

Why, that the Moor first gave to Desdemona;
That which so often you did bid me steal.

Iago. Hast stolen it from her?

Emil. No, faith; she let it drop by negligence;
And to the advantage, I, being here, took't up.
Look, here it is.

Iago. A good wench; give it me.

Emil. What will you do with it, that you have
been so earnest
To have me filch it?

Iago. Why what's that to you?

[*Snatching it.*

Emil. If it be not for some purpose of import,
Give it me again: Poor lady! she'll run mad,
When she shall lack it.

Iago. Be not you known of't; I have use for it.
Go, leave me. [Exit Emilia.

I will in Cassio's lodging lose this napkin,
And let him find it: Trifles, light as air,
Are, to the jealous, confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ. This may do something.

The Moor already changes with my poison:—
Dangerous conceits are, in their natures, poisons,
Which at the first, are scarce found to distaste;
But, with a little act upon the blood,
Burn like the mines of sulphur.—I did say so:—

Enter Othello.

Look, where he comes! Not poppy, nor mandra-
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world, [gora,¹
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep
Which thou ow'd'st² yesterday.

Oth. Ha! ha! false to me?

To me?

Iago. Why, how now, general? no more of that.

Oth. Avaunt! be gone! thou hast set me on the
I swear, 'tis better to be much abus'd, [rack:
Than but to know a little.

Iago. How now, my lord?

Oth. What sense had I of her stolen hours of
guilt?

I saw it not, thought it not, it harm'd not me:
I slept the next night well, was free and merry;
I found not Cassio's kisses on her lips:
He that is robb'd not wanting what is stolen,
Let him not know it, and he's not robb'd at all.

I had been happy had I nothing known.

Iago. I am sorry to hear this.

Oth. O now, for ever,

Farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content!
Farewell the plumed troop, and the big wars,
That make ambition virtue! O, farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed, and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner; and all quality,
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!
And O you mortal engines, whose rude throats
The immortal Jove's dread clamours counterfeit,
Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!

Iago. Is it possible?—my lord,——

O Villain, be sure thou prove my love a wanton?
Be sure of it; give me the ocular proof;

[*Taking him by the Throat.*

Or, by the worth of mine eternal soul,
Thou hadst been better have been born a dog,
Than answer my wak'd wrath.

Iago. Is it come to this?

Oth. Make me to see it; or (at the least) so
prove it,

That the probation bear no hinge, nor loop,
To hang a doubt on: or, woe upon thy life!

Iago. My noble lord,——

Oth. If thou dost slander her, and torture me,
Never pray more: abandon all remorse,
On horror's head horrors accumulate:
Do deeds to make heaven weep, all earth amaz'd,
For nothing can'st thou to damnation add,
Greater than that.

Iago. O grace! O heaven defend me!

Are you a man? have you a soul, or sense?—
Heaven be wi' you; take mine office.—O wretched
That liv'st to make thine honesty a vice!— [fool,
O monstrous world! Take note, take note, O world.
To be direct and honest, is not safe.—

I thank you for this profit; and, from hence,
I'll love no friend, since love breeds such offence.

Oth. Nay, stay:—Thou shouldst be honest.

¹ The mandrake has a soporific quality.

² Possessedst.

Iago. I should be wise ; for honesty's a fool,
And loses that it works for.

Oth. By the world,
I think my wife be honest, and think she is not.
I think that thou art just, and think thou art not;
I'll have some proof : Her name, that was as
fresh

As Dian's visage, is now begrim'd and black
As mine own face.—If there be cords, or knives,
Poison, or fire, or suffocating streams,
I'll not endure it.—Would, I were satisfied !

Iago. I see, sir, you are eaten up with passion:
I do repent me, that I put it to you.
You would be satisfied ?

Oth. Would ? nay, I will.

Iago. And may : But, how ? how satisfied,
my lord ?

Would you, the supervisor, grossly gape on ?

Oth. Death and destruction ! O !

Iago. It were a tedious difficulty, I think,
To bring them to that prospect : Curse them
then,

If ever mortal eyes do see their guilt,
More than their own ! What then ? How then ?
What shall I say ? Where's satisfaction ?
It is impossible you should see this,
Impossible, though they were fools as gross
As ignorance made drunk. But yet, I say,
If imputation, and strong circumstances,
Which lead directly to the door of truth,
Will give you satisfaction, you may have it.

Oth. Give me a living¹ reason she's disloyal.

Iago. I do not like the office :

But, sith I am enter'd in this cause so far,—
Prick'd to it by foolish honesty and love,—
I will go on. I lay with Cassio lately ;
And, being troubled with a raging tooth,
I could not sleep.

There are a kind of men so loose of soul,
That in their sleeps will mutter their affairs ;
One of this kind is Cassio :

In sleep I heard him say,—*Sweet Desdemona,*
Let us be wary, let us hide our loves ;
And then, sir, would he wring my hand and cry,
O sweet creature ! O cursed fate ! that gave thee
to the Moor !

Oth. O monstrous ! monstrous !

Iago. Nay, this was but his dream.

Oth. But this denoted a foregone conclusion ;
'Tis a shrewd doubt, though it be but a dream.
I. And this may help to thicken other proofs,
That do demonstrate thinly.

Oth. I'll tear her all to pieces.

Iago. Nay, but be wise : yet we see nothing
done ;

She may be honest yet. Tell me but this,—
Have you not sometimes seen a handkerchief,
Spotted with strawberries, in your wife's hand ?

Oth. I gave her such a one ; 'twas my first gift.

I. I know not that : but such a handkerchief,
(I am sure it was your wife's), did I to-day
See Cassio wipe his beard with.

Oth. If it be that,—

Iago. If it be that, or any that was hers,
It speaks against her with other proofs.

Oth. O, that the slave had forty thousand lives ;
One is too poor, too weak for my revenge !

¹ Manifest.

Now do I see 'tis true.—Look here, Iago ;
All my fond love thus I do blow to heaven :
'Tis gone.—

Arise, black vengeance, from thy hollow cell !
Yield up, O love, thy crown, and hearted throne,¹
To tyrannous hate ! swell, bosom, with thy
fraught.²

For 'tis of aspick's tongues !

Iago. Pray, be content.

Oth. O, blood, Iago, blood !

Iago. Patience, I say ; your mind, perhaps,
may change.

Oth. Never, Iago. Like to the Pontick sea,
Whose icy current and compulsive course
Ne'er feels retiring ebb, but keeps due on
To the Propontick, and the Hellespont ;
Even so my bloody thoughts, with violent pace,
Shall ne'er look back, ne'er ebb to humble love,
Till that a capable³ and wide revenge
Swallow them up.—Now, by yond' marble
heaven,

In the due reverence of a sacred vow [*Kneels.*
I here engage my words.

Iago. Do not rise yet.—[*Kneels.*
Witness, you ever-burning lights above !
You elements that clip⁴ us round about !
Witness, that here Iago doth give up
The execution of his wit, hands, heart,
To wrong'd Othello's service ! let him command,
And to obey shall be in me remorse,⁵
What bloody work soever.

Oth. I greet thy love,
Not with vain thanks, but with acceptance boun-
And will upon the instant put thee to't : [teous,
Within these three days let me hear thee say,
That Cassio's not alive.

Iago. My friend is dead ; 'tis done, at your
But let her live. [request,

Oth. Curse her, lewd minx ! O, curse her !
Come, go with me apart ; I will withdraw,
To furnish me with some swift means of death
For the fair devil. Now art thou my lieutenant.

Iago. I am your own for ever. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—THE SAME.

Enter Desdemona, Emilia, and Clown.

Des. Do you know, sirrah, where lieutenant
Cassio lies ?

Clow. I dare not say, he lies any where.

Des. Why, man ?

Clow. He's a soldier ; and for me to say a soldier
lies, is stabbing.

Des. Go to : Where lodges he ?

Clow. To tell you where he lodges, is to tell
you where I lie.

Des. Can anything be made of this ?

Clow. I know not where he lodges ; and for
me to devise a lodging, and say—he lies here,
or he lies there, were to lie in my own throat.

Des. Can you enquire him out, and be edified
by report ?

Clow. I will catechise the world for him ; that
is, make questions, and by them answer.

Des. Seek him, bid him come hither : tell

¹ Heart on which thou wast enthroned. ² Cargo.
³ Capacious. ⁴ Embrace. ⁵ Tenderness for him.

him I have moved my lord in his behalf, and hope, all will be well.

Clo. To do this, is within the compass of man's wit; and therefore I will attempt the doing it.

[*Exit.*]

Des. Where should I lose that handkerchief, Emilia.

Emil. I know not, madam.

D. Believe me, I had rather have lost my purse Full of cruzadoes.¹ And, but my noble Moor Is true of mind, and made of no such baseness As jealous creatures are, it were enough To put him to ill-thinking.

Emil. Is he not jealous?

Des. Who, he? I think, the sun, where he was born,

Draw all such humours from him.

Emil. Look, where he comes.

Des. I will not leave him now, till Cassio Be call'd to him.—How is't with you, my lord?

Enter Othello.

Oth. Well, my good lady:—[*Aside.*] O, hardness to dissemble!—

How do you, Desdemona?

Des. Well, my good lord.

Oth. Give me your hand: This hand is moist, my lady.

Des. It yet has felt no age, nor known no sorrow. This argues fruitfulness, and liberal heart;—Hot, hot, and moist; This hand of yours requires A sequester from liberty, fasting, and prayer, Much castigation, exercise devout; For here's a young and sweating devil here, That commonly rebels. 'Tis a good hand, A frank one.

Des. You may indeed say so;

For 'twas that hand that gave away my heart.

Oth. A liberal hand: The hearts, of old, gave hands;

But our new heraldry is—hands, not hearts.

D. I cannot speak of this. Come now, your promise.

Oth. What promise, chuck? [misgives.]

D. I have sent to bid Cassio come speak with you.

Oth. I have a salt and sullen rheum offends me; Lend me thy handkerchief.

Des. Here, my lord.

Oth. That which I gave you.

Des. I have it not about me.

Oth. Not?

Des. No, indeed, my lord.

Oth. That is a fault:

That handkerchief

Did an Egyptian to my mother give; She was a charmer,² and could almost read The thoughts of people: she told her, while she kept it,

'Twould make her amiable, and subdue my father Entirely to her love; but if she lost it, Or made a gift of it, my father's eye Should hold her loathly, and his spirits should After new fancies: She, dying, gave it me; And bid me, when my fate would have me wive, To give it her. I did so: and take heed of't, Make it a darling like your precious eye; To lose or give't away, were such perdition, As nothing else could match.

1 A Portuguese coin.

2 Enchantress.

Des. Is it possible?

Oth. 'Tis true: there's magic in the web of it: A sibyl, that had number'd in the world The sun to make two hundred compasses, In her prophetick fury sew'd the work: The worms were hallow'd that did breed the silk; And it was dy'd in mummy, which the skilful Conserv'd of maidens' hearts.

Des. Indeed! is't true?

Oth. Most veritable; therefore look to't well.

Des. Then 'would to heaven, that I had never seen it.

Oth. Ha! wherefore?

Des. Why do you speak so startingly and rashly?

O. Is't lost? is't gone? speak, is it out of the

Des. Heaven bless us! [way?]

Oth. Say you?

Des. It is not lost; But what an if it were?

Oth. Ha!

Des. I say, it is not lost.

Oth. Fetch't, let me see it.

Des. Why, so I can, sir, but I will not now;

This is a trick, to put me from my suit;

I pray, let Cassio be receiv'd again.

Oth. Fetch me that handkerchief: my mind

Des. Come, come: [misgives.]

You'll never meet a more sufficient man.

Oth. The handkerchief,—

Des. I pray, talk me of Cassio.

Oth. The handkerchief,—

Des. A man that, all his time,

Hath founded his good fortune on your love;

Shar'd dangers with you;—

Oth. The handkerchief,—

Des. In sooth,

You are to blame.

Oth. Away? [*Exit Othello.*]

Emil. Is not this man jealous?

Des. I ne'er saw this before.

Sure, there's some wonder in this handkerchief:

I am most unhappy in the loss of it.

Emil. 'Tis not a year or two shows us a man:

They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;

They eat as hungerly, and when they are full,

They belch us. Look you! Cassio and my husband.

Enter Iago and Cassio.

Iago. There is no other way; 'tis she must do't;

And, lo, the happiness! go, and importune her.

Des. How now, good Cassio? what's the news

with you? [you,

Cas. Madam, my former suit: I do beseech

That, by your virtuous means, I may again

Exist, and be a member of his love,

Whom I, with all the duty of my heart,

Entirely honour; I would not be delay'd:

If my offence be of such mortal kind,

That neither service past, nor present sorrows,

Nor purpos'd merit in futurity,

Can ransom me into his love again,

But to know so must be my benefit;

So shall I clothe me in a forc'd content,

And shut myself up in some other course,

To fortune's aims.

Des. Alas! thrice gentle Cassio,

My advocacy is not now in tune;

My lord is not my lord; nor should I know him,

1 Violently.

Were he in favour¹ as in humour alter'd.
So help me, every spirit sanctified,
As I have spoken for you all my best;
And stood within the blank of his displeasure,
For my free speech! You must a while be pa-
What I can do, I will; and more I will, [tinct:
Than for myself I dare: let that suffice you.

Iago. Is my lord angry?

Emil. He went hence but now,
And, certainly, in strange unquietness.

I. Can he be angry? I have seen the cannon,
When it hath blown his ranks into the air;
And, like the devil, from his very arm
Puff'd his own brother:—And can he be angry?
Something of moment, then: I will go meet him;
There's matter in't indeed, if he be angry.

D. I pry'three do so.—Something, sure of
state,— [Exit Iago.

Either from Venice; or some unhatch'd practice²
Made démonstrable here in Cyprus to him,—
Hath puddled his clear spirit: And, in such cases,
Men's natures wrangle with inferior things,
Though great ones are their object. 'Tis even so;
For let our finger ache, and it endues
Our other healthful members ev'n to that sense
Of pain: Nay, we must think, men are not gods;
Nor of them look for such observances
As fit the bridal.—Beshrew me much, Emilia,
I was (unhandsome warrior as I am)
Arraigning his unkindness with my soul;
But now I find, I had suborn'd the witness,
And he's indited falsely.

E. Pray heaven, it be state matters, as you
And no conception, nor no jealous toy, [think;
Concerning you.

Des. Alas, the day! I never gave him cause.

E. But jealous souls will not be answer'd so;
They are not ever jealous for the cause,
But jealous for they are jealous: 'tis a monster,
Begot upon itself, born on itself.

Des. Heaven keep that monster from Othello's

Emil. Lady, amen. [mind]

D. I will go seek him. Cassio, walk hereabout:
If I do find him fit, I'll move your suit,
And seek to effect it to my uttermost.

Cas. I humbly thank your ladyship.

[Exeunt Desdemona and Emilia.

Enter Bianca.

Bian. Save you, friend Cassio!

Cas. What make you from home?
How is it with you, my most fair Bianca?
I faith, sweet love, I was coming to your house.

Bian. And I was going to your lodging, Cassio
What! keep a week away! seven days and
nights? [hours,

Eight score eight hours? and lovers' absent
More tedious than the dial eight score times?
O weary reckoning!

Cas. Pardon me, Bianca;

I have this while with leaden thoughts been
press'd;

But I shall, in a more continue time,
Strike off this score of absence. Sweet Bianca,

[Giving her Desdemona's Handkerchief.
Take me this work out.³

1 Countenance.

2 Treason.

3 Copy this work in another
handkerchief.

Bian. O, Cassio, whence came this?
This is some token from a newer friend.

To the felt absence now I feel a cause:

Is it come to this? Well, well.

Cas. Woman, go to!
Throw your vile guesses in the devil's teeth,
From whence you have them. You are jealous
now. [brance;

That this is from some mistress, some remem-
No, in good troth, Bianca.

Bian. Why, whose is it?
C. I know not, sweet; I found it in my chamber.

I like the work well; ere it be demanded,
(As like enough, it will,) I'd have it copied:
Take it, and do't; and leave me for this time.

Bian. Leave you! wherefore?

Cas. I do attend here on the general;
And think it no addition, nor my wish,
To have him see me woman'd.

Bian. Why, I pray you?
Cas. Not that I love you not.

Bian. But that you do not love me.
I pray you, bring me on the way a little;
And say, if I shall see you soon again.

Cas. 'Tis but a little way that I can bring you,
For I attend here: but I'll see you soon.

Bian. 'Tis very good; I must be circumstanc'd.
[Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—THE SAME.

Enter Othello and Iago.

Iago. Will you think so?

Oth. Think so, Iago?

Iago. What,
To kiss in private?

Oth. An unauthoris'd kiss.

It is hypocrisy against the devil:
They that mean virtuously, and yet do so,
The devil their virtue tempts, and they tempt
heaven.

Iago. So they do nothing, 'tis a venial slip:
But if I give my wife a handkerchief,—

Oth. What then?

Iago. Why then 'tis hers, my lord; and,
being hers,

She may, I think, bestow't on any man.

Oth. She is protectress of her honour too;
May she give that?

Iago. Her honour is an essence that's not seen;
They have it very oft, that have it not:
But, for the handkerchief,—

Oth. By heaven, I would most gladly have
forgot it:—

Thou said'st,—O, it comes o'er my memory,
As doth the raven o'er the infected house,
Boding to all,—he had my handkerchief.

Iago. Ay, what of that?

Oth. That's not so good, now.

Iago. What, if I had said, I had seen him
do you wrong?

Or heard him say,—As knaves be such abroad,
Who having, by their own importunate suit,
Or voluntary dotage of some mistress,

Convinced or supplied¹ them, cannot choose
But they must blab—

Oth. Hath he said anything?

I. He hath, my lord; but be you well assur'd,
No more than he'll unswear.

Oth. What hath he said?

Iago. 'Faith, that he did,—I know not what
he did.

O. What? what?—Handkerchief,—confessions,
—handkerchief.—To confess, and be hanged for
his labour.—First to be hanged, and then to con-
fess—I tremble at it. Nature would not invest
herself in such shadowing passion, without some
instruction. It is not words, that shake me
thus:—Psha!—Noses, ears, and lips—Is it pos-
sible?—Confess!—Handkerchief!—O, devil!—
[*Falls in a Trance.*]

Iago. Work on,
My medicine, work! Thus credulous fools are
caught;

And many worthy and chaste dames, even thus,
All guiltless meet reproach.—What, ho! my
lord!

Enter Cassio.

My lord, I say! Othello!—How now, Cassio?

Cas. What is the matter?

Iago. My lord is fallen into an epilepsy;
This is his second fit; he had one yesterday.

Cas. Rub him about the temples.

Iago. No, forbear:
The lethargy must have his quiet course:
If not, he foams at mouth; and, by and by,
Breaks out to savage madness. Look, he stirs.
Do you withdraw yourself a little while,
He will recover straight; when he is gone,
I would on great occasion speak with you.—
[*Exit Cassio.*]

How is it general? have you not hurt your head?

Oth. Dost thou mock me?

Iago. I mock you! no, by heaven:
'Would you would bear your fortunes like a man.

Oth. A horned man's a monster and a beast.

I. There's many a beast then in a populous city,
And many a civil monster.

Oth. Did he confess it?

Iago. Good sir, be a man.
O, 'tis the spite of hell; the fiends arch mock,
To lip a wanton, and to suppose her chaste:
No, let me know;

And, knowing what I am, I know what she shall

Oth. O, thou art wise; 'tis certain. [be.]

Iago. Stand you awhile apart;

Confine yourself but in a patient list.²

Whilst you were here, ere while mad with your
(A passion most unsuited such a man,) [grief,
Cassio came hither: I shifted him away,
And laid good 'scuse upon your ecstasy;

Bade him anon return, and here speak with me;
The which he promis'd. Do but encave³ yourself,
And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable
That dwell in every region of his face; [scorns,
For I will make him tell the tale anew,—
And say when he's again to meet your wife;

I say, but mark his gesture. Marry, patience;
Or I shall say, you are all in all in spleen,
And nothing of a man.

Oth. Dost thou hear, Iago?

1 Supplied. 2 Bounds. 3 Hide.

I will be found most cunning in my patience;
But (dost thou hear?) most bloody.

Iago. That's not amiss;
But yet keep time in all. Will you withdraw?

[*Othello withdraws.*]

Now will I question Cassio of Bianca: it is a
creature, [plague,
That dotes on Cassio,—as 'tis the wanton's
To beguile many, and be beguill'd by one;
He, when he hears of her, cannot refrain
From the excess of laughter:—Here he comes;—

Re-enter Cassio.

As he shall smile, Othello shall go mad;
And his unbookish¹ jealousy must construe
Poor Cassio's smiles, gestures, & light behaviour
Quite in the wrong.—How do you now, lieutenant?

Cas. The worse, that you give me the addition,²
Whose want even kills me.

I. Ply Desdemona well, and you are sure of 't.
[*Speaking lower.*] Now, if this suit lay in Bianca's
How quickly should you speed? [power,

Cas. Alas, poor caitiff!

Oth. [Aside.] Look, how he laughs already!

Iago. I never knew a woman love man so.

C. Alas, poor rogue! I think indeed she loves me.

Oth. [Aside.] Now he denies it faintly, and
laughs it out.

Iago. Do you hear, Cassio?

Oth. [Aside.] Now he importunes him
To tell it o'er: Go to: well said.

Iago. She gives it out, that you shall marry
Do you intend it? [her:

Cas. Ha, ha, ha!

Oth. [Aside.] Do you triumph, Roman? do
you triumph?

Cas. I marry her!—what? a customer! I
pr'ythee, bear some charity to my wit; do not
think it so unwholesome. Ha, ha, ha!

O. [Aside.] So, so, so, so: They laugh that win.

I. Faith, the cry goes, that you shall marry her.

Cas. Pr'ythee, say true.

Iago. I am a very villain else.

Oth. [Aside.] Have you scored me? well!

Cas. This is the monkey's own giving out: she
is persuaded I will marry her, out of her own
love and flattery, not out of my promise.

Oth. [Aside.] Iago beckons me; now he begins
the story.

Cas. She was here even now: she haunts me
in every place. I was, the other day, talking on
the sea-bank with certain Venetians; and thither
comes this bauble; by this hand, she falls thus
about my neck:—

Oth. [Aside.] Crying, O dear Cassio! as it
were: his gesture imports it.

Cas. So hangs, and lolls, and weeps upon me;
ha, ha, ha!

Oth. [Aside.] Now he tells, how she invited
him to my chamber: O, I see that nose of yours,
but not that dog I shall throw it to.

Cas. Well, I must leave her company.

Iago. Before me! look where she comes.

Enter Bianca.

Cas. What do you mean by this haunting of me?

Bian. What did you mean by that same hand-
kerchief, you gave me even now? I was a fine

1 Ignorant.

2 (Title of Lieutenant.)

fool to take it. I must take out the whole work?—A likely piece of work, that you should find it in your chamber, and not know who left it there! This is some minx's token, and I must take out the work? There,—give it where you had it, I'll take out no work on't.

Cas. How now, my sweet Bianca? how now? how now?

Oth. [*Aside.*] By heaven, that should be my handkerchief!

Bian. An you'll come to supper to-night, you may: an you will not, come when you are next prepared for. [*Exit.*]

Iago. After her, after her.

Cas. I must, she'll rail in the street else.

Iago. Will you sup there?

Cas. I intend so.

Iago. Well, I may chance to see you; for I would very fain speak with you.

Cas. Pr'ythee, come; will you?

Iago. Go to; say no more. [*Exit Cassio.*]

Oth. How shall I murder him, Iago?

I. Did you perceive how he laughed at his vice?

Oth. O, Iago!

Iago. And did you see the handkerchief?

Oth. Was that mine?

Iago. Yours, by this hand: and to see how he prizes the foolish woman, your wife! she gave it him, and he hath given it his mistress.

Oth. I would have him nine years a killing:—A fine woman! a fair woman! a sweet woman!

Iago. Nay, you must forget that.

Oth. Ay, let her perish to-night; for she shall not live: No, my heart is turned to stone; I strike it, and it hurts my hand. O, the world hath not a sweeter creature: she might lie by an emperor's side.

Iago. Nay, that's not your way.

Oth. Hang her! I do but say what she is:—So delicate with her needle! An admirable musician! O, she will sing the savageness out of a bear!—Of so high and plenteous wit and invention!—

Iago. She's the worse for all this.

Oth. O, a thousand, a thousand times:—And then, of so gentle a condition!

Iago. Ay, too gentle.

Oth. Nay, that's certain: But yet the pity of it, Iago!—O, Iago, the pity of it, Iago!

Iago. If you are so fond over her iniquity, give her patent to offend; for, if it touch not you, it comes near nobody.

Oth. I will chop her into messes:—

Iago. O, 'tis foul in her.

Oth. With mine officer!

Iago. That's fouler.

Oth. Get me some poison, Iago; this night:—I'll not expostulate with her, lest her beauty unprovoke my mind again: this night, Iago.

Iago. Do it not with poison, strangle her in her bed, even the bed she hath contaminated.

Oth. Good, good: the justice of it pleases; very good.

Iago. And, for Cassio,—let me be his under-You shall hear more by midnight. [*taker:*]

[*A trumpet within.*]

Oth. Excellent good.—What trumpet is that same?

1 Disposition.

Iago. Something from Venice, sure. 'Tis Lodovico,

Come from the duke: and, see, your wife is with him.

Enter Lodovico, Desdemona, and Attendants.

Lod. 'Save you, worthy general!

Oth. With all my heart, sir.

Lod. The duke and senators of Venice greet you.

[*Gives him a Packet.*]

Oth. I kiss the instrument of their pleasures.

[*Opens the Packet and reads.*]

Des. And what's the news, good cousin Lodovico?

Iago. I am very glad to see you, signior;

Welcome to Cyprus.

L. I thank you; How does lieutenant Cassio?

Iago. Lives, sir.

Des. Cousin, there's fallen between him and my lord

An unkind breach: but you shall make all well.

Oth. Are you sure of that?

Des. My lord?

Oth. This fail you not to do, as you will.

[*Reads.*]

Lod. He did not call; he's busy in the paper. Is there division 'twixt my lord and Cassio?

Des. A most unhappy one; I would do much To atone¹ them, for the love I bear to Cassio.

Oth. Fire and brimstone!

Des. My lord?

Oth. Are you wise?

Des. What, is he angry?

Lod. 'May be, the letter moved him;

For, as I think, they do command him home, Deputing Cassio in his government.

Des. By my troth, I am glad on't.

Oth. Indeed?

Des. My lord?

Oth. I am glad to see you mad.

Des. How, sweet Othello?

Oth. Devil! [*Striking her.*]

Des. I have not deserv'd this.

Lod. My lord, this would not be believ'd in Venice,

Though I should swear I saw it: 'Tis very much; Make her amends, she weeps.

Oth. O devil, devil!

If that the earth could teem with woman's tears, Each drop she falls would prove a crocodile:—Out of my sight!

Des. I will not stay to offend you.

[*Going.*]

Lod. Truly, an obedient lady:—

I do beseech your lordship, call her back.

Oth. Mistress,—

Des. My lord.

Oth. What would you with her, sir?

Lod. Who, I, my lord?

Oth. Ay; you did wish that I would make her turn:

Sir, she can turn, and turn, and yet go on, And turn again; and she can weep, sir, weep: And she's obedient, as you say,—obedient,—Very obedient;—Proceed you in your tears.—Concerning this, sir,—O well-painted passion! I am commanded home: Get you away; I'll send for you anon.—Sir, I obey the mandate,

1 Reconcile.

And will return to Venice;—Hence, avaunt!

[Exit Desdemona.]

Cassio shall have my place. And,—sir, to-night, I do entreat that we may sup together.

You are welcome, sir, to Cyprus.—Goats, and monkies!

[Exit.]

L. Is this the noble Moor whom our full senate Call—all-in-all sufficient?—This the noble nature Whom passion could not shake? whose solid The shot of accident, nor dart of chance, [virtue] Could neither graze, nor pierce.

Iago. He is much chang'd.

L. Are his wits safe? is he not light of brain?

Iago. He is that he is; I may not breathe my censure.

What he might be,—if, what he might, he is I would to heaven he were.

Lod. What, strike his wife!

Iago. Faith, that was not so well; Yet would I That stroke would prove the worst.

Lod. Is it his use?

Or did the letters work upon his blood,

And new-create this fault?

Iago. Alas, alas,

It is not honesty in me, to speak

What I have seen and known. You shall observe And his own courses will denote him so, [him]; That I may save my speech: Do but go after, And mark how he continues.

Lod. I am sorry, that I am deceiv'd in him.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Othello and Emilia.

Oth. You have seen nothing then?

Emil. Nor ever heard; nor ever did suspect.

O. Yes, you have seen Cassio and she together.

Em. But then I saw no harm: and then I heard Each syllable that breath made up between them.

Oth. What, did they never whisper?

Emil. Never, my lord.

Oth. Nor send you out of the way?

Emil. Never.

Oth. To fetch her fan, her gloves, her mask, nor nothing?

Emil. Never, my lord.

Oth. That's strange.

Emil. I durst, my lord, to wager she is honest, Lay down my soul at stake: if you think other, Remove your thought; it doth abuse your bosom. If any wretch hath put this in your head, Let heaven requite it with the serpent's curse! For, if she be not honest, chaste, and true, There's no man happy: the purest of their wives Is foul as slander.

Oth. Bid her come hither:—go.—

[Exit Emilia.]

She says enough:—yet she's a simple drab That cannot say as much. This is a subtle pimp, A closet-lock-and-key of villainous secrets. And yet she'll kneel, and pray: I have seen her do't.

Re-enter Emilia, with Desdemona.

Des. My lord, what is your will?

Oth. Pray, chuck, come hither.

Des. What is your pleasure?

Oth. Let me see your eyes; Look in my face.

Des. What horrible fancy's this?

Oth. [To Emilia.] Some of your function, mis-Leave us alone, and shut the door: [tress; Cough, or cry—hem, if any body come:

Your mystery, your mystery;—nay, despatch. [Exit Emilia.]

Des. Upon my knees, what doth your speech I understand a fury in your words, [import?] But not the words.

Oth. Why, what art thou?

Des. Your wife, my lord; your true And loyal wife.

Oth. Come, swear it, damn thyself;

Lest, being like one of heaven, the devils them-Should fear to seize thee: [selves] Swear—thou art honest.

Des. Heaven doth truly know it.

Oth. Heaven truly knows, that thou art false as hell.

Des. To whom, my lord? with whom? How am I false?

Oth. O Desdemona!—away! away! away!

Des. Alas, the heavy day!—Why do you weep? Am I the occasion of these tears, my lord?

If, haply, you my father do suspect, An instrument of this your calling back, Lay not your blame on me; if you have lost him, Why, I have lost him too.

Oth. Had it pleas'd Heaven To try me with affliction; had he rain'd All kinds of sores, and shames, on my bare head; Steep'd me in poverty to the very lips; Given to captivity me and my utmost hopes; I should have found in some part of my soul A drop of patience: but (alas!) to make me A fixed figure, for the time of scorn To point his slow and moving finger at,—O! O!

Yet could I bear that too; well, very well: But there, where I have garner'd^d up my heart; Where either I must live, or bear no life; The fountain from the which my current runs, Or else dries up; to be discarded thence! Turn thy complexion there! Patience, thou young and rosy-lipp'd cherubim; Ay, there, look grim as hell!

Des. I hope, my noble lord esteems me honest.

Oth. O, ay; as summer flies are in the shambles, That quicken even with blowing. O thou weed, Who art so lovely fair, and smell'st so sweet, That the sense aches at thee.—Would thou hadst ne'er been born!

Des. Alas, what ignorant sin have I committed?

Oth. Was this fair paper, this most goodly book, Made to write wanton on! What committed! Committed!—O thou publick commoner! I should make very forges of my cheeks, That would to cinders burn up modesty, Did I but speak thy deeds.—What committed! Heaven stops the nose at it, and the moon winks; The very wind that kisses all it meets, Is hush'd within the hollow mine of earth, And will not hear it: What committed!—Impudent wanton!

Des. By heaven, you do me wrong.

1 Treasured.

Oth. Are not you a wanton?

Des. No, as I am a Christian:

If to preserve this vessel for my lord,
From any other foul unlawful touch,
Be,—not to be a wanton, I am none.

Oth. What, not a commoner?

Des. No, as I shall be saved.

Oth. Is it possible?

Des. O, heaven forgive us!

Oth. I cry you mercy, then;

I took you for that cunning wench of Venice,
That married with Othello.—You, mistress,

Re-enter Emilia.

That have the office opposite to saint Peter,
And keep the gate of hell; You! you! ay, you:
We have done our course: there's money for
your pains;

I pray you, turn the key, and keep our counsel.

[*Exit.*]

E. Alas, what does this gentleman conceive?—

How do you, madam? how do you, my good lady?

Des. Faith, half asleep.

Emil. Good madam, what's the matter with my

Des. With who? [*Clord?*]

Emil. Why, with my lord, madam.

Des. Who is thy lord?

Emil. He that is yours, sweet lady.

Des. I have none: Do not talk to me, Emilia;

I cannot weep; nor answer I have none,
But what should go by water. Pr'ythee to-night
Lay on my bed my wedding sheets,—remember;—
And call thy husband hither.

Emil. Here is a change indeed! [*Exit.*]

Des. 'Tis meet I should be us'd so, very meet.
How have I been behav'd, that he might stick
The small'st opinion on my great'st abuse?

Re-enter Emilia, with Iago.

Iago. What is your pleasure, madam? How is
it with you?

Des. I cannot tell. Those that do teach young
babes,

Do it with gentle means, and easy tasks:

He might have chid me so: for, in good faith,
I am a child to chiding.

Iago. What's the matter, lady?

Emil. Alas, Iago, my lord hath so abus'd her,
Thrown such despite and heavy terms upon her,
As true hearts cannot bear.

Des. Am I that name, Iago?

Iago. What name, fair lady?

Des. Such as, she says, my lord did say I was.

Emil. He call'd her, drab; a beggar, in his drink,
Could not have laid such terms upon his callet.

Iago. Why did he so?

Des. I do not know; I am sure, I am none such.

Iago. Do not weep, do not weep: Alas the day!

Emil. Has she forsook so many noble matches,
Her father, and her country, and her friends,
To be call'd—drab? would it not make one weep?

Des. It is my wretched fortune.

Iago. Beshrew him for it!

How comes this trick upon him?

Des. Nay, heaven doth know.

Emil. I will be hang'd, if some eternal villain,
Some busy and insinuating rogue,

Some cogging cozening slave, to get some office,
Have not devis'd this slander; I'll be hang'd else.

Iago. Fie, there is no such man; it is impossible.

Des. If any such there be, heaven pardon him.

Emil. A halter pardon him. Who keeps her
company?

What place? what time? what form? what like-
lihood?

The Moor's abus'd by some most villainous knave,
Some base notorious knave, some scurvy fellow:—
O, heaven, that such companions¹ thou'dst un-
And put in every honest hand a whip, [fold;
To lash the rascal naked through the world,
Even from the east to the west!

Iago. Speak within door.

Emil. O, fie upon him! some such squire he was,
That turn'd your wit the seamy² side without,
And made you to suspect me with the Moor.

Iago. You are a fool; go to.

Des. O, good Iago,

What shall I do to win my lord again?

Good friend, go to him; for by this light of heaven,

I know not how I lost him. Here I kneel:—

If e'er my will did trespass 'gainst his love,

Either in discourse of thought, or actual deed;

Or that mine eyes, mine ears, or any sense,

Delighted them in any other form;

Or that I do not yet, and ever did,

And ever will,—though he do shake me off

To beggarly divorcement,—love him dearly,

Comfort forswear me: Unkindness may do much;

And his unkindness may defeat my life,

But never taint my love. I can't say, drab;

It does abhor me, now I speak the word;

To do the act that might the addition³ earn,

Not the world's mass of vanity could make me.

I. I pray you, be content; 'tis but his humour;

The business of the state does him offence,

And he does chide with you.

Des. If 'twere no other,—

Iago. It is but so, I warrant you. [*Trumpets.*]

Hark, how these instruments summon to supper!

And the great messengers of Venice stay:

Go in, and weep not; all things shall be well.

[*Exeunt Desdemona and Emilia.*]

Enter Roderigo.

How now, Roderigo?

E. I do not find, that thou deal'st justly with

Iago. What in the contrary? [*me.*]

Rod. Every day thou dost me⁴ with some

device, Iago; and rather (as it seems to me now)

keep'st from me all conveniency, than supplies

me with the least advantage of hope. I will,

indeed, no longer endure it: Nor am I yet per-
suaded, to put up in peace what already I have

foolishly suffered.

Iago. Will you hear me, Roderigo?

Rod. I have heard too much; for your words,

and performances, are no kin together.

Iago. You charge me most unjustly.

Rod. With nought but truth. I have wasted

myself out of my means. The jewels you have

had from me, to deliver to Desdemona, would

half have corrupted a votarist: You have told

me—she has received them, and returned me

expectations and comforts of sudden respect

and acquittance⁵; but I find none.

Iago. Well; go to; very well.

1 Fellows. 3 Title. 5 Requitall.
2 Inside out- 4 Put'st me off.

Rod. Very well! go to! I cannot go to, man, nor 'tis not very well: By this hand, I say, it is very scurvy; and begin to find myself fobbed¹ in it.

Iago. Very well.

Rod. I tell you, 'tis not very well. I will make myself known to Desdemona: If she will return me my jewels, I will give over my suit, and repent my unlawful solicitation: if not, assure yourself, I will seek satisfaction of you.

Iago. You have said now.

Rod. Ay, and I have said nothing, but what I protest intendment of doing.

Iago. Why, now I see there's mettle in thee; and even, from this instant, do build on thee a better opinion than ever before. Give me thy hand, Roderigo: Thou hast taken against me a most just exception; but yet, I protest, I have dealt most directly in thy affair.

Rod. It hath not appeared.

Iago. I grant, indeed, it hath not appeared; and your suspicion is not without wit and judgment. But, Roderigo, if thou hast that within thee indeed, which I have greater reason to believe now than ever,—I mean, purpose, courage, and valour,—this night show it: if thou the next night following hast not Desdemona, take me from this world with treachery, and devise engines for my life.

Rod. Well, what is it? is it within reason, and compass?

Iago. Sir, there is especial commission come from Venice, to depute Cassio in Othello's place.

Rod. Is that true? why, then Othello and Desdemona return again to Venice.

Iago. O, no; he goes into Mauritania, and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered here by some accident; wherein none can be so determinate, as the removing of Cassio.

Rod. How do you mean—removing of him?

Iago. Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place; knocking out his brains.

Rod. And that you would have me do?

Iago. Ay; if you dare do yourself a profit and a right. He sups to-night with a wanton, and thither will I go to him;—he knows not yet of his honourable fortune: if you will watch his going thence, (which I will fashion to fall out between twelve and one,) you may take him at your pleasure; I will be near to second your attempt, and he shall fall between us. Come, stand not amazed at it, but go along with me; I will show you such a necessity in his death, that you shall think yourself bound to put it on him. It is now high supper-time, and the night grows to waste: about it.

Rod. I will hear further reason for this.

Iago. And you shall, be satisfied. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE CASTLE.

Enter Othello, Lodovico, Desdemona, Emilia, and Attendants.

Lod. I do beseech you, sir, trouble yourself no further.

Oth. O, pardon me; 'twill do me good to walk.

¹ Cheated.

Lod. Madam, good night; I humbly thank your ladyship.

Des. Your honour is most welcome.

Oth. Will you walk, sir?—

O,—Desdemona,—

Des. My lord?

Oth. Get you to bed on the instant, I will be returned forthwith: dismiss your attendant there; look, it be done.

Des. I will, my lord.

[Exeunt Oth. Lod. and Attendants.]

E. How goes it now? he looks gentler than he did.

Des. He says he will return incontinent¹;

He hath commanded me to go to bed, And bade me to dismiss you.

Emil. Dismiss me!

D. It was his bidding; therefore good Emilia, Give me my nightly wearing, and adieu: We must not now displease him.

Emil. I would, you had never seen him.

D. So would not I; my love doth so approve him, That even his stubbornness, his checks, and frowns,— [them.]

Pr'ythee, unpin me,—have grace and favour in

Emil. I have laid those sheets you bade me on the bed.

Des. All's one:—Good father! how foolish are our minds!—

If I do die before thee, pr'ythee, shroud me In one of those same sheets.

Emil. Come, come, you talk.

Des. My mother had a maid call'd—Barbara; She was in love; and he, she lov'd, proved mad, And did forsake her: she had a song of—willow, An old thing 'twas, but it expressed her fortune, And she died singing it: That song, to-night, Will not go from my mind; I have much to do But to go hang my head all at one side, And sing it like poor Barbara. Pr'ythee, despatch.

Emil. Shall I go fetch your night gown?

Des. No, unpin me here.—

This Lodovico is a proper man.

Emil. A very handsome man.

Des. And he speaks well.

Emil. I know a lady in Venice, who would have walked barefoot to Palestine, for a touch of his nether lip.

I.

Des. [Singing.] The poor soul sat sighing by a sycamore tree,

Sing all a green willow;

Her hand on her bosom, her head on her knee,

Sing willow, willow, willow:

The fresh streams ran by her, and murmur'd her moans;

Sing willow, &c.

Her salt tears fell from her, and softened the stones:

Lay by these:

Sing willow, willow, willow;

Pr'ythee, hie thee; he'll come anon.

Sing all a green willow must be my garland.

II.

Let nobody blame him, his scorn I approve,—

Nay, that's not next.—Hark! who is it that

Emil. It is the wind.

[knocks?

¹ Immediately.

Des. I call'd my love, false love; but what said he then?

Sing willow, &c.

So get thee gone; good night. Mine eyes do doth that bode weeping? [itch;

Emil. 'Tis neither here nor there.

Des. I have heard it said so.—O, these men, these men!

Dost thou in conscience think,—tell me, Emilia,—That there be women do abuse their husbands In such gross kind?

Emil. There be some such, no question.

Des. Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the

Emil. Why, would not you? [world?

Des. No, by this heavenly light!

Wouldst thou do such a deed for all the world?

Emil. The world is a huge thing: 'Tis a great price.

Des. Good troth, I think thou wouldst not.

Emil. By my troth, I think I should. Marry, I would not do such a thing for a joint-ring; nor for measures of lawn; nor for gowns, petticoats, nor caps, nor any petty exhibition: but, for the whole world. I should venture purgatory for't.

Des. Beshrew me, if I would do such a wrong for the whole world.

Emil. Why, the wrong is but a wrong i' the world; and, having the world for your labour, 'tis a wrong in your own world, and you might quickly make it right.

Des. I do not think there is any such woman.

Emil. Yes, a dozen.

But, I do think, it is their husbands' faults, If wives do fall: Say, that they slack their Or else break out in peevish jealousies, [duties, Throwing restraint upon us; or, say they strike Or scant our former having in despite; [us, Why, we have galls; and, though we have some grace,

Yet we have some revenge. Let husbands know Their wives have sense² like them: they see, and smell,

And have their palates both for sweet and sour, As husbands have. What is it that they do, When they change us for others? Is it sport? I think it is; And doth affection breed it? I think it doth; Is't frailty, that thus errs? It is so too; And have not we affections? Desires like them? and frailty, as men have? Then, let them use us well: else let them know The ills we do, their ills instruct us to.

Des. Good night, good night: Heaven me such usage send,

Not to pick bad from bad; but, by bad, mend! [Exeunt.

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A STREET.

Enter Iago and Roderigo.

Iago. Here, stand behind this bulk; straight will he come:

Wear thy good rapier bare, and put it home; Quick, quick; fear nothing; I'll be at thy elbow:

1 Allowances.

2 Sensation.

It makes us, or it mars us; think on that, And fix most firm thy resolution.

Rod. Be near at hand; I may miscarry in't.

Iago. Here, at thy hand; be bold, and take thy sword. [Retires to a little distance.

Rod. I have no great devotion to the deed; And yet he has given me satisfying reasons:—

'Tis but a man gone:—forth, my sword; he dies. [Goes to his stand.

Iago. I have rubb'd this youngster almost to the sense,¹

And he grows angry. Now, whether he kill Cassio, Or Cassio him, or each do kill the other,

Every way makes my gain: Live Roderigo,

He calls me to a restitution large

Of gold and jewels, that I bobb'd² from him,

As gifts to Desdemona;

It must not be: if Cassio do remain,

He hath a daily beauty in his life,

That makes me ugly; and, besides, the Moor May unfold me to him; there stand I in much peril:

No, he must die:—But so, I hear him coming.

Enter Cassio.

Rod. I know his gait, 'tis he;—Villain, thou diest.

[Rushes from his post, and makes a pass at Cassio.

Cas. That thrust had been mine enemy indeed, But that my coat is better than thou think'st; I will make proof of thine.

[Draws, and wounds Roderigo.

Rod. O, I am slain!

[Iago rushes from his post, cuts Cassio behind in the leg, and Exit.

Cas. I am maim'd for ever:—Help, ho! murder! murder! [Falls.

Enter Othello, at a distance.

Oth. The voice of Cassio:—Iago keeps his word.

Rod. O, villain that I am!

Oth. Hark! 'tis even so.

Cas. O, help! ho! light! a surgeon!

Oth. 'Tis he;—O brave Iago, honest, and just, That hath such noblesense of thy friend's wrong! Thou teachest me,—Minion, your dear lies dead, And your fate hies apace:—Wanton, I come: Forth of my heart those charms, thine eyes, are blotted;

Thy bed, now stain'd, shall with thy blood be spotted. [Exit Othello.

Enter Lodovico and Gratiano, at a distance.

Cas. What, ho! no watch? no passage³? murder! murder!

Gra. 'Tis some mischance; the cry is very *Cas.* O, help! [direful.

Lod. Hark!

Rod. O wretched villain!

Lod. Two or three groans;—it is a heavy⁴ night:

These may be counterfeits; let's think't unsafe To come into the cry, without more help.

Rod. No body come? then shall I bleed to death.

1 The quick. 2 Fooled. 3 Passengers. 4 Cloudy.

Enter Iago, with a Light.

Lod. Hark!

Gra. Here's one comes in his shirt, with light and weapons.

Iago. Who's there? whose noise is this, that cries on murder?

Lod. We do not know.

Iago. Did you not hear a cry?

Cas. Here, here; for heaven's sake, help me.

Iago. What's the matter?

Gra. This is Othello's ancient, as I take it.

Lod. The same, indeed; a very valiant fellow.

Iago. What are you here that cry so grievously?

Cas. Iago? O, I am spoil'd, undone by villains! Give me some help.

Iago. O me, lieutenant! what villains have done this?

Cas. I think that one of them is hereabout, And cannot make away.

Iago. O treacherous villains!—

[*To Lodovico and Gratiano.*] What, are you there? come in, and give some help.

Rod. O, help me here!

Cas. That's one of them.

Iago. O murderous slave! O villain!

[*Iago stabs Roderigo.*]

Rod. O vile Iago! O inhuman dog!—

O! O! O!

Iago. Kill men i' the dark!—Where be these bloody thieves?

How silent is this town!—Ho! murder! murder!

What may you be? are you of good, or evil?

Lod. As you shall prove us, praise us.

Iago. Signior Lodovico?

Lod. He, sir.

Iago. I cry you mercy; Here's Cassio hurt by villains.

Gra. Cassio?

Iago. How is it, brother?

Cas. My leg is cut in two.

Iago. Marry, heaven forbid!—

Light, gentlemen; I'll bind it with my shirt.

Enter Bianca.

Bian. What is the matter, ho? who is't that

Iago. Who is't that cry'd? [cry'd]

Bian. O my dear Cassio! my sweet Cassio!

O Cassio! Cassio! Cassio!

Iago. O notable commoner!—Cassio, may you suspect [you?]

Who they should be, that have thus mangled Cas. No.

Gra. I am sorry, to find you thus: I have been to seek you.

Iago. Lend me a garter: So.—O, for a chair, To bear him easily hence!

Bian. Alas, he faints:—O Cassio! Cassio! Cassio!

Iago. Gentlemen all, I do suspect this trash To be a party in this injury.—

Patience a while, good Cassio.—Come, come;

Lend me a light.—Know we this face, or no?

Alas! my friend, and my dear countryman,

Roderigo? no:—Yes, sure; 'tis Roderigo.

Gra. What, of Venice?

Iago. Even he, sir; did you know him?

Gra. Know him, ay.

I. Signior Gratiano? I cry you gentle pardon;

These bloody accidents must excuse my manners, That so neglected you.

Gra. I am glad to see you.

I. How do you, Cassio?—O, a chair, a chair!

Gra. Roderigo!

Iago. He, he, 'tis he:—O, that's well said;—the chair:— [*A Chair brought in.*]

Some good man bear him carefully from hence; I'll fetch the general's surgeon.—[*To Bianca.*]

For you, mistress,

Save you your labour. He that lies slain here, Cassio,

Was my dear friend: What malice was between you?

Cas. None in the world; nor do I know the man.

Iago. [*To Bianca.*] What, look you pale?—O, bear him out o' the air:—

[*Cassio and Roderigo are borne off.*]

Stay you, good gentlemen:—Look you pale, mistress?

Do you perceive the ghastness of her eye?—

Nay, if you stare, we shall hear more anon:—

Behold her well; I pray you, look upon her;

Do you see, gentlemen? nay, guiltiness will

Though tongues were out of use. [speak,

Enter Emilia.

Emil. 'Las, what's the matter; what's the matter, husband?

Iago. Cassio hath here been set on in the dark, By Roderigo, and fellows that are 'scap'd; He's almost slain, and Roderigo dead.

Emil. Alas, good gentlemen! alas, good Cassio!

Iago. This is the fruit of lewdness,—Pr'ythee, Emilia,

Go know of Cassio where he supp'd to-night:—What, do you shake at that?

Bian. He supp'd at my house; but I therefore shake not.

Iago. O, did he so? I charge you go with me.

Emil. Fie, fie upon thee, drab!

Bian. I am no drab; but of life as honest,

As you that thus abuse me.

Emil. As I? foh! fie upon thee!

Iago. Kind gentlemen, let's go see poor Cassio dress'd:—

Come, mistress, you must tell us another tale.—

Emilia, run you to the citadel,

And tell my lord and lady what has happ'd.—

Will you go on, I pray?—This is the night, [Aside.

That either makes me, or fordoes¹ me quite. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.—A BED-CHAMBER: DESDEMONA IN BED ASLEEP. A LIGHT BURNING.

Enter Othello.

Oth. It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul,—

Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars!—

It is the cause.—Yet I'll not shed her blood;

Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow,

And smooth as monumental alabaster.

Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.

Put out the light, and then—put out the light:—

If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,

¹ Undoes.

² (Of Life.)

I can again thy former light restore,
Should I repent me:—but once put out thine,
Thou cunning'st pattern of excelling nature,
I know not where is that Promethean heat,
That can thy light relume. When I have
pluck'd thy rose,

I cannot give it vital growth again,
It needs must wither:—I'll smell it on the tree.—

[Kissing her.]

O balmy breath, that dost almost persuade
Justice to break her sword!—One more, one
more—

Be thus when thou art dead, and I will kill thee,
And love thee after:—One more, and this the last:
So sweet was ne'er so fatal. I must weep,
But they are cruel tears; this sorrow's heavenly;
It strikes where it doth love.—She wakes—

Des. Who's there? Othello?

Oth. Ay, Desdemona.

Des. Will you come to bed, my lord?

Oth. Have you pray'd to-night, Desdemona?

Des. Ay, my lord.

Oth. If you bethink yourself of any crime,
Unreconcil'd as yet to heaven and grace,
Solicit for it straight.

Des. Alas, my lord, what may you mean
by that?

Oth. Well, do it, and be brief; I will walk by;
I would not kill thy unprepared spirit;
No.—Heaven fend!—I would not kill thy
Des. Talk you of killing! [soul.]

Oth. Ay, I do.

Des. Then, heaven

Have mercy on me.

Oth. Amen, with all my heart!

Des. If you say so, I hope you will not kill me.

Oth. Humph!

Des. And yet I fear you: for you are fatal then,
When your eyes roll so: Why I should fear, I
know not,

Since guiltiness I know not; but yet, I feel, I fear.

Oth. Think on thy sins.

Des. They are loves I bear to you.

Oth. Ay, and for that thou diest.

Des. That death's unnatural, that kills for
loving.—

Alas, why gnaw you so your nether lip?

Some bloody passion shakes your very frame:
These are portents; but yet, I hope, I hope,
They do not point on me.

Oth. Peace, and be still!

Des. I will so: What's the matter?

Oth. That handkerchief which I so lov'd and
gave thee,

Thou gav'st to Cassio.

Des. No, by my life and soul;
Send for the man and ask him.

Oth. Sweet soul, take heed,
Take heed of perjury; thou art on thy death-bed.

Des. Ay, but not yet to die.

Oth. Yes, presently:

Therefore confess thee freely of thy sin;

For to deny each article with oath,
Cannot remove, nor choke, the strong conception,
That I do groan withal. Thou art to die.

Des. O heaven, have mercy on me!

Oth. I say, amen.

1 Forbid.

Des. And have you mercy too!—I never did
Offend you in my life; never lov'd Cassio,
But with such general warranty of heaven
As I might love: I never gave him token.

Oth. By heaven, I saw my handkerchief in
his hand.

O perjur'd woman! thou dost stone my heart,
And mak'st me call what I intend to do,—
A murder, which I thought a sacrifice:
I saw the handkerchief.

Des. He found it then;

I never gave it him:—Send for him hither,
Let him confess a truth.

Oth. He hath confess'd.

Des. What, my lord?

Oth. That he hath—us'd thee.

Des. How? unlawfully?

Oth. Ay.

Des. He'll not say so.

Oth. No, his mouth is stopp'd;

Honest Iago has ta'en order for't.

D. My fear interprets then,—What, is he dead?

O. Had all his hairs been lives, my great revenge
Had stomach for them all.

Des. Alas! he is betray'd, and I undone.

Oth. Out, wanton! Weep'st thou for him to
my face?

Des. O, banish me, my lord, but kill me not.

Oth. Down, callet!

Des. Kill me to-morrow, let me live to-night.

Oth. Nay, if you strive,—

Des. But half an hour.

Oth. Being done,

There is no pause.

Des. But while I say one prayer.

Oth. It is too late. [He stifles her.]

Emil. [Within.] My lord, my lord! what ho?
my lord! my lord!

Oth. What noise is this?—Not dead! not yet
quite dead?

I, that am cruel, am yet merciful;

I would not have thee linger in thy pain.—

So, so.

Emil. [Within.] What ho! my lord! my lord!

Oth. Who's there?

Emil. [Within.] O, good my lord, I would
speak a word with you.

O. Yes; 'tis Emilia:—by and by.—She's dead.

'Tis like she comes to speak of Cassio's death:

The noise was high.—Ha! no more moving?
Still as the grave. Shall she come in? Were't
good?

I think, she stirs again:—No.—What's the best?
If she come in, she'll sure speak to my wife:

My wife! my wife! what wife?—I have no wife:
O, insupportable! O heavy hour!

Methinks it should be now a huge eclipse
Of sun and moon; and that the affrighted globe
Should yawn at alteration.

Emil. [Within.] I do beseech you I may speak
with you.

O, good my lord!

Oth. I had forgot thee: O, come in, Emilia:—

Soft,—by and by:—Let me the curtains draw.—
Where art thou? what's the matter with thee
now.

[Unlocks the door.]

Enter Emilia.

E. O, good my lord, yonder's foul murder done,

Oth. What? now?

Emil. But now, my lord!

Oth. It is the very error of the moon;
She comes more near the earth than she was
And makes men mad. [wout;

*E. Cassio, my lord, has kill'd a young Venetian,
Call'd—Roderigo.*

Oth. Roderigo kill'd!

And Cassio kill'd!

Emil. No, Cassio is not kill'd.

Oth. Not Cassio kill'd? then murder's out of
And sweet revenge grows harsh. [tune,

Des. O, falsely, falsely murder'd!

Emil. Alas! what cry is that?

Oth. That! what?

Emil. Out, and alas! that was my lady's voice:—
Help! help, ho! help!—O lady, speak again!

Sweet Desdemona! O, sweet mistress, speak!

Des. A guiltless death I die.

Emil. O, who hath done
This deed?

Des. Nobody; I myself; farewell:
Commend me to my kind lord; O, farewell. [Dies.

Oth. Why, how should she be murder'd?

Emil. Alas, who knows?

Oth. You heard her say herself, it was not I.

Emil. She said so, I must needs report the truth.

Oth. She's like a liar, gone to burning hell;
'Twas I that kill'd her.

Emil. O, the more angel she,
And you the blacker devil!

Oth. She turn'd to folly, and she was a wanton.

Emil. Thou dost belie her, and thou art a devil.

Oth. She was false as water.

Emil. Thou art rash as fire, to say
That she was false; O, she was heavenly true!

O, false, and with Cassio; ask thy husband else.
O, I were damn'd beneath all depth in hell,

But that I did proceed upon just grounds
To this extremity; Thy husband knew it all.

Emil. My husband?

Oth. Thy husband.

Emil. That she was false to wedlock?

Oth. Ay, with Cassio.

Nay, had she been true,
If heaven would make me such another world
Of one entire and perfect chrysolite,
I'd not have sold her for it.

Emil. My husband?

Oth. Ay, 'twas he that told me first;
An honest man he is, and hates the slime
That sticks on filthy deeds.

Emil. My husband?

Oth. What needs this iteration, woman? I
say, thy husband.

E. O mistress, villainy hath made mocks with
My husband say, that she was false? [love!—

Oth. He, woman.

I say, thy husband; Dost understand the word?
My friend, thy husband, honest, honest Iago.

Emil. If he say so, may his pernicious soul
Rot half a grain a day! he lies to the heart;
She was too fond of her most filthy bargain.

Oth. Ha!

Emil. Do thy worst:
This deed of thine is no more worthy heaven,
Than thou wast worthy her.

Oth. Peace, you were best,

E. Thou hast not half the power to do me harm,
As I have to be hurt.¹ O gull! O dolt!
As ignorant as dirt! thou hast done a deed,—
I care not for thy sword; I'll make thee known.
Though I lost twenty lives:—Help! help, ho!
help! [murder!]

The Moor has killed my mistress; Murder!

Enter Montano, Gratiano, and Iago.

Mon. What is the matter?—How now, general?

E. O, are you come, Iago? you have done well.
That men must lay their murders on your neck.

Gra. What is the matter?

Emil. Disprove this villain, if thou be'st a man.
Hesays, thou told'st him, that his wife was false;

I know, thou did'st not, thou art not such a
Speak, for my heart is full. [villain;

Iago. I told him what I thought; and told
no more

Than what he found himself was apt and true.

Emil. But did you ever tell him she was false?

Iago. I did.

Emil. You told a lie; an odious, damned lie;
Upon my soul, a lie; a wicked lie:—

She false with Cassio!—Did you say with Cassio?
Iago. With Cassio, mistress; Go to, charm your
tongue. [to speak;

E. I will not charm my tongue; I am bound
My mistress here lies murder'd in her bed.

All. O heavens forfend²!

Emil. And your reports have set the murder on.

Oth. Nay, stare not, masters; it is true, indeed.

Gra. 'Tis a strange truth.

Mon. O monstrous act!

Emil. Villainy, villainy, villainy!—
I think upon't,—I think,—I smell't;—O vil-
lainy!

I thought so then;—I'll kill myself for grief.—
O villainy, villainy! [you home.

Iago. What, are you mad? I charge you, get
Emil. Good gentlemen, let me have leave to
speak:

'Tis proper I obey him, but not now:—
Perchance, Iago, I will ne'er go home.

Oth. O! O! O! [Hanging over his Wife.

Emil. Nay, lay thee down, and roar;

For thou hast killed the sweetest innocent,
That e'er did lift up eye.

Oth. O, she was foul!— [Rising.
I scarce did know you, uncle: There lies your
niece, [stopp'd:]

Whose breath, indeed, these hands have newly
I know, this act shows horrible and grim.

Gra. Poor Desdemona! I am glad thy father's
dead;

Thy match was mortal to him, and pure grief
Shore his old thread in twain: did he live now,
This sight would make him do a desperate turn.

Oth. 'Tis pitiful: but yet Iago knows,
That she with Cassio hath the act of shame

A thousand times committed; Cassio confess'd it:
And she did gratify his amorous vows

With that recognizance and pledge of love
Which I first gave her; I saw it in his hand;

It was a handkerchief, an antique token
My father gave my mother.

Emil. O heaven! O heavenly powers!

1 (To bear hurt.)

2 Forbid.

Iago. Come, hold your peace.

Emil. 'Twill out, 'twill out;—I hold my peace, sir? no;

No, I will speak as liberal¹ as the air;
Let heaven, and men, and devils, let them all,
All, all, cry shame against me, yet I'll speak.

Iago. Be wise, and get you home.

Emil. I will not.

[*Iago offers to stab his Wife.*

Fie!

Gra. Your sword upon a woman?

Emil. O thou dull Moor! that handkerchief thou speak'st of,

I found by fortune, and did give my husband;
For often, with a solemn earnestness,
(More than, indeed, belond'g'd to such a trifle,) He begg'd of me to steal it.

Iago. Villainous drab!

Emil. She give it Cassio! no, alas; I found it, And I did give 't my husband.

Iago. Filth, thou liest.

E. By heaven, I do not: I do not, gentlemen: O murderous coxcomb! what should such a fool Do with so good a wife?

[*Iago stabs Emilia, then runs out.*

Oth. Are there no stones in heaven,
But that serve for the thunder?—Precious villain!

G. The woman falls! sure, he has kill'd his wife.

Emil. Ay, ay; O, lay me by my mistress' side!

Gra. He's gone, but his wife's kill'd.

Mon. 'Tis a notorious villain. Take you this weapon

Which I have here recover'd from the Moor:
Come, guard the door without; let him not pass:
But kill him rather; I'll after that same villain,
For 'tis a cursed slave.

[*Exeunt Montano and Gratiano.*

Oth. I am not valiant neither,
But every puny whipster gets my sword:—
But why should honour outlive honesty?
Let it go all.

Emil. What did thy song bode, lady?
Hark, canst thou hear me? I will play the swan,
And die in music;—*Willow, willow, willow,*—
Moor, she was chaste; she lov'd thee, cruel Moor;
So come my soul to bliss, as I speak true;
So speaking as I think, I die,—I die. [*Dies.*

Oth. I have another weapon in this chamber,
It is a sword of Spain, the ice-brook's temper²;—
O, here it is:—Uncle, I must come forth.

Gra. [*Within.*] If thou attempt it, it will cost thee dear;

Thou hast no weapon, and perforce must suffer.

Oth. Look in upon me then, and speak with me,
Or, naked as I am, I will assault thee.

Re-enter Gratiano.

Gra. What is the matter?

Oth. Behold! I have a weapon;
A better never did itself sustain
Upon a soldier's thigh: I have seen the day,
That, with this little arm, and this good sword,
I have made my way through more impediments
Than twenty times your stop:—But, O vain boast!
Who can control his fate? 'tis not so now.—

1 Free. [cold water.
2 Steel is hardened by being put red-hot into very

Be not afraid, though you do see me weapon'd;
Here is my journey's end, here is my butt,
And very sea-mark of my utmost sail.

Do you go back dismay'd? 'tis a lost fear;
Man but a rush against Othello's breast,
And he retires;—where should Othello go?
Now, how dost thou look now? O ill-starr'd
wench! [*compt*¹

Pale as thy smock! when we shall meet at
This look of thine will hurl my soul from heaven,
And fiends will snatch at it. Cold, cold, my girl?
Even like thy chastity.—

O cursed, cursed slave!—Whip me, ye devils,
From the possession of this heavenly sight!
Blow me about in winds! roast me in sulphur!
Wash me in steep-down gulfs of liquid fire!—
O Desdemona! Desdemona! dead?
Dead? O! O! O!

Enter Lodovico, Montano, Cassio, carried in a Chair, and Officers, with Iago prisoner.

Lod. Where is this rash and most unfortunate man?

Oth. That's he, that was Othello; here I am.

L. Where is that viper? bring the villain forth.

Oth. I look down towards his feet²;—but that's a fable:

If that thou be'st a devil, I cannot kill thee.

[*Othello wounds Iago.*

Lod. Wrench his sword from him.

Iago. I bleed, sir; but not kill'd.

Oth. I am not sorry neither; I'd have thee live;
For, in my sense, 'tis happiness to die.

Lod. O thou Othello, that was once so good,
Fall'n in the practice³ of a cursed slave,
What shall be said to thee?

Oth. Why, anything:

An honourable murderer, if you will;

For nought I did in hate, but all in honour.

L. This wretch hath part confess'd his villainy:
Did you and he consent in Cassio's death?

Oth. Ay.

Cas. Dear general, I never gave you cause.

Oth. I do believe it, and I ask your pardon.
Will you, I pray, demand that demi-devil,
Why he hath thus ensnar'd my soul and body?

Iago. Demand me nothing: What you know, you know:

From this time forth I never will speak word.

Lod. What? not to pray?

Gra. Torments will ope your lips.

Oth. Well, thou dost best.

L. Sir, you shall understand what hath befall'n,
Which, as I think, you know not: Here is a letter,
Found in the pocket of the slain Roderigo;
And here, another: the one of them imports
The death of Cassio to be undertook
By Roderigo.

Oth. O villain!

Cas. Most heathenish, and most gross:

Lod. Now here's another discontented paper,
Found in his pocket too: and this it seems,
Roderigo meant to have sent this worst of vil-
lains, But that, belike, Iago in the interim [lains,
Came in and satisfied him.

Oth. O the pernicious caitiff!—

1 Judgment day.

3 Practices.

2 (To see if his feet be cloven.)

How came, you, Cassio, by that handkerchief
That was my wife's?

Cas. I found it in my chamber:
And he himself confess'd, but even now,
That there he dropp'd it for a special purpose,
Which wrought to his desire.

Oth. O fool! fool! fool!

Cas. There is, besides, in Roderigo's letter,—
How he upbraids Iago, that he made him
Brave me upon the watch; whereon it came
That I was cast: And even but now he spake,
After long seeming dead,—Iago hurt him,
Iago set him on.

Lod. You must forsake this room and go with
Your power and your command is taken off,
And Cassio rules in Cyprus. For this slave,—
If there be any cunning cruelty,
That can torment him much, and hold him long,
It shall be his: You shall close prisoner rest,
Till that the nature of your fault be known
To the Venetian state:—Come, bring away.

Oth. Soft you; a word or two before you go.
I have done the state some service, and they
know it;

No more of that:—I pray you, in your letters,
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice; then must you
speak

Of one, that lov'd not wisely, but too well;
Of one, not easily jealous, but, being wrought,

Perplex'd in the extreme; of one, whose hand
Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away,
Richer than all his tribe; of one, whose subdu'
Albeit unused to the melting mood, [eyes
Drop tears as fast as the Arabian trees
Their medicinal gum: Set you down this;
And say, besides,—that in Aleppo once,
Where a malignant and a turban'd Turk
Beat a Venetian, and tradg'd the state,
I took by the throat the circumcised dog,
And smote him—thus. [*Stabs himself*]

Lod. O bloody period!

Gra. All, that's spoke, is marr'd.

Oth. I kiss'd thee, ere I kill'd thee:—No way
but this, [*Falling upon Desdemona*]

Killing myself, to die upon a kiss. [*Dies*]

Cas. This did I fear, but thought he had no
For he was great of heart. [*weapon*]

Lod. [*To Iago.*] O Spartan dog,
More fell than anguish, hunger, or the sea!
Look on the tragick loading of this bed;
This is thy work: the object poisons sight;—
Let it be hid.—Gratiano, keep the house,
And seize upon the fortunes of the Moor,
For they succeed to you.—To you, lord gover-
nor,

Remains the censure¹ of this hellish villain;
The time, the place, the torture, —O enforce it!
Myself will straight aboard; and, to the state,
This heavy act with heavy heart relate.

[*Exeunt.*]

Cymbeline.

Persons Represented.

CYMBELINE, *King of Britain.*

CLOTEN, *Son to the Queen by a former Husband.*

LEONATUS POSTHUMUS, *a Gentleman, Husband to Imogen.*

BELARIUS, *a banished Lord, disguised under the name of MORGAN.*

GUIDERIUS, { *Sons to Cymbeline, disguised*
ARVIRAGUS, { *under the Names of POLYDORE*
and CADWAL, supposed Sons to Belarius.

PHILARIO, *Friend to Posthumus,* } *Italians.*

IACHIMO, *Friend to Philario,* }

A French Gentleman, *Friend to Philario.*

CATUS LUCIUS, *General of the Roman Forces.*

A Roman Captain.

Two British Captains.

PISANIO, *Servant to Posthumus.*

CORNELIUS, *a Physician.*

Two Gentlemen.

Two Gaiers.

QUEEN, *Wife to Cymbeline.*

IMOGEN, *Daughter to Cymbeline by a former Queen.*

HELEN, *Woman to Imogen.*

Lords, Ladies, Roman Senators, Tribunes,

Apparitions, a Soothsayer, a Dutch Gentle-

man, a Spanish Gentleman, Musicians,

Officers, Captains, Soldiers, Messengers,

and other Attendants.

SCENE.—*Sometimes in Britain; sometimes in Italy.*

Act First.

SCENE I.—BRITAIN. THE GARDEN BEHIND
CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter two Gentlemen.

1 *Gent.* You do not meet a man but frowns:
our bloods

No more obey the heavens, than our courtiers
Still seem, as does the king's.

2 *Gent.* But what's the matter?

1 *Gent.* His daughter, and the heir of his
kingdom, whom

He purpos'd to his wife's sole son, (a widow,
That late he married,) hath referred herself

1 *Sentence.*

Unto a poor but worthy gentleman: She's wedded;
Her husband banish'd; she imprison'd: all
Is outward sorrow; though, I think, the king
Be touch'd at very heart.

2 *Gent.* None but the king?

1 *G.* He, that hath lost her, too: so is the queen,
That most desir'd the match: But not a courtier,
Although they wear their faces to the bant
Of the king's looks, hath a heart that is not
Glad at the thing they scowl at.

2 *Gent.* And why so?

1 *G.* He that hath miss'd the princess, is a thing
Too bad for bad report: and he that hath her,
(I mean, that married her,—alack, good man!—
And therefore banish'd,) is a creature such
As, to seek through the regions of the earth
For one like, there would be something failing
In him that should compare. I do not think,
So fair an outward, and such stuff within,
Endows a man but he.

2 *Gent.* You speak him far.¹

1 *Gent.* I do extend him, sir, within himself;
Crush him together, rather than unfold
His measure duly.

2 *Gent.* What's his name, and birth?

1 *G.* I cannot delve him to the root: His father
Was call'd Sicilius, who did join his honour,
Against the Romans, with Cassibelan:
But had his titles by Tenantius,² whom
He serv'd with glory and admir'd success:
So gain'd the sur-addition, Leonatus:
And had, besides this gentleman in question,
Two other sons, who, in the wars o' the time;
Died with their swords in hand; for which their
father

(Then old and fond of issue) took such sorrow,
That he quit being; and his gentle lady,
Big of this gentleman, our theme, deceas'd
As he was born. The king, he takes the babe
To his protection; calls him Posthumus;
Breeds him, and makes him of his bed-chamber:
Puts him to all the learnings that his time
Could make him the receiver of; which he took,
As we do air, fast as 'twas minister'd: and
In his spring became a harvest: Liv'd in court
(Which rare it is to do) most prais'd, most lov'd:
A sample to the youngest; to the more mature,
A glass that feated³ them; and to the graver,
A child that guided dotards: to his mistress,
For whom he now is banish'd,—her own price
Proclaims how she esteem'd him and his virtues;
By her election may be truly read,
What kind of man he is.

2 *Gent.* I honour him

Even out of your report. But, 'pray you, tell me,
Is she sole child to the king?

1 *Gent.* His only child.

He had two sons, (if this be worth your hearing,
Mark it,) the eldest of them at three years old,
I' the swathing clothes the other, from their
nursery

Were stolen: and to this hour, no guess in know-
Which way they went.

2 *Gent.* How long is this ago?

1 *Gent.* Some twenty years.

2 *Gent.* That a king's children should beso con-

1 Praise him lavishly. 2 The father of Cymbeline.

3 Showed a model.

So slackly guarded; And the search so slow,
That could not trace them!

1 *Gent.* Howsoe'er 'tis strange,
Or that the negligence may well be laugh'd at,
Yet is it true, sir.

2 *Gent.* I do well believe you.

1 *Gent.* We must forbear; Here comes the
gentleman,
The queen and princess. [Exit.

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter the Queen, Posthumus, and Imogen.

Queen. No, be assur'd, you shall not find me,
daughter,

After the slander of most step-mothers,
Evil-eyed unto you: you are my prisoner, but
Your gaoler shall deliver you the keys
That lock up your restraint. For you, Posthumus,
So soon as I can win the offended king,
I will be known your advocate: marry, yet
The fire of rage is in him; and 'twere good,
You lean'd unto his sentence, with what patience
Your wisdom may inform you.

Post. Please your highness,
I will from hence to-day.

Queen. You know the peril:—
I'll fetch a turn about the garden, pitying
The pangs of barr'd affections; though the king
Hath charg'd you should not speak together.

[Exit Queen.]

Imo. O
Dissembling courtesy! How fine this tyrant
Can tickle where she wounds!—My dearest
husband,

I something fear my father's wrath; but nothing,
(Always reserv'd my holy duty,) what
His rage can do on me: You must be gone;
And I shall here abide the hourly shot
Of angry eyes; not comforted to live,
But that there is this jewel in the world,
That I may see again.

Post. My queen! my mistress!
O, lady, weep no more; lest I give cause
To be suspected of more tenderness
Than doth become a man! I will remain
The loyal'st husband that did e'er pligh: troth.
My residence in Rome at one Philario's;
Who to my father was a friend, to me
Known but by letter: thither write, my queen,
And with mine eyes I'll drink the words you send,
Though ink be made of gall.

Re-enter Queen.

Queen. Be brief, I pray you:
If the king come I shall incur I know not
How much of his displeasure: [Aside.] Yet I'll
move him

To walk this way: I never do him wrong,
But he does buy my injuries, to be friends;
Pays dear for my offences.

Post. Should we be taking leave
As long a term as yet we have to live,
The loathness to depart would grow: Adieu!

Imo. Nay, stay a little:

Were you but riding forth to air yourself,
Such parting were too petty. Look here, love;
This diamond was my mother's: take it, heart;

But keep it till you woo another wife,
When Imogen is dead.

Post. How! how! another?—
You gentle gods, give me but this I have,
And seal up¹ my embracements from a next
With bonds of death!—Remain thou here

[*Putting on the Ring.*
While sense can keep it on! And sweetest, fairest,
As I my poor self did exchange for you,
To your so infinite loss; so in our trifles
I still win of you: For my sake, wear this;
It is a manacle of love; I'll place it
Upon this fairest prisoner.

[*Putting a Bracelet on her Arm.*
Imo. O, the gods!
When shall we see again?

Enter Cymbeline, and Lords.

Post. Alack, the king!
Cym. Thou basest thing, avoid! hence, from
my sight!

If, after this command, thou fraught² the court
With thy unworthiness, thou diest: Away!
Thou art poison to my blood.

Post. The gods protect you!
And bless the good remainders of the court!
I am gone. [Exit.]

Imo. There cannot be a pinch in death
More sharp than this is.

Cym. O disloyal thing,
That shouldst repair my youth; thou heapest
A year's age on me!

Imo. I beseech you, sir,
Harm not yourself with your vexation; I
Am senseless of your wrath; a touch more rare
Subdues all pangs, all fears.

Cym. Past grace? obedience?
Imo. Past hope, and in despair; that way,
past grace. [queen!]

Cym. That might'st have had the sole son of my
Imo. O bless'd, that I might not! I chose an
And did avoid a puttock.³ [eagle,
C. Thou took'st a beggar; wouldst have made
A seat for baseness. [my throne

Imo. No; I rather added
A lustre to it.

Cym. O thou vile one!
Imo. Sir,
It is your fault that I have loved Posthumus!
You bred him as my playfellow; and he is
A man, worth any woman; overbuys me
Almost the sum he pays.

Cym. What!—art thou mad?
Imo. Almost, sir; Heaven restore me!—Would
I were

A neat-herd's⁴ daughter! and my Leonatus
Our neighbour shepherd's son!

Re-enter Queen.

Cym. Thou foolish thing!—
They were again together: you have done
[To the Queen.]

Not after our command. Away with her,
And pen her up.

Queen. Beseech your patience:—Peace,
Dear lady daughter, peace;—Sweet sovereign,

¹ Close up.
² Fill

³ A common hawk.
⁴ Cattle-keeper.

Leave us to ourselves; and make yourself some
Out of your best advice.¹ [comfort

Cym. Nay, let her languish
A drop of blood a day; and, being aged,
Die of this folly! [Exit.]

Enter Pisanio.

Queen. Fie!—you must give way:
Here is your servant.—How now, sir? What
news?

Pis. My lord your son drew on my master.
Queen. Ha!

No harm, I trust, is done?

Pis. There might have been,
But that my master rather play'd than fought,
And had no help of anger: they were parted
By gentlemen at hand.

Queen. I am very glad on't.
Imo. Your son's my father's friend; he takes
his part.—

To draw upon an exile!—O brave sir!—
I would they were in Africk both together;
Myself by with a needle, that I might prick
The goer back.—Why came you from your master?

Pis. On his command: He would not suffer me
To bring him to the haven: left these notes
Of what commands I should be subject to,
When it pleas'd you to employ me.

Queen. This hath been
Your faithful servant; I dare lay mine honour,
He will remain so.

Pis. I humbly thank your highness.
Queen. Pray, walk a while.

Imo. About some half hour hence
I pray you speak with me: you shall, at least,
Go see my lord aboard; for this time, leave me.
[Exit.]

SCENE III.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

Enter Cloten, and two Lords.

1 Lord. Sir, I would advise you to shift a shirt;
the violence of action hath made you reek as a
sacrifice.

Clo. If my shirt were bloody, then to shift it
—Have I hurt him?

2 Lord. [Aside.] No, faith; not so much as
his patience.

1 Lord. Hurt him? his body's a passable car-
cass, if he be not hurt: it is a thoroughfare for
steel if it be not hurt.

2 Lord. His steel was in debt.

Clo. The villain would not stand me.

2 Lord. [Aside.] No; but he fled forward
still, toward your face.

1 Lord. Stand you! You have land enough
of your own; but he added to your having;
gave you some ground.

2 Lord. [Aside.] As may inches as you have
oceans: Puppies!

Clo. I would they had not come between us.

2 Lord. [Aside.] So would I, till you had measured
how long a fool you were upon the ground.

Clo. And that she should love this fellow,
and refuse me!

2 Lord. [Aside.] If it be a sin to make a true
election, she is cursed.

¹ Reflections.

1 *Lord*. Sir, as I told you always, her beauty and her brain go not together: She's a good sign, but I have seen small reflection of her wit.¹

2 *Lord*. [*Aside*.] She shines not upon fools, lest the reflection should hurt her.

Clo. Come, I'll to my chamber: 'Would there had been some hurt done!

2 *Lord*. [*Aside*.] I wish not so; unless it had been the fall of an ass, which is no great hurt,

Clo. You'll go with us?

1 *Lord*. I'll attend your lordship.

Clo. Nay, come, let's go together.

2 *Lord*. Well, my lord. [*Exeunt*.]

SCENE IV.—A ROOM IN CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter Imogen and Pisanio.

Imo. I would thou grew'st unto the shores o' the haven,

And question'dst every sail: if he should write,

And I not have it, 'twere a paper lost

As offer'd mercy is. What was the last

That he spake to thee?

Pis. 'Twas, *His queen, his queen!*

Imo. Then way'd his handkerchief?

Pis. And kiss'd it, madam.

Imo. Senseless linen! happier therein than I!—And that was all?

Pis. No, madam; for so long

As he could make me with this eye or ear

Distinguish him from others, he did keep

The deck, with glove, or hat, or handkerchief,

Still waving, as the fits and stirs of his mind

Could best express how slow his soul sail'd on,

How swift his ship.

Imo. Thou shouldst have made him As little as a crow, or less, ere left

To after-eye him.

Pis. Madam, so I did.

Imo. I would have broke mine eye-strings; crack'd them, but

To look upon him; till the diminution

Of space had pointed him sharp as my needle:

Nay, follow'd him, till he had melted from

The smallness of a gnat to air; and then

Have turn'd mine eye, and wept.—But, good

When shall we hear from him? [*Pisanio*,

Pis. Be assur'd, madam,

With his next vantage.²

Imo. I did not take my leave of him, but had

Most pretty things to say: ere I could tell him,

How I would think on him, at certain hours,

Such thoughts, and such; or I could make him swear

The she's of Italy should not betray [*him*,

Mine interest, and his honour; or have charg'd

At the sixth hour of morn, at noon, at midnight,

To encounter me with orisons,³ for then

I am in heaven for him: or ere I could

Give him that parting kiss, which I had set

Betwixt two charming words, comes in my father,

And, like the tyrannous breathing of the north,

Shakes all our buds from growing.

1 Almost every sign had a motto, or some attempt at a witticism, underneath it.

2 Opportunity.

3 Meet me with reciprocal prayers.

Enter a Lady.

Lady. The queen, madam, Desires your highness' company.

Imo. Those things I bid you do, get them done. I will attend the queen. [*spatch'd*.—

Pis. Madam, I shall. [*Exeunt*.]

SCENE V.

AN APARTMENT IN PHILARIO'S HOUSE.

Enter Philario, Iachimo, a Frenchman, a Dutchman, and a Spaniard.

Iach. Believe it, sir: I have seen him in Britain: he was then of a crescent note,¹ expected to prove so worthy, as since he hath been allowed the name of: but I could then have looked on him without the help of admiration; though the catalogue of his endowments had been tabled by his side, and I to peruse him by items.

Phi. You speak of him when he was less furnished, than now he is, with that which makes him both without and within.

French. I have seen him in France: we had very many there, could behold the sun with as firm eyes as he.

Iach. This matter of marrying his king's daughter, (wherein he must be weighed rather by her value, than his own,) words him, I doubt not, a great deal from the matter.

French. And then his banishment:—

Iach. Ay, and the approbation of those, that weep this lamentable divorce, under her colours, are wonderfully to extend² him; be it but to fortify her judgment, which else an easy battery might lay flat, for taking a beggar without more quality. But how comes it, he is to sojourn with you: How creeps acquaintance?

Phi. His father and I were soldiers together; to whom I have been often bound for no less than my life:—

Enter Posthumus.

Here comes the Briton: Let him be so entertained amongst you, as suits with gentlemen of your knowing, to a stranger of his quality.—I beseech you all, be better known to this gentleman; whom I commend to you, as a noble friend of mine: How worthy he is, I will leave to appear hereafter, rather than story him in his own hearing.

Fren. Sir, we have known together in Orleans.

Post. Since when I have been debtor to you for courtesies, which I will be ever to pay, and yet pay still.

French. Sir, you o'er-rate my poor kindness: I was glad I did atone³ my countryman and you; it had been pity, you should have been put together with so mortal a purpose, as then each bore, upon importance⁴ of so slight and trivial a nature.

Post. By your pardon, sir, I was then a young traveller: rather shunn'd to go even with what I heard, than in my every action to be guided by others' experiences: but, upon my mended judg-

1 Increasing in fame.

2 Praise him.

3 Reconcile.

4 Instigation.

ment, (if I offend not to say it is mended), my quarrel was not altogether slight.

French. 'Faith, yes, to be put to the arbitrement of swords; and by such two, that would, by all likelihood, have confounded¹ one the other, or have fallen both.

Iach. Can we, with manners, ask what was the difference?

French. Safely, I think: 'twas a contention in publick, which may, without contradiction, suffer the report. It was much like an argument that fell out last night, where each of us fell in praise of our country mistresses: This gentleman at that time vouching, (and upon warrant of bloody affirmation,) his to be more fair, virtuous, wise, chaste, constant, qualified, and less attemptable, than any the rarest of our ladies in France.

Iach. That lady is not now living; or this gentleman's opinion, by this, worn out.

Post. She holds her virtue still, and in my mind.

Iach. You must not so far prefer her 'fore ours of Italy.

Post. Being so far provoked as I was in France, I would abate her nothing; though I profess myself her adorer, not her friend.²

Iach. As fair, and as good, (a kind of hand-in-hand comparison,) had been something too fair, and too good, for any lady in Britany. If she went before others I have seen, as that diamond of yours out-lustres many I have beheld, I could not but believe she excelled many: but I have not seen the most precious diamond that is, nor you the lady.

Post. I praised her, as I rated her: so do I my stone.

Iach. What do you esteem it at?

Post. More than the world enjoys.

Iach. Either your unparagoned mistress is dead, or she's outpriz'd by a trifle.

Post. You are mistaken: the one may be sold, or given: if there were wealth enough for the purchase, or merit for the gift: the other is not a thing for sale, and only the gift of the gods.

Iach. Which the gods have given you?

Post. Which, by their graces, I will keep.

Iach. You may wear her in title yours: but, you know, strange fowl light upon neighbouring ponds. Your ring may be stolen too: so, of your brace of unprizeable estimations, the one is but frail, and the other casual; a cunning thief, or a that-way accomplished courtier, would hazard the winning both of first and last.

Post. Your Italy contains no less accomplished a courtier, to convince³ the honour of my mistress; if, in the holding or loss of that, you term her frail. I do nothing doubt, you have store of thieves; notwithstanding I fear not my ring.

Phi. Let us leave here, gentlemen.

Post. Sir, with all my heart. This worthy signior, I thank him, makes no stranger of me; we are familiar at first.

Iach. With five times so much conversation, I should get ground of your fair mistress: make her go back, even to the yielding; had I admittance, and opportunity to friend.

Post. No, no.

1 Destroyed.

2 Lover.

3 Overcome.

Iach. I dare, thereon, pawn the moiety of my estate to your ring; which, in my opinion, o'er-values it something: But I make my wager rather against your confidence, than her reputation: and, to bar your offence herein too, I durst attempt it against any lady in the world.

Post. You are a great deal abused in too bold a persuasion; and I doubt not you sustain what you're worthy of, by your attempt.

Iach. What's that?

Post. A repulse: Though your attempt, as you call it, deserve more; a punishment too.

Phi. Gentlemen, enough of this; it came in too suddenly; let it die as it was born, and, I pray you, be better acquainted.

Iach. Would I had put my estate, and my neighbour's, on the approbation¹ of what I have spoke.

Post. What lady would you choose to assail?

Iach. Yours; whom in constancy, you think, stands so safe. I will lay you ten thousand ducats to your ring, that, commend me to the court where your lady is, with no more advantage than the opportunity of a second conference, and I will bring from thence that honour of hers, which you imagine so reserved.

Post. I will wage against your gold, gold to it: my ring I hold dear as my finger; 'tis part of it.

Iach. You are a friend, and therein the wiser. If you buy ladies' flesh at a million a dram, you cannot preserve it from tainting: But, I see, you have some religion in you, that you fear.

Post. This is but a custom in your tongue: you bear a greater purpose, I hope.

Iach. I am the master of my speeches; and would undergo what's spoken, I swear.

Post. Will you?—I shall but lend my diamond till your return:—Let there be covenants drawn between us: My mistress exceeds in goodness the hugeness of your unworthy thinking: I dare you to this match: here's my ring.

Phi. I will have it no lay.²

Iach. By the gods it is one:—If I bring you no sufficient testimony that I have had your mistress, my ten thousand ducats are yours; so is your diamond too. If I come off, and leave her in such honour as you have trust in, she your jewel, this your jewel, and my gold are yours:—provided, I have your commendation,³ for my more free entertainment.

Post. I embrace these conditions; let us have articles betwixt us:—only, thus far you shall answer. If you make your voyage, and give me directly to understand you have prevailed, I am no further your enemy, she is not worth our debate: if she remain unseduced, (you not making it appear otherwise,) for your ill opinion, and the assault you have made to her chastity, you shall answer me with your sword.

Iach. Your hand; a covenant: We will have these things set down by lawful counsel, and straight away for Britain; lest the bargain should catch cold, and starve: I will fetch my gold, and have our two wagers recorded.

Post. Agreed.

[*Exeunt Posthumus and Iachimo.*]

French. Will this hold, think you?

1 Proof.

2 Bet.

3 Recommendation.

Phi. Signior Iachimo will not from it. Pray
let us follow 'em. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VI.

BRITAIN. A ROOM IN CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter Queen, Ladies, and Cornelius.

Queen. Whiles yet the dew's on ground, gather
those flowers;

Make haste: Who has the note of them?

1 Lady. I, madam.

Queen. Despatch. — *[Exeunt Ladies.]*

Now, master doctor; have you brought those
drugs?

Cor. Pleaseth your highness, ay: here they
are, madam: *[Presenting a small Box.]*

But I beseech your grace, (without offence;
My conscience bids me ask;) wherefore you have
Commanded of me those most poisonous com-
pounds,

Which are the movers of a languishing death;
But, though slow, deadly?

Queen. I do wonder, doctor,
Thou ask'st me such a question: Have I not been
Thy pupil long? Hast thou not learn'd me how
To make perfumes? distil? preserve? yea, so,
That our great king himself doth woo me oft
For my confections? Having thus far proceeded,
(Unless thou think'st me devilish,) is't not meet
That I did amplify my judgment in
Other conclusions? I will try the forces
Of these thy compounds on such creatures as
We count not worth the hanging, (but none
To try the vigour of them, and apply (human,)
Allayments to their act; and by them gather
Their several virtues and effects.

Cor. Your highness
Shall from this practice but make hard your
Besides, the seeing these effects will be (heart:
Both noisome and infectious.

Queen. O, content thee. —

Enter Pisanio.

[Aside.] Here comes a flattering rascal; upon him
Will I first work: he's for his master,
And enemy to my son. — How now, Pisanio? —
Doctor, your service for this time is ended;
Take your own way.

Cor. [Aside.] I do suspect you, madam;
But you shall do no harm.

Queen. [To Pisanio.] Hark thee, a word. —

Cor. [Aside.] I do not like her. She doth
think, she has

Strange lingering poisons: I do know her spirit,
And will not trust one of her malice with
A drug of such a nature: Those she has,
Will stupify and dull the sense awhile:
Which first, perchance, she'll prove on cats and
Then afterward up higher; but there is (dogs;
No danger in what show of death it makes,
More than the locking up the spirits a time,
To be more fresh, reviving. She is fool'd
With a most false effect; and I the truer,
So to be false with her.

Queen. No further service, doctor,
Until I send for thee.

Cor. I humbly take my leave. *[Exit.]*

1 Experiments.

Queen. Weeps she still, say'st thou? Dost
thou think, in time

She will not quench; and let instructions enter
Where folly now possesses? Do thou work;
When thou shalt bring me word she loves my son,
I'll tell thee, on the instant, thou art then
As great as is thy master: greater, for
His fortunes all lie speechless, and his name
Is at last gasp: Return he cannot, nor
Continue where he is; to shift his being,¹
Is to exchange one misery with another:
And every day, that comes, comes to decay
A day's work in him; What shalt thou expect,
To be dependor on a thing that leans?

Who cannot be new built; nor has no friends.
[The Queen drops a Box; Pisanio takes it up.]
So much as but to prop him? — Thou tak'st up
Thou know'st not what; but take it for thy labour:
It is a thing I made, which hath the king
Five times redeem'd from death: I do not know
What is more cordial: — Nay, I pr'ythee, take it;
It is an earnest of a further good

That I mean to thee. Tell thy mistress how
The case stands with her; do't, as from thyself.
Think what a chance² thou chaghest on; but think
Thou hast thy mistress, still; to boot, my son,
Who shall take notice of thee: I'll move the king
To any shape of thy preferment, such
As thou'll't desire; and then myself, I chiefly,
That set thee on to this desert, am bound
To load thy merit richly. Call my women:
Think on my words. *[Exit Pisanio.]* — A sly and
constant knave;

Not to be shak'd: the agent for his master;
And the remembrancer of her, to hold
The hand fast to her lord. — I have given him that,
Which, if he take, shall quite unpeople her
Of liegers³ for her sweet,⁴ and which she, after,
Except she bend her humour, shall be assur'd

Re-enter Pisanio and Ladies.

To taste of too. — So, so; — well done, well done:
The violets, cowslips, and the primroses,
Bear to my closet: — Fare thee well, Pisanio;
Think on my words. *[Exeunt Queen and Ladies.]*

Pis. And shall do:

But when to my good lord I prove untrue,
I'll choke myself: there's all I'll do for you. *[Exit.]*

SCENE VII. — ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Imogen.

Imo. A father cruel, and a step-dame false;
A foolish suitor to a wedded lady,
That hath her husband banish'd; — O, that hus-
band!

My supreme crown of grief! and those repeated
Vexations of it! Had I been thief-stolen,
As my two brothers, happy! but most miserable
Is the desire that's glorious: Blessed be those,
How mean soe'er, that have their honest wills,
Which seasons comfort. — Who may this be? Fie!

Enter Pisanio and Iachimo.

Pis. Madam, a noble gentleman of Rome;
Comes from my lord with letters.

1 Abode.

3 Charge d'affaires.

2 Of mending your fortunes. 4 Suite.

Iach. Change you, madam?
The worthy Leonatus is in safety,
And greets your highness dearly.

[Presents a Letter.

Imo. Thanks, good sir:
You are kindly welcome.

Iach. [Aside.] All of her, that is out of door,
most rich!

If she be furnish'd with a mind so rare,
She is alone the Arabian bird; and I
Have lost the wager. Boldness be my friend!
Arm me, audacity, from head to foot!
Or, like the Parthian, I shall flying fight;
Rather, directly fly.

Imo. [Reads.] He is one of the noblest note,
to whose kindnesses I am most infinitely tied.
Reflect upon him accordingly, as you value your
truest

LEONATUS.

So far I read aloud:
But even the very middle of my heart
Is warmed by the rest, and takes it thankfully.—
You are as welcome, worthy sir, as I
Have words to bid you; and shall find it so,
In all that I can do.

Iach. Thanks, fairest lady.—
What! are men mad? Hath nature given them
eyes

To see this vaulted arch, and the rich crop
Of sea and land, which can distinguish 'twixt
The fiery orbs above, and the twinn'd stones
Upon the number'd beach? and can we not
Partition make with spectacles so precious
'Twixt fair and foul!

Imo. What makes your admiration?

Iach. It cannot be i' the eye; for apes and
monkeys,

'Twixt two such she's, would chatter this way, and
Contemn with mows! the other: Nor i' the judg-
For idiots in this case of favour, would [ment];
Be wisely definite: Nor i' the appetite:
Sluttish to such neat excellence oppos'd
Should make desire vomit emptiness,
Not so allur'd to feed.

Imo. What is the matter, trow?

Iach. The cloyed will
(That satiate yet unsatisfied desire,
That tub both fill'd and running), ravening first
The lamb, longs after for the garbage.

Imo. What is't, dear sir,
Thus raps you? Are you well?

Iach. Thanks, madam; well:—[To Pisa.]

'Beseech you, sir, desire

My man's abode where I did leave him: he
Is strange and peevish.²

Pis. I was going, sir,
To give him welcome. [Exit *Pisanio*.]

Imo. Continues well my lord? His health
'beseech you?

Iach. Well, madam.

Imo. Is he dispos'd to mirth? I hope he is.

Iach. Exceeding pleasant; none a stranger
Somerry and so gamesome: he is call'd [there
The Briton reveller.

Imo. When he was here,
He did incline to sadness; and oft-times
Not knowing why.

Iach. I never saw him sad.

1 Making mouths.

2 Shy and foolish.

There is a Frenchman his companion, one
An eminent monsieur, that, it seems, much loves
A Gallian girl at home: he furnaces
The thick sighs from him; whiles the jolly Briton
(Your lord, I mean,) laughs from's free lungs,
cries O!

Can my sides hold, to think, that man,—who
By history, report, or his own proof, [knows
What woman is, yea, what she cannot choose
But must be,—will his free hours languish for
Assur'd bondage?

Imo. Will my lord say so?

Iach. Ay, madam; with his eyes in flood
with laughter.

It is a recreation to be by, [heavens know,
And hear him mock the Frenchman: But,
Some men are much to blame.

Imo. Not he, I hope.

Iach. Not he: But yet heaven's bounty to-
wards him might

Be us'd more thankfully. In himself, 'tis much
In you—which I count his, beyond all talents,—
Whilst I am bound to wonder, I am bound
To pity too.

Imo. What do you pity, sir?

Iach. Two creatures, heartily.

Imo. Am I one, sir?

You look on me: What wreck discern you in
Deserves your pity? [me,

Iach. Lamentable! What!
To hide me from the radiant sun, and solace
I' the dungeon by a snuff?

Imo. I pray you, sir,
Deliver with more openness your answers
To my demands. Why do you pity me?

Iach. That others do,

I was about to say, enjoy your—But
It is an office of the gods to 'venge it,
Not mine to speak on't.

Imo. You do seem to know [you
Something of me, or what concerns me: 'Pray
(Since doubting things go ill often hurts more
Than to be sure they do: For certainties
Either are past remedies, or, timely knowing,
The remedy then born,) discover to me
What both you spur and stop.¹

Iach. Had I this cheek

To bathe my lips upon; this hand, whose touch,
Whose every touch, would force the feeler's soul
To the oath of loyalty; this object, which
Takes prisoner the wild motion of mine eye,
Fixing it only here: should I then
Slaver with lips as common as the stairs
That mount the Capitol; join gripes with hands
Made hard with hourly falsehood (falsehood, as
With labour); then lie peeping in an eye,
Base and unlustrous as the smoky light
That's fed with stinking tallow: it were fit,
That all the plagues of hell should at one time
Encounter such revolt.

Imo. My lord, I fear,
Has forgot Britain.

Iach. And himself. Not I,
Inclin'd to this intelligence, pronounce
The beggary of his change; but 'tis your graces
That, from my mute conscience, to my tongue,
Charms this report out.

1 What you seem anxious to utter, and yet withhold.

Imo. Let me hear no more.

Iach. O dearest soul! your cause doth strike my heart

With pity, that doth make me sick. A lady So fair, and fasten'd to an empery,¹ Would make the great'st king double! to be partner'd

With tomboys, hir'd with that self-exhibition² Which your own coffers yield! O be reveng'd; Or she, that bore you, was no queen, and you Recoil from your great stock.

Imo. Reveng'd! How should I be reveng'd? If this be true, (As I have such a heart, that both mine ears Must not in haste abuse,) if it be true, How should I be reveng'd?

Iach. Should he make me Live like Diana's priest? Revenge it, lady! I dedicate myself to your sweet pleasure; More noble than that runagate to your bed; And will continue fast to your affection, Still close, as sure.

Imo. What ho, Pisanio!

Iach. Let me my service tender on your lips.

Imo. Away!—I do condemn mine ears, that have

So long attended thee.—If thou wert honourable, Thou wouldst have told this tale for virtue, not For such an end thou seek'st; as base, as strange. Thou wrong'st a gentleman, who is as far From thy report, as thou from honour; and solicit'st here a lady, that disdains I'hee and the devil alike.—What ho, Pisanio!—The king my father shall be made acquainted Of thy assault: if he shall think it fit, A saucy stranger in his court, to mart As in a Romish stew, and to expound His beastly mind to us; he hath a court He little cares for, and a daughter whom He not respects at all.—What ho,—Pisanio!—

Iach. O happy Leonatus! I may say; The credit that thy lady hath of thee, Deserves thy trust; and thymost perfect goodness I'er assur'd credit!—Blessed live you long!

A lady to the worthiest sir, that ever Country call'd his! and you, his mistress, only For the most worthiest fit! Give me your pardon. I have spoke this, to know if your affiance Were deeply rooted; and shall make your lord, That which he is, new o'er: And he is one The truest manner'd; such a holy witch, That he enchants societies unto him: Half all men's hearts are his.

Imo. You make amends.

Iach. Hesits' mongst men, like a descended god: He hath a kind of honour sets him off, More than a mortal seeming. Be not angry, Most mighty princess, that I have adventur'd To try your taking of a false report; which hath Honour'd with confirmation your great judgment In the election of a sir so rare, [him] Which you know, cannot err: The love I bear Made me to fan³ you thus; but the gods made you,

Unlike all others, chaffless. Pray, your pardon. *Imo.* All's well, sir: Take my power i' the court for yours.

1 Sovereign command. 2 Allowance. 3 Sift.

Iach. My humble thanks. I had almost forgot To entreat your grace but in a small request, And yet of moment too, for it concerns Your lord; myself, and other noble friends, Are partners in the business.

Imo. Pray, what is't?

Iach. Some dozen Romans of us, and your lord, (The best feather of our wing) have mingled sums To buy a present for the emperor: Which I, the factor for the rest, have done In France: 'Tis plate of rare device; and jewels, Of rich and exquisite form: their values great; And I am something curious, being strange, To have them in safe stowage; May it please you To take them in protection?

Imo. Willingly; And pawn mine honour for their safety: since My lord hath interest in them, I will keep them In my bed-chamber.

Iach. They are in a trunk, Attended by my men: I will make bold To send them to you only for this night: I must aboard to-morrow.

Imo. O, no, no.

Iach. Yes, I beseech; or I shall short my word, By lengthening my return. From Gallia I cross'd the seas on purpose, and on promise To see your grace.

Imo. I thank you for your pains; But not away to-morrow?

Iach. O, I must, madam: Therefore, I shall beseech you, if you please To greet your lord with writing, do't to-night: I have outstood my time, which is material To the tender of our present.

Imo. I will write. Send your trunk to me; it shall safe be kept, And truly yielded you: You are very welcome. [Exeunt.]

Act Second.

SCENE I.

COURT BEFORE CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter Cloten, and two Lords.

Clo. Was there ever man had such luck? when I kissed the jack¹ upon an up-cast, to be hit away! I had a hundred pound on't: And then a jackanapes must take me up for swearing; as if I borrowed mine oaths of him, and might not spend them at my pleasure.

1 *Lord.* What got he by that? You have broke his pate with your bowl.

2 *Lord.* [Aside.] If his wit had been like him that broke it, it would have run all out.

Clo. When a gentleman is disposed to swear, it is not for any standers-by to curtail his oaths: Ha!

2 *Lord.* No, my lord; nor [Aside.] crop the ears of them.

Clo. I give him satisfaction?—'Would he had been one of my rank!

2 *Lord.* [Aside.] To have smelt like a fool.

Clo. I am not more vexed at any thing in the earth: I had rather not be so noble as I am; they dare not fight with me, because of the queen

1 The small bowl at which the others are aimed.

my mother: every jack-slave hath his belly full of fighting, and I must go up and down like a cock that nobody can match.

2 *Lord.* [*Aside.*] You are a cock and capon too: and you crow, cock, with your comb on.

Clo. Sayest thou?

1 *L.* It is not fit your lordship should undertake every companion that you give offence to.

Clo. No, I know that: but it is fit, I should commit offence to my inferiors.

2 *Lord.* Ay, it is fit for your lordship only.

Clo. Why, so I say.

1 *Lord.* Did you hear of a stranger that's come to court to-night?

Clo. A stranger! and I know not on't!

2 *Lord.* [*Aside.*] He's a strange fellow himself, and knows it not.

1 *Lord.* There's an Italian come; and, 'tis thought, one of Leonatus' friends.

Clo. Leonatus! a banish'd rascal; and he's another, whatsoever he be. Who told you of this stranger?

1 *Lord.* One of your lordship's pages.

Clo. Is it fit, I went to look upon him? Is there no derogation in't?

1 *Lord.* You cannot derogate, my lord.

Clo. Not easily, I think.

2 *L.* [*Aside.*] You are a fool granted; therefore your issues being foolish, do not derogate.

Clo. Come, I'll go see this Italian: What I have lost to-day at bowls, I'll win to-night of him. Come, go.

2 *Lord.* I'll attend your lordship.

[*Exeunt Cloten and first Lord.*]

That such a crafty devil as is his mother Should yield the world this ass! a woman, that Bears all down with her brain; and this her son Cannot take two from twenty for his heart, And leave eighteen. Alas, poor princess, Thou divine Imogen, what thou endurest! Betwixt a father by thy step-dame govern'd; A mother hourly coining plots; a wooer More hateful than the foul expulsion is Of thy dear husband, than that horrid act Of the divorce he'd make! The heavens hold firm The walls of thy dear honour; keep unshak'd That temple, thy fair mind; that thou may'st stand,

To enjoy thy banish'd lord, and this great land!

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—A BED-CHAMBER; IN ONE PART OF IT A TRUNK.

Imogen reading in her Bed; a Lady attending.

Imo. Who's there? my woman Helen?

Lady. Please you, madam.

Imo. What hour is it?

Lady. Almost midnight, madam.

Imo. I have read three hours, then: mine eyes are weak:—

Fold down the leaf where I have left: To bed: Take not away the taper, leave it burning; And if thou canst awake by four o' the clock, I pry'thee, call me. Sleep hath seiz'd me wholly.

[*Exit Lady.*]

To your protection I commend me, gods! From fairies, and the tempters of the night,

Guard me, beseech ye!

[*Sleeps. Iachimo, from the Trunk.*]

Iach. The crickets sing, and man's o'er-laboured sense

Repairs itself by rest: our Tarquin thus

Did softly press the rushes,¹ ere he waken'd

The chastity he wounded.—Cytherea,

How bravely thou becom'st thy bed! fresh lily!

And whiter than the sheets! that I might touch!

But kiss; one kiss!—Rubies unparagon'd,

How dearly they do't!—'Tis her breathing that

Perfumes the chamber thus: The flame o' the taper

Bows toward her; and would under-peep her

To see the enclosed lights, now canopied

Under these windows: White and azure, lac'd

With blue of heaven's own tinct.² But my design?

To note the chamber:—I will write all down:—

Such & such pictures: There the window: Such

The adornment of her bed:—The arras, figures,

Why, such, and such:—And the contents o' the story,—

Ah, but some natural notes about her body,

Above ten thousand meaner moveables

Would testify, to enrich mine inventory:

O sleep, thou ape of death, lie dull upon her!

And be her sense but as a monument,

Thus in a chapel lying!—Come off, come off;—

[*Taking off her bracelet.*]

As slippery, as the Gordian knot was hard!

'Tis mine; and this will witness outwardly,

As strongly as the conscience does within,

To the madding of her lord. On her left breast

A mole cinque-spotted, like the crimson drops

I' the bottom of a cowslip: Here's a voucher,

Stronger than ever law could make: this secret

Will force him think I have prevail'd, and ta'en

The treasure of her honour. No more.—To what end?

Why should I write this down, that's riveted, Screw'd to my memory? She hath been reading late

The tale of Tereus; here the leaf's turned down,

Where Philomel gave up;—I have enough:

To the trunk again, and shut the spring of it.

Swift, swift, you dragons of the night! that dawn-

May bear the raven's eye: I lodge in fear; [ring

Though this a heavenly angel, hell is here.

[*Clock strikes.*]

One, two, three,—Time, time!

[*Goes into the Trunk. The Scene closes.*]

SCENE III.—AN ANTE-CHAMBER ADJOINING IMOGEN'S APARTMENT.

Enter Cloten and Lords.

1 *Lord.* Your lordship is the most patient man in loss, the most coldest that ever turned up ace.

Clo. It would make any man cold to lose.

1 *Lord.* But not every man patient, after the noble temper of your lordship: You are most hot, and furious, when you win.

Clo. Winning would put any man into courage: If I could get this foolish Imogen, I should have gold enough: It's almost morning, isn't not?

1 *Lord.* Day, my lord.

1 It was the custom to strew rooms with rushes.

2 &c. The white skin lac'd with blue veins.

Clo. I would this musick would come: I am advised to give her musick o' the mornings; they say, it will penetrate.

Enter Musicians.

Come on; tune: If you can penetrate her with your fingering, so; we'll try with tongue too: if none will do, let her remain; but I'll never give o'er. First, a very excellent good conceited thing: after a wonderful sweet air, with admirable rich words to it—and then let her consider.

SONG.

*Hark! hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings,
And Phoebus 'gins arise,
His steeds to water at those springs
On chaliced flowers that lies:
And winking Mary-buds begin
To ope their golden eyes;
With every thing that pretty is:
My lady sweet, arise;
Arise, arise.*

So, get you gone: If this penetrate, I will consider² your musick the better: if it do not, it is a vice in her ears, which horse-hairs, and cat-guts, nor the voice of eunuch to boot, can never amend.

[Exeunt Musicians.]

Enter Cymbeline and Queen.

2 *Lord.* Here comes the king.

Clo. I am glad, I was up so late; for that's the reason I was up so early: He cannot choose but take this service I have done, fatherly.—Good-morrow to your majesty, and to my gracious mother.

Cym. Attend you here the door of our stern daughter?

Will she not forth?

Clo. I have assailed her with musick, but she vouchsafes no notice.

Cym. The exile of her minion is too new; She hath not yet forgot him: some more time Must wear the print of his remembrance out, And then she's yours.

Queen. You are most bound to the king; Who lets go by no 'vantages, that may Prefer you to his daughter: Frame yourself To orderly solicits; and be friended With aptness of the season: make denials Increase your services: so seem, as if You were inspir'd to do those duties which You tender to her: that you in all obey her, Save when command to your dismissal tends, And therein you are senseless.

Clo. Senseless? not so.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. So like you, sir, ambassadors from The one is Caius Lucius. *[Rome;]*

Cym. A worthy fellow, Albeit he comes on angry purpose now; But that's no fault of his; We must receive According to the honour of his sender; [him And towards himself his goodness forespent on We must extend our notice.—Our dear son, [us When you have given good morning to your mistress, Attend the queen, and us; we shall have need

1 Cupped.

2 Pay.

To employ you towards this Roman.—Come, our queen.

[Exeunt Cym., Queen, Lords, and Mess.]

Clo. If she be up, I'll speak with her: if not, Let her lie still, and dream. By your leave, ho!— *[Knocks.]*

I know her women are about her: What If I do line one of their hands? 'Tis gold Which buys admittance; oft it doth; yea, and makes

Diana's rangers false themselves, yield up [gold Their deer to the stand of the stealer; and 'tis Which makes the true man kill'd, and saves the thief;

Nay, sometime, hangs both thief and true man: What

Can it not do and undo? I will make One of her women lawyer to me; for I yet not understand the case myself. By your leave. *[Knocks.]*

Enter a Lady.

Lady. Who's there, that knocks?

Clo. A gentleman.

Lady. No more?

Clo. Yes, and a gentlewoman's son.

Lady. That's more

Than some, whose tailors are as dear as yours, Can justly boast of; What's your lordship's pleasure?

Clo. Your lady's person; is she ready?

Lady. Ay, To keep her chamber.

Clo. There's gold for you; sell me your good report.

Lady. How! my good name? or to report of What I shall think is good?—The princess—

Enter Imogen.

Clo. Good morrow, fairest sister: Your sweet hand.

Imo. Good morrow, sir; You lay out too much pains

For purchasing but trouble: the thanks I give; Is telling you that I am poor of thanks, And scarce can spare them.

Clo. Still, I swear, I love you.

Imo. If you but said so, 'twere as deep with If you swear still, your recompense is still [me: That I regard it not.

Clo. This is no answer.

Imo. But that you shall not say I yield, being silent,

I would not speak. I pray you, spare me: I shall unfold equal discourtesy [ing To your best kindness; one of your great know-Should learn, being taught, forbearance.

Clo. To leave you in your madness, 'twere I will not. *[my sin:]*

Imo. Fools are not mad folks.

Clo. Do you call me fool?

Imo. As I am mad, I do;

If you'll be patient, I'll no more be mad; That cures us both. I am much sorry, sir, You put me to forget a lady's manners, By being so verbal: and learn now, for all, That I, which know my heart, do here pro-By the very truth of it, I care not for you; nounce, And am so near the lack of charity,

1 Verbosely.

(To accuse myself,) I hate you; which I had rather you felt, than make't my boast.

Clo. You sin against Obedience, which you owe your father. For The contract you pretend with that base wretch, (One, bred of alms, and foster'd with cold dishes, With scraps o' the court,) it is no contract, none: And though it be allow'd in meaner parties, (Yet who, than he, more mean?) to knit their (On whom there is no more dependency [souls But brats and beggary] in self-figur'd knot¹: Yet you are curb'd from that enlargement by The consequence o' the crown; and must not soil The precious note of it with a base slave, A hilding² for a livery, a squire's cloth, A pantler,³ not so eminent.

Imo. Profane fellow! Wert thou the son of Jupiter, and no more, But what thou art, besides, thou wert too base To be his groom: thou wert dignified enough, Even to the point of envy, if 'twere made Comparative for your virtues, to be styl'd The under-hangman of his kingdom; and hated For being preferr'd so well.

Clo. The south-fog rot him!
Imo. He never can meet more mischance, than come To be but nam'd of thee. His meanest garment, That ever hath but clipp'd⁴ his body, is dearer, In my respect, than all the hairs above thee, Were they all made such men.—How now, Pisanio?

Enter Pisanio.

Clo. His garment? Now, the devil—
I. To Dorothy my woman hie thee presently:—
Clo. His garment?
Imo. I am sprighted⁵ with a fool; Frighted, and anger'd worse:—Go, bid my woman Search for a jewel, that too casually Hath left mine arm; it was thy master's: 'shrew If I would lose it for a revenue [me, Of any king's in Europe. I do think, I saw 't this morning: confident I am Last night 'twas on mine arm; I kiss'd it: I hope, it be not gone, to tell my lord That I kiss aught but he.

Pis. 'Twill not be lost.
Imo. I hope so; go, and search. [*Exit Pisa.*
Clo. You have abus'd me:— His meanest garment?

Imo. Ay; I said so, sir. If you will make't an action, call witness to't.
Clo. I will inform your father.
Imo. Your mother too: She's my good lady; and will conceive, I hope, But the worst of me. So I leave you, sir, To the worst of discontent. [*Exit.*

Clo. I'll be reveng'd:—
His meanest garment?—Well. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV.

ROME. AN APARTMENT IN PHILARIO'S HOUSE.

Enter Posthumus and Philario.

Post. Fear it not, sir: I would, I were so sure

¹ Knots of their own tying.

² A low fellow.

³ Butler.

⁴ Embraced.

⁵ Haunted.

To win the king, as I am bold, her honour Will remain hers.

Phi. What means do you make to him?

Post. Not any; but abide the change of time; Quake in the present winter's state, and wish That warmer days would come: In these fear'd hopes,

I barely gratify your love: they failing, I must die much your debtor.

Phi. Your very goodness, and your company O'erpays all I can do. By this, your king Hath heard of great Augustus: Caius Lucius Will do his commission thoroughly: And, I think, He'll grant the tribute, send the arrearsages, Or look upon our Romans, whose remembrance Is yet fresh in their grief.

Post. I do believe, (Statist¹ though I am none, nor like to be,) That this will prove a war; and you shall hear The legions, now in Gallia, sooner landed In our not-fearing Britain, than have tidings Of any penny tribute paid. Our countrymen Are men more order'd, than when Julius Cæsar Smil'd at their lack of skill, but found their court-Worthy his frowning at: Their discipline (age (Now mingled with their courages) will make known

To their approvers,² they are people, such That mend upon the world.

Enter Iachimo.

Phi. See! Iachimo?
Post. The swiftest harts have posted you by land:

And winds of all the corners kiss'd your sails, To make your vessel nimble.

Phi. Welcome, sir.

Post. I hope, the briefness of your answer made The speediness of your return.

Iach. Your lady Is one the fairest that I have look'd upon.
Po. And therewithal, the best; or let her beauty Look through a casement to allure false hearts, And be false with them.

Iach. Here are letters for you.

Post. Their tenour good, I trust.

Iach. 'Tis very like.

Phi. Was Caius Lucius in the Britain court, When you were there?

Iach. He was expected then, But not approach'd.

Post. All is well yet.— Sparkles this stone as it was wont? or is't not Too dull for your good wearing?

Iach. If I had lost it, I should have lost the worth of it in gold. I'll make a journey twice as far, to enjoy What was in Britain mine. The ring is won.

Post. The stone's too hard to come by.

Iach. Not a whit, Your lady being so easy.

Post. Make not, sir, Your loss your sport; I hope, you know that we Must not continue friends.

Iach. Good sir, we must, If you keep covenant: Had I not brought The knowledge of your mistress home, I grant

¹ Statesman.

² To those who try them.

We were to question further: but I now
 Profess myself the winner of her honour,
 Together with your ring; and not the wronger
 Of her, or you, having proceeded but
 By both your wills.

Post. If you can make't apparent,
 The ring is yours: If not, the foul opinion
 You had of her pure honour, gains, or loses,
 Your sword, or mine; or masterless leaves both
 To who shall find them.

Iach. Sir, my circumstances,
 Being so near the truth, as I will make them,
 Must first induce you to believe: whose strength
 I will confirm with oath; which, I doubt not,
 You'll give me leave to spare, when you shall find
 You need it not.

Post. Proceed.

Iach. First, her bed-chamber,
 (Where, I confess, I slept not;) It was hang'd
 With tapestry of silk and silver: the story
 Proud Cleopatra, when she met her Roman,
 And Cydnus swell'd above the banks, or for
 The press of boats, or pride: a piece of work
 So bravely done, so rich, that it did strive
 In workmanship, and value; which, I wonder'd
 Could be so rarely and exactly wrought,
 Since the true life on't was—

Post. This is true;
 And this you might have heard of here, by me,
 Or by some other.

Iach. More particulars
 Must justify my knowledge.

Post. So they must,
 Or do your honour injury.

Iach. The chimney
 Is south the chamber; and the chimney-piece,
 Chaste Dian, bathing: never saw I figures
 So likely to report themselves: the cutter
 Was as another nature, dumb; outwent her,
 Motion and breath left out.

Post. This is a thing,
 Which you might from relation likewise reap;
 Being, as it is, much spoke of.

Iach. The roof o' the chamber
 With golden cherubins is fretted: Her andirons¹
 (I had forgot them,) were two winking Cupids
 Of silver, each on one foot standing, nicely
 Depending on their brands.

Post. This is her honour!—
 Let it be granted, you have seen all this, (and
 praise

Be given to your remembrance,) the description
 Of what is in her chamber, nothing saves
 The wager you have laid.

Iach. Then if you can,
 [Pulling out the Bracelet.

Be pale; I beg but leave to air this jewel: See!—
 And now 'tis up again: It must be married
 To that your diamond; I'll keep them.

Post. Jove!—
 Once more let me behold it: Is it that
 Which I left with her?

Iach. Sir, (I thank her,) that:
 She stripped it from her arm; I see her yet;
 Her pretty action did outsell her gift,
 And yet enrich'd it too: She gave it me, and said,
 She priz'd it once.

1 A kind of rack for firewood.

Post. May be, she pluck'd it off,
 To send it me.

Iach. She writes so to you? doth she?

Post. O, no, no, no; 'tis true. Here, take this
 too; [Gives the Ring.

It is a basilisk unto mine eye,
 Kills me to look on't:—Let there be no honour
 Where there is beauty; truth, where semblance;
 love,

Where there's another man: The vows of women
 Of no more bondage be, to where they are made,
 Than they are to their virtues; which is nothing:—
 O, above measure false!

Phi. Have patience, sir,
 And take your ring again; 'tis not yet won:
 It may be probable, she lost it; or,
 Who knows, if one of her women, being cor-
 Hath stolen it from her? [rupted,

Post. Very true;
 And so, I hope, he came by't:—Back my ring;—
 Render to me some corporal sign about her,
 More evident than this: for this was stolen.

Iach. By Jupiter, I had it from her arm.

Post. Hark you, he swears; by Jupiter he
 swears. [sure,
 'Tis true;—nay, keep the ring—'tis true: I am
 She would not lose it: her attendants are
 All sworn and honourable:—They induc'd to
 steal it!

And by a stranger?—No, he hath the cognizance
 of her inconstancy.

There, take thy hire: and all the fiends of hell
 Divide themselves between you!

Phi. Sir, be patient:
 This is not strong enough to be believ'd
 Of one perswaded well of—

Post. Never talk on't.

Iach. If you seek
 For further satisfying, under her breast
 (Worthy the pressing,) lies a mole, right proud
 Of that most delicate lodging: You remember
 This stain upon her?

Post. Ay, and it doth confirm
 Another stain, as big as hell can hold,
 Were there no more but it.

Iach. Will you hear more?

Post. Spare your arithmetick.

Iach. I'll be sworn,—

Post. No swearing.

If you will swear you have not done't, you lie;
 And I will kill thee, if thou dost deny
 Thou hast made me cuckold.

Iach. I will deny nothing.
 Po. O, that I had her here, to tear her limb-meal!

I will go there, and do't; i' the court; before
 Her father:—I'll do something— [Exit.

Phi. Quite besides
 The government of patience!—You have won:
 Let's follow him, and pervert the present wrath
 He hath against himself.

Iach. With all my heart. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Posthumus.

Post. Is there no way for men to be, but women
 Must be half-workers? We are bastards all,
 I am a counterfeit. Yet my mother seem'd

The Dian of that time: so doth my wife
The nonpareil of this.—O vengeance, vengeance!
I thought her chaste as unsunn'd snow. Could I
find out

The woman's part in me! For there's no motion
That tends to vice in man, but I affirm
It is the woman's part: Be it lying, note it,
The woman's; flattering, her's; deceiving, her's;
Ambitions, covetings, change of pridea, disdain,
Nice longing, slanders, mutability,
All faults that may be nam'd, nay, that hell
knows,

Why, her's, in part, or all; but, rather, all:
For e'en to vice

They are not constant, but are changing still
One vice, but of a minute old, for one
Not half so old as that. I'll write against them,
Detest them, curse them:—Yet 'tis greater skill
In a true hate, to pray they have their will:
The very devils cannot plague them better. [*Exit.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—BRITAIN. A ROOM OF STATE IN CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

*Enter Cymbeline, Queen, Cloten, and Lords, at
one Door; and at another, Caius Lucius, and
Attendants.*

Cy. Now say, what would Augustus Cæsar with
us?

Luc. When Julius Cæsar, (whose remembrance
yet

Lives in men's eyes; and will to ears, and tongues,
Be theme, and hearing ever,) was in this Britain,
And conquer'd it, Cassibelan, thine uncle,
(Famous in Cæsar's praises, no whit less
Than in his feats deserving it,) for him,
And his succession, granted Rome a tribute,
Yearly three thousand pounds; which by thee
Is left untender'd. [*Enter Cloten, lately*

Queen. And, to kill the marvel,
Shall be ever so.

Clot. There be many Cæsars,
Ere such another Julius. Britain is
A world by itself; and we will nothing pay,
For wearing our own noses.

Queen. That opportunity,
Which then they had to take from us, to resume
We have again.—Remember, sir, my liege,
The kings your ancestors; together with
The natural bravery of your isle; which stands
As Neptune's park, ribbed and paled in
With rocks unscaleable, and roaring waters;
With sands, that will not bear your enemies'
boats, [*conquest*

But suck them up to the top-mast, A kind of
Cæsar made here; but made not here his brag
Of *came*, and *saw*, and *overcame*; with shame
(The first that ever touch'd him,) he was carried
From off our coast, twice beaten; and his shipping
(Poor ignorant baubles!) on our terrible seas,
Like egg-shells mov'd upon their surges, crack'd
As easily 'gainst our rocks: for joy whereof,
The fam'd Cassibelan, who was once at point
(O, giglot¹ fortune!) to master Cæsar's sword,

1 Fickle.

Made Lud's town with rejoicing fires bright,
And Britons strut with courage.

Clot. Come, there's no more tribute to be paid:
Our kingdom is stronger than it was at that
time; and, as I said, there is no more such
Cæsars: other of them may have crooked noses;
but to owe¹ such straight arms, none.

Cym. Son, let your mother end.

Clot. We have yet many among us can gripe as
hard as Cassibelan: I do not say, I am one;
but I have a hand.—Why tribute? why should
we pay tribute? If Cæsar can hide the sun from
us with a blanket, or put the moon in his pocket,
we will pay him tribute for light; else, sir, no
more tribute, pray you now.

Cym. You must know,

Till the injurious Romans did extort {tion,
This tribute from us, we were free: Cæsar's ambi-
(Which swell'd so much, that it did almost stretch
The sides o' the world,) against all colour, here
Did put the yoke upon us; which to shake off,
Becomes a warlike people, whom we reckon
Ourselves to be. We do say then to Cæsar,
Our ancestor was that Mulmutius, which
Ordain'd our laws; (whose use the sword of Cæsar
Hath too much mangled; whose repair, and
franchise,

Shall, by the power we hold, be our good deed,
Though Rome be therefore angry;) Mulmutius
Who was the first of Britain, which did put
His brows within a golden crown, and call'd
Himself a king.

Luc. I am sorry, Cymbeline,

That I am to pronounce Augustus Cæsar
(Cæsar, that hath more kings his servants than
Thyself domestick officers,) thine enemy:
Receive it from me, then:—War, and confusion
In Cæsar's name pronounce I 'gainst thee: look
For fury not to be resisted:—Thus defied,
I thank thee for myself.

Cym. Thou art welcome, Caius.
Thy Cæsar knighted me; my youth I spent
Much under him; of him I gather'd honour;
Which he, to seek of me again, perforce,
Behoves me keep at utterance²; I am perfect,³
That the Pannonians and Dalmatians, for
Their liberties, are now in arms: a precedent
Which, not to read, would show the Britons cold:
So Cæsar shall not find them.

Luc. Let proof speak.

Clot. His majesty bids you welcome. Make
pastime with us a day, or two, longer: If you
seek us afterwards in other terms, you shall find
us in our salt-water girdle: if you beat us out of
it, it is yours; if you fall in the adventure, our
crows shall fare the better for you; and there's
an end.

Luc. So, sir, [*mine:*

Cym. I know your master's pleasure, and he
All the remain is, welcome. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—ANOTHER ROOM IN THE SAME.

Enter Pisanio.

P. How! of adultery? Wherefore write you not
What monster's her accuser?—Leonatus!
O, master! what a strange infection

1 Possess. 2 Defiance. 3 Well informed.

Is fallen into thy ear? What false Italian
(As poisonous tongued, as handed,) hath prevail'd
On thy too ready hearing?—Disloyal? No:
She's punish'd for her truth; and undergoes,
More goddess-like than wife-like, such assaults
As would take in¹ some virtue.—O, my master!
Thy mind to her is now as low, as were
Thy fortunes.—How! that I should murder her?
Upon the love, and truth, and vows, which I
Have made to thy command?—I, her?—her blood?
If it be so to do good service, never
Let me be counted serviceable. How look I
That I should seem to lack humanity
So much as this fact comes to? [*Reading.*] Do't:

The letter

That I have sent her, by her own command,
Shall give thee opportunity:—O vile paper!
Black as the ink that's on thee! Senseless bauble,
Art thou a feodary² for this act, and look'st
So virgin-like without? Lo, here she comes.

Enter Imogen.

I am ignorant in what I am commanded.

Imo. How now, Pisanio?

Pis. Madam, here is a letter from my lord.

Imo. Who? thy lord? that is my lord, Leonatus?
O, learn'd indeed were that astronomer,
That knew the stars, as I his characters;
He'd lay the future open.—You good gods,
Let what is here contain'd relish of love,
Of my lord's health, of his content,—yet not,
That we two are asunder, let that grieve him,—
(Some griefs are med'cinable;) that is one of them,
For it doth physick love;—of his content,
All but in that!—Good wax, thy leave:—Bless'd be,
You bees, that make these locks of counsel! Lov-
And men in dangerous bonds pray not like; fers,
Though forfeitures you cast in prison, yet
You clasp young Cupid's tables.—Good news,
gods! [*Reads.*]

*Justice, and your father's wrath, should he
take me in his dominion, could not be so cruel to
me, as you, O the dearest of creatures, would not
even renew me with your eyes. Take notice that
I am in Cambria, at Milford-Haven. What
your own love will, out of this, advise you, follow.
So, he wishes you all happiness, that remains
loyal to his vow, and your, increasing in love,*

LEONATUS POSTHUMUS.

O, for a horse with wings!—Hear'st thou, Pisanio?
He is at Milford-Haven: Read, and tell me
How far 'tis thither. If one of mean affairs
May plod it in a week, why may not I
Glide thither in a day?—Then, true Pisanio,
(Who long'st, like me, to see thy lord; who
long'st,—

O, let me bate,—but not like me:—yet long'st,—
But in a fainter kind;—O, not like me; [thick,³
For mine's beyond beyond,) say, and speak
(Love's counsellor should fill the bores of hearing,
To the smothering of the sense,) how far it is
To this same blessed Milford: And, by the way
Tell me how Wales was made so happy, as
To inherit such a haven: But, first of all,
How we may steal from hence; and, for the gap
That we shall make in time, from our hence going,

And our return to excuse:—but first, how get
hence:

Why should excuse be born or e'er begot?
We'll talk of that hereafter. Pr'ythee, speak,
How many score of miles may we well ride
'Twi'x hour and hour?

Pis. One score, 'twixt sun and sun,
Madam, 's enough for you; and too much too.

Imo. Why, one that rode to his execution, man,
Could never go so slow: I have heard of riding
wagers,

Where horses have been nimbler than the sands
That run i' the clock's behalf:—But this is foolery:
Go, bid my woman feign a sickness; say
She'll home to her father: and provide me, pre-
A riding suit; no costlier than would fit [sently,
A franklin's¹ housewife.

Pis. Madam, your best consider.

Imo. I see before me, man, nor here, nor here,
Nor what ensues; but have a fog in them,
That I cannot look through. Away, I pr'ythee;
Do as I bid thee: There's no more to say;
Accessible is none but Milford way. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—WALES. A MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY, WITH A CAVE.

Enter Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus.

Bel. A goodly day not to keep house, with such
Whose roof's as low as ours! Stoop, boys: This
gate [bows you
instructs you how to adore the heavens; and
To morning's holy office: The gates of monarchs
Are arch'd so high, that giants may jet² through,
And keep their impious turbans on, without
Good morrow to the sun.—Hail, thou fair heaven!
We house i' the rock, yet use thee not so hardly
As prouder livers do.

Gui.

Hail, heaven!

Arv.

Hail, heaven!

Bel. Now, for our mountainsport: Up to yon hill,
Your legs are young; I'll tread these flats.
Consider,

When you above perceive me like a crow,
That it is place which lessens, and sets off,
And you may then revolve what tales I have told
Of courts, of princes, of the tricks in war: [you,
This service is not service, so being done,
But being so allowed: To apprehend thus,
Draws us a profit from all things we see:
And often, to our comfort, shall we find
The sharded³ beetle in a safer hold
Than is the full-wing'd eagle. O, this life
Is nobler, than attending for a check;
Richer, than doing nothing for a babe;
Prouder, than rustling in unpaid-for silk:
Such gain the cap of him, that makes them fine,
Yet keeps his book uncross'd: no life to⁴ ours.

Gui. Out of your proof you speak: we, poor
unfledg'd, [know not
Have never wing'd from view o' the nest; nor
What air's from home. Haply, this life is best,
If quiet life be best; sweeter to you,
That have a sharper known; well corresponding
With your stiff age; but, unto us, it is
A cell of ignorance; travelling a-bed;

1 Conquer.

2 Confederate.

3 Crowd one word on another.

1 A freeholder.

2 Strut.

3 Scaly-winged.

4 (Compared with.)

A prison for a debtor, that not dares
To stride a limit.¹

Arv. What should we speak of,
When we are old as you; when we shall hear
The rain and wind beat dark December, how
In this our pinching cave, shall we discourse
The freezing hours away? We have seen nothing:
We are beastly; subtle as the fox, for prey;
Like warlike as the wolf, for what we eat:
Our valour is, to chase what flies; our cage
We make a quire, as doth the prison bird,
And sing our bondage freely.

Bel. How you speak!
Did you but know the city's usuries,
And felt them knowingly: the art o' the court,
As hard to leave, as keep; whose top to climb
Is certain falling, or so slippery, that
The fear's as bad as falling; the toil of the war,
A pain that only seems to seek out danger
I' the name of fame and honour; which dies i'
And hath as oft as slanderous epitaph, [these arch;
As record of fair act; nay, many times,
Doth ill deserve by doing well; what's worse,
Must court'sey at the censure:—O, boys, this story
The world may read in me: My body's mark'd
With Roman swords: and my report was once
First with the best of note; Cymbeline lov'd me;
And when a soldier was the theme, my name
Was not far off: Then was I as a tree,
Whose boughs did bend with fruit: but in one
A storm, or robbery, call it what you will, [night,
Shook down my mellow hangings, nay, my
And left me bare to weather. [leaves,

Gul. Uncertain favour!

Bel. My fault being nothing, (as I have told
you oft,) [vail'd
But that two villains, whose false oaths pre-
Before my perfect honour, swore to Cymbeline,
I was confederate with the Romans: so [years,
Follow'd my banishment; and, this twenty
This rock, and these demesnes, have been my
world;

Where I have liv'd at honest freedom; paid
More pious debts to heaven, than in all [tains;
The fore-end of my time.—But, up to the moun-
This is not hunters' language:—He that strikes
The venison first, shall be the lord o' the feast;
To him the other two shall minister;
And we will fear no poison, which attends
In place of greater state. I'll meet you in the
valleys. [Exeunt *Gul.* and *Arv.*

How hard it is to hide the sparks of nature!
These boys know little, they are sons to the king;
Nor Cymbeline dreams that they are alive.
They think, they are mine; and, though train'd
up thus meanly [do hit
I' the cave, wherein they bow, their thoughts
The roofs of palaces; and nature prompts them,
In simple and low things to prince it, much
Beyond the trick of others. This Polydore,—
The heir of Cymbeline and Britain, whom
The king his father call'd Guiderius,—Jove!
When on my three-foot stool I sit, and tell
The warlike feats I have done, his spirits fly out
Into my story: say,—*Thus mine enemy fell;*
And thus I set my foot on his neck; even then
The princely blood flows in his cheek, he sweats,

¹ Boundary.

Strains his young nerves, and puts himself in
posture [Cadwal,
That acts my words. The younger brother,
(Once, Arviragus,) in as like a figure, [more
Strikes life into my speech, and shows much
His own conceiving. Hark! the game is rous'd!—
O Cymbeline! heaven, and my conscience, knows,
Thou didst unjustly banish me: whereon,
At three, and two years old, I stole these babes;
Thinking to bar thee of succession, as
Thou rest'st me of my lands. Euriphile,
Thou wast their nurse; they took thee for their
And every day do honour to her grave: [mother,
Myself, Belarius, that am Morgan call'd,
They take for natural father. The game is up.
[Exit.

SCENE IV.—NEAR MILFORD-HAVEN.

Enter Pisanio and Imogen.

Imo. Thou told'st me, when we came from
horse, the place
Was near at hand:—Ne'er long'd my mother so
To see me first, as I have now:—Pisanio! Man!
Where is Posthúmous? What is in thy mind,
That makes thee stare thus? Wherefore breaks
that sigh
From the inward of thee? One, but painted
Would be interpreted a thing perplex'd [thus,
Beyond self-explication: Put thyself
Into a haviour¹ of less fear, ere wildness
Vanquish my staid senses. What's the matter?
Why tender'st thou that paper to me, with
A look untender? If it be summer news,
Smile to't before: if winterly, thou need'st
But keep that countenance still.—My husband's
Detested Italy hath out-crafted him, [hand,
And he's at some hard point.—Speak, man;
thy tongue

May take off some extremity, which to read
Would be even mortal to me.

Pis. Please you, read;
And you shall find me, wretched man, a thing
The most disdain'd of fortune.

Imo. [Reads.] *Thy mistress, Pisanio, hath
play'd the strumpet in my bed: the testimonies
whereof lie bleeding in me. I speak not out of
weak surmises, but from proof as strong as my
grief, and as certain as I expect my revenge.
That part, thou, Pisanio, must act for me, if thy
faith be not tainted with the breach of hers. Let
thine own hands take away her life: I shall give
thee opportunities at Milford-Haven: she hath
my letter for the purpose: Where, if thou fear
to strike, and to make me certain it is done,
thou art the pandar to her dishonour, and
equally to me disloyal.*

Pis. What, shall I need to draw my sword?
the paper
Hath cut her throat already.—No, 'tis slander;
Whose edge is sharper than the sword; whose
tongue
Out-venoms all the worms of Nile; whose breath
Rides on the posting winds, and doth belie
All corners of the world: kings, queens, & states,
Maids, matrons, nay, the secrets of the grave

¹ (Behaviour).

This viperous slander enters.—What cheer, madam?

Imo. False to his bed! What is it to be false? To lie in watch there, and to think on him? To weep 'twixt clock and clock? if sleep charge To break it with a fearful dream of him, [nature, And cry myself awake? that's false to his bed? Is it?

Pis. Alas, good lady!

I. I false? Thy conscience witness:—Iachimo, Thou didst accuse him of incontinency; Thou then look'dst like a villain; now, methinks, Thy favour's good enough.—Some jay of Italy, Whose mother was her painting,¹ hath betray'd Poor I am stale, a garment out of fashion; [him: And, for I am richer than to hang by the walls I must be ripp'd:—To pieces with me!—O, Men's vows are women's traitors! All good seem-Bethy revolt, O husband, shall be thought [ing, Put on for villainy; not born, where't grows; But worn, a bait for ladies.

Pis. Good madam, hear me.

Imo. True honest men being heard, like false *Æneas*, [weeping Were, in his time, thought false: and Sinon's Did scandal many a holy tear; took pity From most true wretchedness: So, thou, Post-Wilt lay the leaven on all proper men; [hūmus, Goodly and gallant, shall be false and perjurd From thy great fail.—Come, fellow, be thou honest:

Do thou thy master's bidding: when thou see'st A little witness my obedience: Look! [him, I draw the sword myself: take it, and hit The innocent mansion of my love, my heart: Fear not; 'tis empty of all things, but grief: Thy master is not there; who was, indeed, The riches of it: Do his bidding; strike. Thou may'st be valiant in a better cause; But now thou seem'st a coward.

Pis. Hence, vile instrument! Thou shalt not damn my hand.

Imo. Why, I must die; And if I do not by thy hand, thou art Noservantofthymaster's: Against self-slaughter There is a prohibition so divine, [heart; That cravens² my weak hand. Come, here's my Something's afore't:—Soft, soft; we'll no defence; Obedient as the scabbard.—What is here? The scriptures³ of the loyal Leonatus, All turn'd to heresy? Away, away, Corrupters of my faith! you shall no more Bestomachers to my heart! Thus may poor fools Believe false teachers: Though those that are betray'd

Do feel the treason sharply, yet the traitor Stands in worse case of woe. And thou, Posthūmus, thou that didst set up My disobedience 'gainst the king my father, And make me put into contempt the suits Of princely fellows, shalt thereafter find It is no act of common passage, but A strain of rareness: and I grieve myself, To think, when thou shalt be disedg'd by her That now thou tir'st⁴ on, how thy memory Will then be pang'd by me.—Pr'ythee, despatch:

1 Likeness.
2 Makes cowards.

3 The writings.
4 Preyest on.

The lamb entreats the butcher: Where's thy knife?

Thou art too slow to do thy master's bidding, When I desire it too.

Pis. O gracious lady, Since I receiv'd command to do this business, I have not slept one wink.

Imo. Do't, and to bed then.
Pis. I'll wake mine eye-balls blind first.

Imo. Wherefore then Did'st undertake it? Why hast thou abus'd So many miles with a pretence? this place? Mine action, and thine own; our horses' labour? The time inviting thee? the perturb'd court? For my being absent: Whereunto I never Purpose return? Why hast thou gone so far To be unbent, when thou hast ta'en thy stand, The elected deer before thee?

Pis. But to win time To lose so bad employment: in the which I have considered of a course; Good lady, Hear me with patience.

Imo. Talk thy tongue weary; speak: I have heard, I am a strumpet; and mine ear, Therein false struck, can take no greater wound, Nor tent to bottom that. But speak.

Pis. Then, madam, I thought you would not back again.

Imo. Most like; Bringing me here to kill me.

Pis. Not so, neither: But if I were as wise as honest, then My purpose would prove well. It cannot be, But that my master is abus'd: Some villain, ay, and singular in his art, Hath done you both this cursed injury.

Imo. Some Roman courtesan.

Pis. No, on my life. I'll give but notice you are dead, and send him Some bloody sign of it; for 'tis commanded I should do so: You shall be miss'd at court, And that will well confirm it.

Imo. Why, good fellow, What shall I do the while? Where bide? How live? Or in my life what comfort, when I am Dead to my husband?

Pis. If you'll go back to the court,—

Imo. No court, no father; nor no more ado With that harsh, hoble, simple, nothing: That Cloten, whose love-suit hath been to me As fearful as a siege.

Pis. If not at court, Then not in Britain must you bide.

Imo. Where, then? Hath Britain all the sun that shines? Day, night, Are they not but in Britain? I the world's volume Our Britain seems as of it, but not in it; In a great pool, a swan's nest; Pr'ythee, think There's lovers out of Britain.

Pis. I am most glad You think of other place. The ambassador, Lucius the Roman, comes to Milford-Haven To-morrow: Now, if you could wear a mind Dark as your fortune is; and but disguise That, which, to appear itself, must not yet be, But by self-danger; you should tread a course Pretty, and full of view: yea, haply, near The residence of Posthumus: so nigh, at least,

That though his actions were not visible, yet Report should render him hourly to your ear, As truly as he moves.

Imo. O, for such means !
Though peril to my modesty, not death on't,
I would adventure.

Pis. Well then, here's the point :
You must forget to be a woman ; change
Command into obedience ; fear, and niceness,
(The handmaids of all women, or, more truly,
Woman its pretty self,) to a waggish courage ;
Ready in gibes, quick-answer'd, saucy, and
As quarrellous as the weasel : nay, you must
Forget that rarest treasure of your cheek,
Exposing it (but, O, the harder heart !
Alack no remedy !) to the greedy touch
Of common-riching Titan¹ ; and forget
Your troublesome and dainty trims, wherein
You make great Juno angry.

Imo. Nay, be brief :
I see into thy end, and am almost
A man already.

Pis. First, make yourself but like one.
Fore-thinking this, I have already fit
('Tis in my cloak-bag,) doublet, hat, hose, all
That answer to them : Would you, in their serv-
And with what imitation you can borrow [ing,
From youth of such a season, 'fore noble Lucius
Present yourself, desire his service, tell him
Wherein you are happy, (which you'll make
him know,
If that his head have ear in musick,) doubtless,
With joy he will embrace you ; for he's honour-
able, [abroad
And, doubling that, most holy. Your means
You have me,² rich ; and I will never fail
Beginning, nor supplement.

Imo. Thou art all the comfort
The gods will diet me with. Pr'ythee, away :
There's more to be considered ; but we'll even
All that good time will give us : This attempt
I'm soldier to, and will abide it with
A prince's courage. Away, I pr'ythee.

P. Well, madam, we must take a short farewell :
Lest, being miss'd, I be suspected of
Your carriage from the court. My noble mistress,
Here is a box ; I had it from the queen ;
What's in't is precious ; if you are sick at sea,
Or stomach-qualm'd at land, a dram of this
Will drive away distemper.—To some shade,
And fit you to your manhood :—May the gods
Direct you to the best !

Imo. Amen : I thank thee. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.—A ROOM IN CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter Cymbeline, Queen, Cloten, Lucius, and
Lords.

Cym. Thus far ; and so farewell.
Luc. Thanks, royal sir.
My emperor hath wrote ; I must from hence ;
And am right sorry, that I must report ye
My master's enemy.

Cym. Our subjects, sir,
Will not endure his yoke ; and for ourself
To show less sovereignty than they, must needs
Appear unkingly.

¹ The sun. ² You may rely on me.

Luc. So, sir, I desire of you
A conduct over land, to Milford-Haven.—
Madam, all joy befall your grace, and you !
Cy. My lords, you are appointed for that office :
The due of honour in no point omit :—
So, farewell, noble Lucius.

Luc. Your hand, my lord.
Clo. Receive it friendly : but from this time
I wear it as your enemy. [forth
Luc. Sir, the event
Is yet to name the winner ; Fare you well.

Cym. Leave not the worthy Lucius, good my
lords,

Till he have cross'd the Severn.—Happiness !
[Exeunt Lucius and Lords.

Qu. He goes hence frowning ; but it honours us,
That we have given him cause.

Clo. 'Tis all the better ;
Your valiant Britons have their wishes in it.

Cym. Lucius hath wrote already to the emperor
How it goes here. It fits us, therefore, ripely,
Our chariots and our horsemen be in readiness :
The powers that he already hath in Gallia
Will soon be drawn to head, from whence he
His war for Britain. [moves

Queen. 'Tis not sleepy business ;
But must be look'd to speedily, and strongly.

Cym. Our expectation that it would be thus,
Hath made us forward. But, my gentle queen,
Where is our daughter ? She hath not appear'd
Before the Roman, nor to us hath tender'd
The duty of the day : She looks us like
A thing more made of malice, than of duty :
We have noted it.—Call her before us ; for
We have been too slight in sufferance.

[Exit an Attendant.

Queen. Royal sir,
Since the exile of Posthumus, most retir'd
Hath her life been ; the cure whereof, my lord,
'Tis time must do. 'Beseech your majesty,
Forbear sharp speeches to her : she's a lady
So tender of rebukes, that words are strokes,
And strokes death to her.

Re-enter an Attendant.

Cym. Where is she, sir ? How
Can her contempt be answer'd ?

Atten. Please you, sir,
Her chambers are all lock'd ; and there's no
answer [make.
That will be given to the loud'st of noise we

Queen. My lord, when last I went to visit her,
She pray'd me to excuse her keeping close ;
Whereto constrain'd by her infirmity,
She should that duty leave unpaid to you,
Which daily she was bound to proffer : this
She wish'd me to make known ; but our great
Made me to blame in memory. [court

Cym. Her doors lock'd ?
Not seen of late ? Grant, heavens, that, which
I fear,
Prove false ! [Exit.

Queen. Son, I say, follow the king.
Clo. That man of hers, Pisanio, her old servant,
I have not seen these two days.

Queen. Go, look after.—[Exit Cloten.
Pisanio, thou that stand'st so for Posthumus !—
He hath a drug of mine : I pray, his absence
Proceed by swallowing that ; for he believes

It is a thing most precious. But for her,
Where is she gone? Haply, despair hath seiz'd her;
Or, wing'd with fervour of her love, she's flown
To her desir'd Posthumus: Gone she is
To death, or to dishonour; and my end
Can make good use of either: She being down,
I have the placing of the British crown.

Re-enter Cloten.

How now, my son?

Clo. 'Tis certain she is fled:
Go in, and cheer the king; he rages; none
Dare come about him.

Queen. All the better: May
This night forestall him of the coming day!

[Exit Queen.]

Clo. I love, and hate her: for she's fair and
royal; {quisite

And that she hath all courtly parts more ex-
Than lady, ladies, woman!; from every one
The best she hath, and she, of all compounded,
Outsells them all: I love her therefore; But,
Disdaining me, and throwing favours on
The low Posthumus, slanders so her judgment
That what's else rare, is chok'd; and, in that point,
I will conclude to hate her; nay, indeed,
To be reveng'd upon her. For, when fools

Enter Pisanio.

Shall—Who is here? What! are you packing,
sirrah?

Come hither: Ay, you precious pandar! Villain,
Where is thy lady? In a word; or else
Thou art straightway with the fiends.

Pis. O, good my lord!

Clo. Where is thy lady? or, by Jupiter,
I will not ask again. Close villain,
I'll have this secret from thy heart, or rip
Thy heart to find it. Is she with Posthumus?
From whose so many weights of baseness cannot
A dram of worth be drawn.

Pis. Alas, my lord,
How can she be with him? When was she miss'd?
He is in Rome.

Clo. Where is she, sir? Come nearer?
No further halting: satisfy me home,
What is become of her?

Pis. O, my all-worthy lord!

Clo. All-worthy villain!

Discover where thy mistress is, at once,
At the next word.—No more of worthy lord,—
Speak, or thy silence on the instant is
Thy condemnation and thy death.

Pis. Then, sir,
This paper is the history of my knowledge
Touching her flight. *[Presenting a Letter.]*

Clo. Let's see't;—I will pursue her
Even to Augustus' throne.

Pis. *[Aside.]* Or this, or perish.
She's far enough; and what he learns by this,
May prove his travel, not her danger.

Clo. Humph!

Pis. *[Aside.]* I'll write to my lord she's dead.
O Imogen,

Safe may'st thou wander, safe return again!

Clo. Sirrah, is this letter true?

Pis. Sir, as I think.

Clo. It is Posthumus' hand; I know't.—

1 All womankind.

Sirrah, if thou wouldst not be a villain, but do
me true service; undergo those employments,
wherein I should have cause to use thee, with a
serious industry,—that is, what villainy so'er
I bid thee do, to perform it, directly and truly,
—I would think thee an honest man: thou
shouldest neither want my means for thy relief,
nor my voice for thy preferment.

Pis. Well, my good lord.

Clo. Wilt thou serve me? For since patiently
and constantly thou hast stuck to the bare for-
tune of that beggar Posthumus, thou canst not
in the course of gratitude but be a diligent fol-
lower of mine. Wilt thou serve me?

Pis. Sir, I will.

Clo. Give me thy hand, here's my purse.
Hast any of thy late master's garments in thy
possession?

Pis. I have, my lord, at my lodgings, the
same suit he wore when he took leave of my
lady and mistress.

Clo. The first service thou dost me, fetch that
suit hither; let it be thy first service: go.

Pis. I shall, my lord. *[Exit.]*

Clo. Meet thee at Milford-Haven:—I forgot
to ask him one thing: I'll remember't anon:—
Even there, thou villain, Posthumus, will I keep
thee.—I would these garments were come. She
said upon a time (the bitterness of it I now
belch from my heart), that she held the very
garment of Posthumus in more respect than my
noble and natural person, together with the
adornment of my qualities. With that suit upon
my back, will I first kill him, and in her eyes:
there shall she see my valour, which will then
be a torment to her contempt. He on the
ground, my speech of insultment ended on his
dead body,—and when my lust hath dined
(which, as I say, to vex her, I will execute in
the clothes that she so praised) to the court I'll
knock her back, foot her home again. She
hath despised me rejoicingly, and I'll be merry
in my revenge.

Re-enter Pisanio, with the Clothes.

Be those the garments.

Pis. Ay, my noble lord.

Clo. How long is't since she went to Milford-
Haven?

Pis. She can scarce be there yet.

Clo. Bring this apparel to my chamber; that
is the second thing that I have commanded
thee: the third is, that thou shalt be a volun-
tary mute to my design. Be but duteous, and
true preferment shall tender itself to thee.—
My revenge is now at Milford; 'Would I had
wings to follow it!—Come, and be true. *[Exit.]*

Pis. Thou bidd'st me to my loss: for true
to thee,

Were to prove false, which I will never be,
To him that is most true.—To Milford go,
And find not her whom thou pursu'st. Flow, flow,
You heavenly blessings, on her! This fool's speed
Be cross'd with slowness; labour be his need!

[Exit.]

SCENE VI.—BEFORE THE CAVE OF BELARIUS.

Enter Imogen, in Boy's Clothes.

Imo. I see a man's life is a tedious one;

I have tired myself; and for two nights together
Have made the ground my bed. I should be sick,
But that my resolution helps me. Milford,
When from the mountain-top Pisanio show'd
thee,

Thou wast within a ken! O Jove! I think,
Foundations fly the wretched: such, I mean,
Where they should be reliev'd. Two beggars
told me,

I could not miss my way: Will poor folks lie,
That have afflictions on them? knowing 'tis
A punishment, or trial? Yes, no wonder,
When rich ones scarce tell true: To lapse in
fulness

Is sorer, than to lie for need; and falsehood
Is worse in kings than beggars.—My dear lord!
Thou art one of the false ones: Now I think on
My hunger's gone; but even before, I was [thee,
At point to sink for food.—But what is this?
Here is a path to it: 'Tis some savage hold:
I were best not call: I dare not call: yet famine,
Ere clean it o'erthrow nature, makes it valiant.
Plenty, and peace, breeds cowards; hardness ever
Of hardness is mother.—Ho! who's here?
If any thing that's civil, speak; if savage,
Take, or lend.—Ho!—No answer; then I'll enter.
Best draw my sword: and if mine enemy
But fear the sword like me, he'll scarcely look on't.
Such a foe, good heavens! [*She goes into the Cave.*]

Enter Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus.

Bel. You, Polydore, have prov'd best wood-
man,² and

Are master of the feast: Cadwal, and I,
Will play the cook and servant; 'tis our match:
The sweat of industry would dry, and die,
But for the end it works to. Come; our stomachs
Will make what's homely, savory: Weariness
Can snore upon the flint, when restive sloth
Finds the down pillow hard—Now, peace be here,
Poor house, that keep'st thyself!

Gui. I am thoroughly weary.

Arr. I am weak with toil, yet strong in appetite.

Gui. There is cold meat i' the cave; we'll
browse on that,

Whilst what we have kill'd be cook'd.

Bel. Stay; come not in: [*Looking in.*]
But that it eats our victuals, I should think
Here were a fairy.

Gui. What's the matter, sir?

Bel. By Jupiter, an angel! or, if not,
An earthly paragon!—Behold divineness
No elder than a boy!

Enter Imogen.

Imo. Good masters, harm me not:
Before I enter'd here, I call'd; and thought
To have begg'd, or bought, what I have took:

Good troth,

I have stolen nought; nor would not, though I
had found

Gold strew'd o' the floor. Here's money for
my meat:

I would have left it on the board, so soon
As I had made my meal; and parted
With prayers for the provider.

Gui. Money, youth?

Arr. All gold and silver rather turn to dirt!

1 Within sight. 2 Hunter. 3 Agreement.

As 'tis no better reckon'd, but of those
Who worship dirty gods.

Imo. I see you are angry:
Know, if you kill me for my fault, I should
Have died, had I not made it.

Bel. Whither bound?

Imo. To Milford-Haven, sir.

Bel. What is your name?

Imo. Fidele, sir: I have a kinsman, who
Is bound for Italy; he embark'd at Milford:
To whom being going, almost spent with hunger,
I am fallen in¹ this offence.

Bel. Pr'ythee, fair youth,
Think us no churls; nor measure our good minds
By this rude place we live in. Well encounter'd!
'Tis almost night: you shall have better cheer
Ere you depart: and thanks, to stay and eat it.—
Boys, bid him welcome.

Gui. Were you a woman, youth,
I should woo hard, but be your groom.—In
I bid for you, as I'd buy. [honesty,

Arr. I'll make't my comfort,
He is a man; I'll love him as my brother:—
And such a welcome as I'd give to him,
After long absence, such is yours:—Most wel-
come!

Be sprightly, for you fall 'mongst friends.

Imo. [*Aside.*] 'Mongst friends
If brothers?—'Would it had been so, that they
Had been my father's sons! then had my prize
Been less; and so more equal ballasting
To thee, Posthumus.

Bel. He wrings at some distress.

Gui. 'Would I could free't!

Arr. Or I; whate'er it be,
What pain it cost, what danger! Gods!

Bel. [*Whispering.*] Hark, boys.

Imo. Great men,
That had a court no bigger than this cave,
That did attend themselves, and had the virtue
Which their own conscience seal'd them, (laying
That nothing gift of differing multitudes,) (by
Could not out-peer these twain. Pardon me, gods!
I'd change my sex to be companion with them,
Since Leonatus false.

Bel. It shall be so: [in:
Boys, we'll go dress our hunt.—Fair youth, come
Discourse is heavy, fasting; when we have sup'd,
We'll mannerly demand thee of thy story,
So far as thou wilt speak it.

Gui. Pray, draw near.

Arr. The night to the owl, and morn to the
lark, less welcome.

Imo. Thanks, sir.

Arr. I pray draw near. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE VII.—ROME.

Enter two Senators and Tribunes.

1 *Sen.* This is the tenour of the emperor's writ:
That since the common men are now in action
'Gainst the Pannonians and Dalmatians:
And that the legions now in Gallia are
Full weak to undertake our wars against
The fallen-off Britons; that we do incite
The gentry to this business: He creates
Lucius pro-consul: and to you the tribunes,

1 [*Intro.*]

For this immediate levy, he commands
His absolute commission. Long live Cæsar!

Tri. Is Lucius general of the forces?

2 Sen. Ay.

Tri. Remaining now in Gallia?

1 Sen. With those legions

Which I have spoke of, whereunto your levy
Must be suppliant: The words of your commis-
Will tie you to the numbers and the time [sion
Of their despatch.

Tri. We will discharge our duty.

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.

WALES. THE FOREST, NEAR THE CAVE.

Enter Cloten.

Clo. I am near to the place where they should
meet, if Pisanio have mapped it truly. How fit
his garments serve me! Why should his mistress
not fit too? Therein I must play the workman.
I dare speak it to myself, (for it is not vain-glory,
for a man and his glass to confer,—in his own
chamber, I mean,) the lines of my body are as
well drawn as his; no less young, more strong,
not beneath him in fortunes, beyond him in the
advantage of the time, above him in birth, alike
conversant in general services, and more remark-
able in single oppositions: yet this imperseverant
thing loves him in my despite. What mortal-
ity is! Posthumus, thy head, which now is
growing upon thy shoulders, shall within this
hour be off; thy mistress enforced; thy garments
cut to pieces before thy face; and all this done,
spurn her home to her father: who may, haply,
be a little angry for my so rough usage; but my
mother, having power of his testiness, shall turn
all into my commendations. My horse is tied up
safe: Out sword, and to a sore purpose! For-
tune! put them into my hand! This is the very
description of their meeting-place; and the
fellow dares not deceive me. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—BEFORE THE CAVE.

*Enter, from the Cave, Belarius, Guiderius,
Arviragus, and Imogen.*

Bel. You are not well: [*To Imogen.*] remain
here in the cave;

We'll come to you after hunting.

Arr. [*To Imogen.*] Brother, stay here:
Are we not brothers?

Imo. So man and man should be;
But clay and clay differs in dignity,
Whose dust is both alike.—I am very sick.

Gwi. Go you to hunting, I'll abide with him.

Imo. So sick I am not; yet I am not well:
But not so citizen a wanton, as
To seem to die, ere sick: So please you leave me;
Stick to your journal² course: the breach of
custom

Is breach of all. I am ill; but your being by me
Cannot amend me: Society is no comfort

1 Combats.

2 Daily course.

To one not sociable: I'm not very sick,
Since I can reason of it. Pray you, trust me here:
I'll rob none but myself; and let me die,
Stealing so poorly.

Gwi. I love thee; I have spoke it:
How much the quantity, the weight as much,
As I do love my father.

Bel. What? how? how?

Arr. If it be sin to say so, sir, I yoke me
In my good brother's fault: I know not why
I love this youth; and I have heard you say,
Love's reason's without reason; the bier at door,
And a demand, who is't shall die, I'd say,
My father, not this youth.

Bel. [*Aside.*] O noble strain!

O worthiness of nature! breed of greatness!
Cowards father cowards, and base things sire
base;

Nature hath meal and bran; contempt and grace.
I am not their father; yet who this should be,
Doth miracle itself, lov'd before me.—

'Tis the ninth hour o' the morn.

Arr. Brother, farewell.

Imo. I wish ye sport.

Arr. You health.—So please you, sir.

Imo. [*Aside.*] These are kind creatures. Gods,
what lies I have heard!

Our courtiers say, all's savage, but at court:
Experience, O, thou disprov'st report!
The imperious¹ seas breed monsters; for the dish
Poor tributary rivers as sweet fish.
I am sick still; heart-sick:—Pisanio,
I'll now taste of thy drug.

Gwi. I could not stir him:

He said, he was gentle,² but unfortunate;
Dishonestly afflicted, but yet honest.

Arr. Thus did he answer me: yet said, here-
I might know more. [*after*]

Bel. To the field, to the field:—

We'll leave you for this time: go in, and rest.

Arr. We'll not be long away.

Bel. Pray, be not sick.

For you must be our housewife.

Imo. Well, or ill,
I am bound to you.

Bel. And so shalt be ever. [*Exit Imogen.*]
This youth, howe'er distress'd, appears, he hath
Good ancestors. [*had*]

Arr. How angel-like he sings!

Gwi. But his neat cookery! He cuts our roots
in characters;

And sauc'd our broths, as Juno had been sick,
And he her dieter.

Arr. Nobly he yokes
A smiling with a sigh: as if the sigh
Was that it was, for not being such a smile:
The smile mocking the sigh, that it would fly
From so divine a temple, to commix
With winds that sailors rail at.

Gwi. I do note,
That grief and patience, rooted in him both,
Mingle their spurs³ together.

Arr. Grow, patience!
And let the fetid elder, grief, untwine
His perishing root, with the increasing vine!

Bel. It is great morning. Come; away.—
Who's there?

1 Imperial.

2 Well born.

3 Roots.

Enter Cloten.

Clo. I cannot find those runagates; that villain Hath mock'd me:—I am faint.

Bel. Those runagates! Means he not us? I partly know him; 'tis Cloten, the son o' the queen. I fearsome ambush. I saw him not these many years, and yet I know 'tis he: We are held as outlaws: Hence.

Gui. He is but one: you and my brother search What companies are near: pray you, away; Let me alone with him.

[Exeunt Belarius and Arviragus.]

Clo. Soft! What are you That fly me thus? some villain mountaineers? I have heard of such.—What slave art thou?

Gui. A thing More slavish did I ne'er, than answering A slave, without a knock.

Clo. Thou art a robber, A law-breaker, a villain: Yield thee, thief.

Gui. To who? to thee? What art thou? Have An arm as big as thine? a heart as big? [not I Thy words, I grant, are bigger; for I wear not My dagger in my mouth. Say, what thou art? Why I should yield to thee?

Clo. Thou villain base, Know'st me not by my clothes?

Gui. No, nor thy tailor, rascal, Who is thy grandfather; he made those clothes, Which, as it seems, make thee.

Clo. Thou precious varlet, My tailor made them not.

Gui. Hence then, and thank The man that gave them thee. Thou art some I am loath to beat thee. [fool;

Clo. Thou injurious thief, Hear but my name, and tremble.

Gui. What's thy name?

Clo. Cloten, thou villain.

Gui. Cloten, thou double villain, be thy name, I cannot tremble at it; were't toad, or adder, 'Twould move me sooner. [spider,

Clo. To thy further fear, Nay, to thy mere confusion, thou shalt know I'm son to the queen.

Gui. I'm sorry for't; not seeming So worthy as thy birth.

Clo. Art not afeard?

G. Those that I reverence, those I fear; the At fools I laugh, not fear them. [wise:

Clo. Die the death: When I have slain thee with my proper hand, I'll follow those that even now fled hence, And on the gates of Lud's town set your heads: Yield, rustic mountaineer. *[Exeunt fighting.]*

Enter Belarius and Arviragus.

Bel. No company's abroad. You did mistake him, A. None in the world: You did mistake him,

Bel. I cannot tell: Long is it since I saw him, But time hath nothing blurr'd those lines of favour²

Which then he wore; the snatches in his voice, And burst of speaking, were as his: I am ab- 'Twas very Cloten. [solite,

Arv. In this place we left them; I wish my brother made good time with him, You say he is so fell.

1 Entire. 2 Countenance.

Bel. Being scarce made up, I mean, to man, he had not apprehension Of roaring terrors; for the effect of judgment If oft the cause of fear: But see, thy brother.

Re-enter Guiderius with Cloten's Head.

Gui. This Cloten was a fool; an empty purse, There was no money in't: not Hercules Could have knock'd out his brains, for he had Yet I not doing this, the fool had borne [none: My head, as I do his.

Bel. What hast thou done?

G. I am perfect, what: cut off one Cloten's Son to the queen, after his own report; [head, Who call'd me traitor, mountaineer; and swore, With his own single hand he'd take us in,¹ Displace our heads, where (thank the gods!) And set them on Lud's town. [they grow,

Bel. We are all undone.

G. Why, worthy father, what have we to lose, But, that he swore to take, our lives? The law Protects not us: Then why should we be tender, To let an arrogant piece of flesh threaten us; Play judge, and executioner, all himself; For we do fear the law? What company Discover you abroad?

Bel. No single soul Can we set eye on, but, in all safe reason, He must have some attendants. Though his humour

Was nothing but mutation; ay, and that From one bad thing to worse; not frenzy, not Absolute madness could so far have rav'd, To bring him here alone: Although, perhaps, It may be heard at court, that such as we Cave here, hunt here, are outlaws, and in time May make some stronger head: the which he hearing,

(As it is like him,) might break out and swear He'd fetch us in; yet is't not probable To come alone, either he so undertaking, Or they so suffering: then on good ground we If we do fear this body hath a tail [fear, More perilous than the head.

Arv. Let ordinance Come as the gods foresay it: howsoe'er, My brother hath done well.

Bel. I had no mind To hunt this day: the boy Fidele's sickness Did make my way long forth.²

Gui. With his own sword, [ta'en Which he did wave against my throat, I have His head from him: I'll throw't into the creek Behind our rock; and let it to the sea, And tell the fishes, he's the queen's son, Cloten: That's all I reck.³ *[Exit.]*

Bel. I fear 'twill be reveng'd: Would, Polydore, thou hadst not done't! though Becomes thee well enough. [valour

Arv. 'Would I had not, So the revenge alone pursued me!—Polydore, I love thee brotherly; but envy much, [venge, Thou hast robb'd me of this deed: I would, re- That possible strength might meet, would seek us through,

And put us to our answer.

Bel. Well, 'tis done:—

1 Subdue. 2 Tediums. 3 Care.

We'll hunt no more to-day, nor seek for danger
Where there's no profit. I prythee, to our rock;
You and Fidele play the cooks: I'll stay
Till hasty Polydore return, and bring him
To dinner presently.

Arr. Poor sick Fidele!
I'll willingly to him; To gain¹ his colour,
I'd let² a parish of such Clotens' blood,
And praise myself for charity. *[Exit.]*

Bel. O thou goddess,
Thou divine Nature, how thyself thou blazon'st
In these two princely boys! They are as gentle
As zephyrs, blowing before the violet,
Not wagging his sweet head: and yet as rough,
Their royal blood enshaf'd, as the rud'st wind,
That by the top doth take the mountain pine,
And make him stoop to the vale. 'Tis wonderful,
That an invisible instinct should frame them
To royalty unlearn'd; honour untaught;
Civility not seen from other; valour,
That wildly grows in them, but yields a crop
As if it had been sow'd! Yet still it's strange
What Cloten's being here to us portends;
Or what his death will bring us.

Re-enter Guiderius.

Gui. Where's my brother?
I have sent Cloten's clot-poll down the stream,
In embassy to his mother; his body's hostage
For his return. *[Solemn music.]*

Bel. My ingenious instrument!
Hark, Polydore, it sounds! But what occasion
Hath Cadwal now to give it motion! Hark!

Gui. Is he at home?

Bel. He went hence even now.

Gui. What does he mean? since death of my
dear'st mother

It did not speak before. All solemn things
Should answer solemn accidents. The matter?
Triumphs for nothing, and lamenting toys,³
Is jollity for apes, and grief for boys.
Is Cadwal mad?

*Re-enter Arviragus, bearing Imogen as dead,
in his arms.*

Bel. Look, here he comes,
And brings the dire occasion in his arms,
Of what we blame him for!

Arr. The bird is dead,
That we have made so much on. I had rather
Have skip'd from sixteen years of age to sixty,
Than have seen this.

Gui. O sweetest, fairest lily;
My brother wears not thee one-half so well,
As when thou grew'st thyself.

Bel. O, melancholy!
Who ever yet could sound thy bottom? find
The ooze, to show what coast thy sluggish crure⁴
Might easiliest harbour in?—Thou blessed thing!
Ove knows what man thou might'st have made;
but I,

Thou diedst, a most rare boy, of melancholy!—
How found you him?

Arr. Stark⁵ as you see:
Thus smiling, as some fly had tickled slumber,
Not as death's dart, being laugh'd at: his right
Leaping on a cushion. *[cheek]*

1 Restore. 3 Triffles. 5 Stiff.
2 Spill. 4 Unwieldy vessel.

Gui. Where?

Arr. O' the floor; *[put]*
His arms thus leagu'd: I thought, he slept; and
My clouted brogues¹ from off my feet, whose
Answer'd my steps too loud. *[rudeness]*

Gui. Why, he but sleeps:
If he be gone, he'll make his grave a bed;
With female fairies will his tomb be haunted,
And worms will not come to thee.

Arr. With fairest flowers,
Whilst summer lasts, and I live here, Fidele,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave: Thou shalt not lack
The flower, that's like thy face, pale primrose; nor
The azur'd hare-bell, like thy veins; no, nor
The leaf of eglantine, whom not to slander,
Out-sweeten'd not thy breath: the rudduck²

would,
With charitable bill (O bill, sore-shaming
Those rich-left heirs, that let their fathers lie
Without a monument!) bring thee all this;
Yea, and furr'd moss besides, when flowers are
To winter-guard thy corse. *[none,]*

Gui. Prythee, have done
And do not play in wench-like words with that
Which is so serious. Let us bury him,
And not protract with admiration what
Is now due debt.—To the grave.

Arr. Say, where shall's lay him?

Gui. By good Euriphile, our mother.

Arr. Be't so:
And let us, Polydore, though now our voices
Have got the mannish crack, sing him to the
ground,

As once our mother; use like note, and words,
Save that Euriphile must be Fidele.

Gui. Cadwal,
I cannot sing: I'll weep, and word it with thee:
For notes of sorrow, out of tune, are worse
Than priests and fanes that lie.

Arr. We'll speak it then.

Bel. Great griefs, I see, medicine the less: for
Cloten

Is quite forgot. He was a queen's son, boys:
And, though he came our enemy, remember,
He was paid for that: Though mean and mighty
Together, have one dust; yet reverence, *[rotting]*
(That angel of the world,) doth make distinction
Of place 'tween high and low. Our foe was
princely;

And though you took his life, as being our foe,
Yet bury him as a prince.

Gui. Pray you, fetch him hither.
Thersites' body is as good as Ajax,
When neither are alive.

Arr. If you'll go fetch him,
We'll say our song the whilst.—Brother, begin.
[Exit Belarius.]

Gui. Nay, Cadwal, we must lay his head to
My father hath a reason for't. *[the east;]*

Arr. 'Tis true.

Gui. Come on then, and remove him.

Arr. So,—begin.

SONG.

Gui. Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:

1 Shoes plated with iron. 2 The red-breast.

*Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.*

*Arr. Fear no more the frown o' the great,
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe, and eat;
To thee the reed is as the oak:
The scepter, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.*

*Gui. Fear no more the lightning flash,
Arr. Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone¹;
Gui. Fear not slander, censure² rash;
Arr. Thou hast finish'd joy and moan:
Both. All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee, and come to dust.*

*Gui. No exorciser harm thee!
Arr. Nor no witchcraft charm thee!
Gui. Ghost unlaid forbear thee!
Arr. Nothing ill come near thee!
Both. Quiet consummation have;
And renowned be thy grave.*

Re-enter Belarius, with the Body of Cloten.

Gui. We have done our obsequies: Come, lay him down.

Bel. Here's a few flowers, but about midnight, more:

*The herbs, that have on them cold dew o' the night, [faces:—
Are strewings fitt'st for graves.—Upon their
You were as flowers, now withered: even so
These herb'lets shall, which we upon you strow.—
Come on, away: apart, upon our knees.
The ground, that gave them first, has them again;
Their pleasures here are past, so is their pain.
[Exeunt Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus.
Imo. [Awaking.] Yes, sir, to Milford-Haven;
which is the way?]*

I thank you.—By yon bush?—Pray, how far thither?

*Is't possible it can be six miles yet?
I have gone all night:—I will lie down and sleep.
But, soft, no bedfellow:—O, gods and goddesses!
[Seeing the Body.]*

*These flowers are like the pleasures of the world;
This bloody man, the care on't.—I hope, I dream;
For, so, I thought I was a cave-keeper,
And cook to honest creatures; But 'tis not so;
'Twas but a bolt³ of nothing, shot at nothing,
Which the brain makes of fumes: Our very eyes
Are sometimes like our judgments, blind. Good faith,*

*I tremble still with fear: But if there be
Yet left in heaven as small a drop of pity
As a wren's eye, fear'd gods, a part of it!
The dream's here still: even when I wake, it is
Without me, as within me: not imagin'd, felt.
A headless man!—The garments of Posthumus!
I know the shape of his leg: this is his hand;
His foot Mercurial; his martial thigh:
The brawns of Hercules: but his jovial face—
Murder in heaven?—How? 'Tis gone.—Pisanio,
All curses madd'd Hecuba gave the Greeks,
And mine to boot, be darted on thee! Thou,
Conspir'd with that irregular⁴ devil, Cloten,
Hast here cut off my lord.—To write, and read,*

¹ Formerly supposed to be emitted by thunder.

² Judgment.

³ An arrow.

⁴ Lawless.

*Be henceforth treacherous. O, Pisanio,
Pisanio, with his forged letters, hath
From this most bravest vessel of the world
Struck the main-top!—O, Posthumus! alas!
Where is thy head? where's that? Ah me!
where's that?*

*Pisanio might have kill'd thee at the heart,
And left this head on.—How should this be?
Pisanio?*

*'Tis he, and Cloten: malice and lucre in them
Have laid this woe here. O, 'tis pregnant, pregnant¹!*

*The drug he gave me, which, he said, was precious
And cordial to me, have I not found it
Murderous to the senses? That confirms it home:
This is Pisanio's deed, and Cloten's: O!—
Give colour to my pale cheek with thy blood,
That we the horrid may seem to those
Which chance to find us: O, my lord, my lord!
Enter Lucius, a Captain, and other Officers,
and a Soothsayer.*

*Cap. To them the legions garrison'd in Gallia,
After your will, have cross'd the sea: attending
You here at Milford-Haven, with your ships:
They are here in readiness.*

Luc. But what from Rome?

*Cap. The senate hath stirr'd up the confiners,²
And gentlemen of Italy; most willing spirits
That promise noble service; and they come
Under the conduct of bold Iachimo,
Sienna's brother.*

Luc. When expect you them?

Cap. With the next benefit o' the wind.

*Luc. This forwardness
Makes our hopes fair. Command, our present
numbers [sir,
Be muster'd; bid the captains look to't.—Now,
What have you dream'd, of late, of this war's
purpose?*

*S. Last night the very gods show'd me a vision:
(I fast, and pray'd, for their intelligence.) Thus:—
I saw Jove's bird, the Roman eagle, wing'd
From the spongy south to this part of the west,
There vanish'd in the sunbeams: which portends,
(Unless my sins abuse my divination,) Success to the Roman host.*

*Luc. Dream often so,
And never false.—Soft, ho! what trunk is here,
Without his top? The ruin speaks, that sometime
It was a worthy building.—How! a page!
Or dead, or sleeping on him? But dead, rather:
For nature doth abhor to make his bed
With the defunct, or sleep upon the dead.—
Let's see the boy's face.*

Cap. He is alive, my lord.

*Luc. He'll then instruct us of this body.—
Young one,*

*Inform us of thy fortunes; for, it seems,
They crave to be demanded! Who is this,
Thou mak'st thy bloody pillow? Or who was he,
That, otherwise than noble nature did, [est
Hath alter'd that good picture? What's thy inter-
In this sad wreck? How came it? Who is it?
What art thou?*

*Imo. I am nothing: or, if not,
Nothing to be better. This was my master,
A very valiant Briton, and a good,*

¹ 'Tis plain.

² Borderers.

That here by mountaineers lies slain :—Alas !
There are no more such masters : I may wander
From east to occident, cry out for service,
Try many, all good, serve truly, never
Find such another master.

Luc. 'Lack, good youth !
Thou mov'st no less with thy complaining, than
Thy master in bleeding : Say his name, good
friend.

Imo. Richard du Champ. [*Aside.*] If I do lie,
and do

No harm by it, though the gods hear, I hope
They'll pardon it. Say you, sir ?

Luc. Thy name !
Imo. Fidele.

L. Thou dost approve thyself the very same :
Thy name well fits thy faith ; thy faith, thy
name.

Wilt take thy chance with me ? I will not say,
Thou shalt be so well master'd ; but, be sure,
No less belov'd. The Roman emperor's letters,
Sent by a consul to me, should not sooner
Than thine own worth, prefer thee : Go with me.

Imo. I'll follow, sir. But first, an't please
the gods,

I'll hide my master from the flies, as deep
As these poor pickaxes¹ can dig : and when
With wild wood-leaves and weeds I have strew'd
his grave,

And on it said a century of prayers,
Such as I can, twice o'er, I'll weep, and sigh ;
And, leaving so his service, follow you,
So please you entertain me.

Luc. Ay, good youth ;
And rather father thee, than master thee.—
My friends,

The boy hath taught us manly duties : Let us
Find out the prettiest daisied plot we can,
And make him with our pikes and partizans
A grave : Come, arm him.—Boy, he is prefer'd
By thee to us ; and he shall be interr'd,
As soldiers can. Be cheerful ; wipe thine eyes :
Some falls are means the happier to arise.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A ROOM IN CYMBELINE'S PALACE.

Enter Cymbeline, Lords, and Pisanio.

Cym. Again ; and bring me word how 'tis
with her.

A fever with the absence of her son ;
A madness, of which her life's in danger :—
Heavens,

How deeply you at once do touch me ! Imogen,
The great part of my comfort, gone : my queen
Upon a desperate bed ; and in a time
When fearful wars point at me ; her son gone,
So needful for this present : It strikes me, past
The hope of comfort.—But for thee, fellow,
Who needs must know of her departure, and
Dost seem so ignorant, we'll enforce it from thee
By a sharp torture.

Pis. Sir, my life is yours ;
I humbly set it at your will : But, for my
mistress,

I nothing know where she remains, why gone,
Nor when she purposes return. 'Beseech your
highness,

1 (Her fingers.)

Hold me your loyal servant.

1 *Lord.* Good my liege,
The day that she was missing, he was here :
I dare be bound he's true, and shall perform
All parts of his subjection loyally.

For Cloten,—
There wants no diligence in seeking him,
And will, no doubt, be found.

Cym. The time's troublesome :
[*To Pisanio.*] We'll slip you for a season : but
our jealousy

Does yet depend.

1 *Lord.* So please your majesty,
The Roman legions, all from Gallia drawn,
Are landed on your coast ; with a supply
Of Roman gentlemen, by the senate sent.

C. Now for the counsel of my son and queen !—
I am amaz'd with matter.¹

1 *Lord.* Good my liege,
Your preparation can affront² no less
Than what you hear of : come more, for more
you're ready :

The want is, but to put those powers in motion,
That long to move.

Cym. I thank you : Let's withdraw :
And meet the time, as it seeks us. We fear not
What can from Italy annoy us ; but

We grieve at chances here.—Away. [*Exeunt.*]

Pis. I heard no letter from my master, since
I wrote him, Imogen was slain : 'Tis strange :
Nor hear I from my mistress, who did promise
To yield me often tidings : Neither know I
What is betid to Cloten ; but remain
Perplex'd in all. The heavens still must work :
Wherein I am false, I am honest ; not true, to
be true.

These present wars shall find I love my country,
Even to the note³ o' the king, or I'll fall in them.
All other doubts, by time let them be clear'd :
Fortune brings in some boats, that are not
steer'd. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—BEFORE THE CAVE.

Enter Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus.

Gui. The noise is round about us.

Bel. Let us from it.

A. What pleasure, sir, find we in life, to lock it
From action and adventure ?

Gui. Nay, what hope
Have we in hiding us ? this way, the Romans
Must or for Britons slay us ; or receive us
For barbarous and unnatural revolts⁴
During their use, and slay us after.

Bel. Sons,
We'll higher to the mountains ; there secure us,
To the king's party there's no going : newness
Of Cloten's death (we being not known, not
muster'd

Among the bands) may drive us to a render⁵
Where we have liv'd ; and so extort from us
That which we've done, whose answer would be
death

Drawn on with torture.

Gui. This is, sir, a doubt,

1 Distracted by a variety of business. 4 Revolters.
2 Encounter. 5 An account
3 Notice.

In such a time, nothing becoming you,
Nor satisfying us.

Arr. It is not likely,
That when they hear the Roman horses neigh,
Behold their quarter'd fires, have both their eyes
And ears so cloy'd importantly as now,
That they will waste their time upon our note,¹
To know from whence we are.

Bel. O, I am known
Of many in the army: many years,
Though Cloten then but young, you see, not
wore him

From my remembrance. And, besides, the king
Hath not deserv'd my service, nor your loves;
Who find in my exile the want of breeding,
The certainty of this hard life; aye hopeless
To have the courtesy your cradle promis'd,
But to be still hot summer's tanlings, and
The shrinking slaves of winter.

Gui. Than be so,
Better to cease to be. Pray, sir, to the army:
I and my brother are not known; yourself,
So out of thought, and thereto so o'ergrown,
Cannot be question'd.

Arr. By this sun that shines,
I'll thither: What thing is it, that I never
Did see man die? scarce ever look'd on blood,
But that of coward hares, hot goats, and venison?
Never bestrid a horse, save one, that had
A rider like myself, who ne'er wore rowel
Nor iron on his heel? I am asham'd
To look upon the holy sun, to have
The benefit of his bless'd beams, remaining
So long a poor unknown.

Gui. By heavens, I'll go:
If you will bless me, sir, and give me leave,
I'll take the better care; but if you will not,
The hazard therefore due fall on me, by
The hands of Romans!

Arr. So say I; Amen.

Bel. No reason I, since on your lives you set
So slight a valuation, should reserve
Mycrack'd one to more care. Have with you, boys:
If in your country wars you chance to die,
That is my bed too, lads, and there I'll lie:
Lead, lead.—[*Aside.*] The time seems long; their
blood thinks scorn,

Till it fly out, and show them princes born.
[*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—A FIELD BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND ROMAN CAMPS.

Enter Posthumus, with a bloody Handkerchief.

Post. Yea, bloody cloth, I'll keep thee; for I
wish'd [ones,
Thou shouldst be colour'd thus. You married
If each of you would take this course, how many
Must murder wives much better than them-
For wrying² but a little—O, Pisanio! [selves,
Every good servant does not all commands:
No bond, but to do just ones.—Gods! if you
Should have ta'en vengeance on my faults, I never
Had liv'd to put on³ this: so had you saved

1 Noticing us.

2 Deviating.

3 Instigate.

The noble Imogen to repent; and struck
Me, wretch, more worth your vengeance. But
alack, [love

You snatch some hence for little faults; that
To have them fall no more: you some permit
To second ills with ills, each elder worse;
And make them dread it to the doer's thrift.
But Imogen is your own: Do your best wills,
And make me bless'd to obey!—I am brought
hither

Among the Italian gentry, and to fight
Against my lady's kingdom: 'Tis enough
That, Britain, I have kill'd thy mistress; peace
I'll give no wound to thee. Therefore, good
heavens,

Hear patiently my purpose: I'll disrobe me
Of these Italian weeds, and suit myself
As does a Briton peasant: so I'll fight
Against the part I come with; so I'll die
For thee, O Imogen, even for whom my life
Is, every breath, a death: and thus, unknown,
Pitied nor hated, to the face of peril
Myself I'll dedicate. Let me make men know
More valour in me, than my habits show.
Gods put strength o' the Leonati in me!
To shame the guise o' the world, I will begin
The fashion, less without, and more within! [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

*Enter, at one side, Lucius, Iachimo, and the
Roman Army; at the other side, the British
Army; Leonatus Posthumus following it, like
a poor Soldier. They march over, and go
out. Alarums. Then enter again in Skir-
nish, Iachimo and Posthumus; he van-
quisheth and disarmeth Iachimo, and then
leaves him.*

Iach. The heaviness and guilt within my bosom
Takes off my manhood: I have belied a lady,
The princess of this country, and the air on't
Revengefully enfeebles me; Or could this earl,¹
A very drudge of nature's, have subdu'd me,
In my profession? Knighthoods and honours
borne

As I wear mine, are titles but of scorn.
If that thy gentry, Britain, go before
This lout, as he exceeds our lords, the odds
Is, that we scarce are men, and you are gods. [*Exit.*]

*The Battle continues, the Britons fly; Cymbeline
is taken; then enter to his rescue, Belarius,
Guiderius, and Arviragus.*

Bel. Stand, stand! We have the advantage of
the ground;

The land's guarded: nothing routs us, but
The villainy of our fears.

Gui. Arr. Stand, stand! and fight!
*Enter Posthumus, and seconds the Britons.
They rescue Cymbeline, and exeunt. Then,
enter Lucius, Iachimo, and Imogen.*

L. Away, boy, from the troops, and save thyself:
For friends kill friends, and the disorder's such
As war were hood-wink'd.

Iach. 'Tis their fresh supplies.
Luc. It is a day turn'd strangely: or betimes
Let's reinforce, or fly. [*Exeunt.*]

1 Fellow.

SCENE III.—ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD.

Enter Posthumus and a British Lord.

Lord. Cam'st thou from where they made the stand?

Post. I did:

Though you, it seems, come from the fliers.

Lord. I did.

Post. No blame be to you, sir; for all was lost, But that the heavens fought: The king himself Of his wings destitute, the army broken, And but the backs of Britons seen, all flying Through a strait lane; the enemy full-hearted, Lolling the tongue with slaughtering, having work

More plentiful than tools to do't, struck down Some mortally, some slightly touch'd, some falling

Merely through fear; that the strait path was damm'd¹

With dead men, hurt behind, and cowards living To die with lengthen'd shame.

Lord. Where was this lane?

Post. Close by the battle, ditch'd, and wall'd with turf;

Which gave advantage to an ancient soldier,—An honest one; I warrant: who deserv'd So long a breeding, as his white beard came to, In doing this for his country;—athwart the lane, He, with two striplings, (lads more like to run The country base,² than to commit such slaughter With faces fit for masks, or rather fairer [ter; Than those for preservation cas'd, or shame,]) Made good the passage; cry'd to those that fled, *Our Britain's harts die flying, not our men: To darkness fleet, souls that fly backwards!* Stand;

Or we are Romans, and will give you that Like beasts, which you shun beastly; and may save,

But to look back in frown: stand, stand.— These three,

Three thousand confident, in act as many, (For three performers are the file, when all The rest do nothing,) with this word, *Stand, stand,* Accommodated by the place, more charming, With their own nobleness, (which could have turn'd

A distaff to a lance,) gilded pale looks, Part, shame, part, spirit renew'd; that some, turn'd coward

But by example (O, a sin in war, Foulest in the beginners!) 'gan to look The way that they did, and to grin like lions Upon the pikes o' the hunters. Then began A stop i' the chaser, a retire; anon, A rout, confusion thick: Forthwith they fly Chickens, the way which they stoop'd eagles; slaves,

The strides they victors made: and now our cowards

Like fragments in hard voyages,) became The life o' the need; having found the back-door open

Of the unguarded hearts, heavens, how they wound! [friends

Some, slain before; some, dying; some, their

1 Blocked up. 2 A country game.

O'erborne i' the former wave: ten, chas'd by one, Are now each one, the slaughter-man of twenty: Those, that would die or ere resist, are grown The mortal bugs¹ o' the field.

Lord. This was strange chance: A narrow lane! an old man, and two boys!

Post. Nay, do not wonder at it: You are made Rather to wonder at the things you hear, Than to work any. Will you rhyme upon't, And vent it for a mockery? Here is one:

Two boys, an old man twice a boy, a lane, Preserv'd the Britons, was the Roman's bane.

Lord. Nay, be not angry, sir.

Post. Lack, to what end?

Who dares not stand his foe, I'll be his friend: For if he'll do, as he is made to do,

I know, he'll quickly fly my friendship too.

You have put me into rhyme.

Lord. Farewell, you are angry. [Exit.

Post. Still going?—This is a lord! O noble misery!

To be i' the field, and ask, what news of me!

To-day, how many would have given their honours

To have sav'd their carcasses? took heel to do't, And yet died too? I, in mine own woe charm'd, Could not find death, where I did hear him groan;

Nor feel him, where he struck: Being an ugly monster,

'Tis strange, he hides him in fresh cups, soft beds, Sweet words; or hath more ministers than we That draw his knives i' the war.—Well, I will find him:

For being now a favourer to the Roman, No more a Briton, I have resum'd again The part I came in: Fight I will no more, But yield me to the veriest hind, that shall Once touch my shoulder. Great the slaughter is Here made by the Roman; great the answer be Britons must take; For me, my ransom's death; On either side I come to spend my breath; Which neither here I'll keep, nor bear again, But end it by some means for Imogen.

Enter two British Captains, and Soldiers.

1 Cap. Great Jupiter be prais'd! Lucius is taken:

'Tis thought the old man and his sons were angels. 2 C. There was a fourth man, in a silly² habit, That gave the affront³ with them.

1 Cap. So 'tis reported: But none of them can be found.—Stand! who is there?

Post. A Roman; Who had not now been drooping here, if seconds Had answered him.

2 Cap. Lay hands on him; a dog!

A leg of Rome shall not return to tell

What crows have peck'd them here: He brags his service

As if he were of note: bring him to the king.

Enter Cymbeline, attended; Belarius, Guiderius, Arviragus, Fisanio, and Roman Captives. The Captains present Posthumus to Cymbeline, who delivers him over to a Gaoler; after which, all go out.

1 Bugbears. 2 Rustic. 3 Encounter.

SCENE IV.—A PRISON.

Enter Posthumus, and two Gaolers.

1 *Gaol.* You shall not now be stolen, you have locks upon you;

So, graze, as you find pasture.

2 *Gaol.* Ay, or a stomach.

[Exeunt Gaolers.]

P. Most welcome bondage! for thou art away,
I think, to liberty: Yet am I better
Than one that's sick o' the gout: since he had rather

Groan so in perpetuity, than be cur'd
By the sure physician, death; who is the key
To unbar these locks. My conscience! thou art fetter'd

More than my shanks, and wrists: You good gods, give me

The penitent instrument, to pick that bolt,
Then free for ever! Is't enough, I am sorry?
So children temporal fathers do appease;
Gods are more full of mercy. Must I repent?

I cannot do it better than in gyves,¹
Desir'd, more than constrain'd: to satisfy,
If of my freedom 'tis the main part, take
No stricter render of me than my all.

I know, you are more clement than vile men,
Who of their broken debtors take a third,
A sixth, a tenth, letting them thrive again
On their abatement; that's not my desire:

For Imogen's dear life, take mine; and though
'Tis not so dear, yet 'tis a life; you coin'd it:
'Tween man and man, they weigh not every stamp;

Though light, take pieces for the figure's sake;
You rather mine, being yours: And so, great powers,

If you will take this audit, take this life,
And cancel these cold bonds. O Imogen!
I'll speak to thee in silence. *[He sleeps.]*

Solemn Musick. Enter, as an Apparition, Sicilius Leonatus, Father to Posthumus, an old Man, attired like a Warrior; leading in his hand an ancient Matron, his Wife, and Mother to Posthumus, with Musick before them. Then, after other Musick, follow the two young Leonati, Brother to Posthumus, with wounds, as they died in the Wars. They circle Posthumus round, as he lies sleeping.

Sici. No more, thou thunder master, show,
Thy spite on mortal flies:
With Mars fall out, with Juno chide,
That thy adulteries

Rates and revenges.

Hath my poor boy done aught but well,
Whose face I never saw?

I died, whilst in the womb he stay'd
Attending Nature's law.

Whose father then (as men report,
Thou orphans' father art,)

Thou shouldst have been, and shielded him
From this earth-vexing smart.

Moth. Lucina lent not me her aid,
But took me in my throes:

That from me was Posthumus ript,
Came crying 'mongst his foes,

A thing of pity!

1 *Fetter.*

Sici. Great nature, like his ancestry,
Moulded the stuff so fair,
That he deserv'd the praise o' the world,
As great Sicilius' heir.

1 *Bro.* When once he was mature for man,
In Britain where was he
That could stand up his parallel;
Or fruitful object be
In eye of Imogen, that best
Could deem his dignity?

Moth. With marriage wherefore was he mock'd
To be exil'd and thrown
From Leonati' seat, and cast
From her his dearest one,
Sweet Imogen?

Sici. Why did you suffer Iachimo,
Slight thing of Italy,
To taint his nobler heart and brain,
With needless jealousy;
And to become the geck¹ and scorn
O' the other's villainy?

2 *Bro.* For this, from stiller seats we came,
Our parents, and us twain,
That, striking in our country's cause,
Fell bravely and were slain;
Our fealty, and Tenantius' right,
With honour to maintain.

1 *Bro.* Like hardiment Posthumus hath
To Cymbeline perform'd:
Then Jupiter, thou king of gods,
Why hast thou thus adjourn'd
The graces for his merits due;
Being all to dolours turn'd?

Sici. Thy crystal window ope; look out;
No longer exercise,
Upon a valiant race, thy harsh
And potent injuries.

Moth. Since, Jupiter, our son is good,
Take off his miseries.

Sici. Peep through thy marble mansion; help!
Or we poor ghosts will cry
To the shining synod of the rest,
Against thy deity.

2 *Bro.* Help, Jupiter; or we appeal,
And from thy justice fly.

Jupiter descends in Thunder and Lightning, sitting upon an Eagle: he throws a Thunder-bolt. The Ghosts fall on their knees.

Jup. No more, you petty spirits of region low,
Offend our hearing: hush!—How dare you,
ghosts,

Accuse the thunderer, whose bolt, you know,
Sky-planted, batters all rebelling coasts?
Poor shadows of Elysium, hence; and rest
Upon your never-withering banks of flowers:

Be not with mortal accidents oppress;
No care of yours it is, you know 'tis ours,
Whom best I love, I cross; to make my gift,
The more delay'd, delighted. Be content;
Your low-laid son our godhead will uplift:
His comforts thrive, his trials well are spent.
Our jovial star reign'd at his birth, and in
Our temple was he married.—Rise, and fade!—
He shall be lord of lady Imogen,
And happier much by his affliction made.

1 *Mock.*

This tablet lay upon his breast; wherein
Our pleasure his full fortune doth confine;
And so, away: no further with your din
Express impatience, lest you stir up mine.—
Mount, eagle, to my palace crystalline.

[*Ascends.*]

Sici. He came in thunder: his celestial breath
Was sulphurous to smell: the holy eagle
Stoop'd as to foot¹ us: his ascension is
More sweet than our bless'd fields: his royal bird
Prunes the immortal wing, and cloyes his beak,
As when his god is pleas'd.

All. Thanks, Jupiter!

Si. The marble pavement closes, he is enter'd
His radiant roof:—Away! and, to be blest,
Let us with care perform his great behest.

[*Ghosts vanish.*]

Post. [*Waking.*] Sleep, thou hast been a
grandsire, and begot
A father to me: and thou hast created
A mother and two brothers: But (O scorn!)
Gone! they went hence so soon as they were
born.

[*pend*]

And so I am awake.—Poor wretches that de-
On greatness' favour, dream, as I have done;
Wake, and find nothing.—But, alas, I swerve:
Many dream not to find, neither deserve,
And yet are steep'd in favours: so am I,
That have this golden chance, and know not
why.—

What fairies haunt this ground? A book? O,
rare one!

Be not, as in our fangled world, a garment
Nobler than that it covers: let thy effects
So follow, to be most unlike our courtiers,
As good as promise.

[*Reads.*] *When as a lion's whelp shall, to him-
self unknown, without seeking find, and be
embraced by a piece of tender air; and when
from a stately cedar shall be lopped branches,
which, being dead many years, shall after
revive, be jointed to the old stock, and freshly
grow; then shall Posthumus end his miseries,
Britain be fortunate, and flourish in
peace and plenty.*

'Tis still a dream; or else such stuff as madmen
Tongue, and brain not: either both, or nothing;
Or senseless speaking, or a speaking such
As sense cannot untie. Be what it is,
The action of my life is like it, which
I'll keep, if but for sympathy.

Re-enter Gaolers.

Gaol. Come, sir, are you ready for death?

Post. Over-roasted rather: ready long ago.

Gaol. Hanging is the word, sir; if you be
ready for that you are well cooked.

Post. So, if I prove a good repast to the
spectators, the dish pays the shot.

Gaol. A heavy reckoning for you, sir: But
the comfort is, you shall be called to no more
payments, fear no more tavern bills; which are
often the sadness of parting, as the procuring of
mirth: you come in faint for want of meat, de-
part reeling with too much drink; sorry that
you have paid too much, and sorry that you are
paid too much; purse and brain both empty:

1 Clutch.

the brain the heavier for being too light, the
purse too light, being drawn of heaviness: O! of
this contradiction you shall now be quit.—O
the charity of a penny cord! it sums up thous-
ands in a trice: you have no true debtor and
creditor but it; of what's past, is, and to come,
the discharge:—Your neck, sir, is pen, book,
and counters, so the acquittance follows. [*live.*]

Post. I am merrier to die, than thou art to

Gaol. Indeed, sir, he that sleeps feels not the
tooth-ache; But a man that were to sleep your
sleep, and a hangman to help him to bed. I
think, he would change places with his officer:
for, look you, sir, you know not which way you
shall go.

Post. Yes, indeed, do I, fellow.

Gaol. Your death has eyes in 's head then; I
have not seen him so pictured: you must either
be directed by some that take upon them to
know; or take upon yourself that, which I am
sure you do not know; or jump¹ the after-in-
quiry on your own peril: and how you shall
speed in your journey's end, I think you'll never
return to tell one.

Post. I tell thee, fellow, there are none want
eyes to direct them the way I am going, but
such as wink, and will not use them.

Gaol. What an infinite mock is this, that a
man should have the best use of eyes, to see
the way of blindness! I am sure, hanging's the
way of winking.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Knock off his manacles; bring your
prisoner to the king.

Post. Thou bringest good news;—I am called
to be made free.

Gaol. I'll be hanged then.

Post. Thou shalt be then freer than a gaoler;
no bolts for the dead.

[*Exeunt Posthumus and Messenger.*]

Gaol. Unless a man would marry a gallows,
and beget young gibbets, I never saw one so
prone.² Yet, on my conscience, there are verier
knaves desire to live, for all he be a Roman:
and there be some of them too, that die against
their wills; so should I, if I were one. I would
we were all of one mind, and one mind good;
O, there were desolation of gaolers, and gal-
lowes! I speak against my present profit; but
my wish hath a preferment in't. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V.—CYMBELINE'S TENT.

*Enter Cymbeline, Belarius, Guiderius, Arvi-
ragus, Pisanio, Lords, Officers, and Attendants.*

Cym. Stand by my side, you whom the gods
have made

Preservers of my throne. Woe is my heart,
That the poor soldier, that so richly fought,
Whose rags sham'd gilded arms, whose naked
breast

Stepp'd before targe³ of proof, cannot be found:
He shall be happy that can find him, if
Our grace can make him so.

Bel. I never saw
Such noble fury in so poor a thing;

1 Hazard.

2 Forward.

3 Shield.

3 L

Such precious deeds in one that promis'd nought
But beggary and poor looks.

Cym. No tidings of him?

Pis. He hath been search'd among the dead
and living,

But no trace of him.

Cym. To my grief, I am
The heir of his reward; which I will add
To you, the liver, heart, and brain of Britain.
[*To Belarius, Guiderius, and Arviragus.*]

By whom, I grant, she lives; 'Tis now the time
To ask of whence you are;—report it.

Bel. Sir,

In Cambria we were born, and gentlemen:
Further to boast, were neither true nor modest,
Unless I add, we are honest.

Cym. Bow your knees;
Arise, my knights o' the battle: I create you
Companions to our person, and will fit you
With dignities becoming your estates.

Enter Cornelius, and Ladies.

There's business in these faces:—Why so sadly
Greet you our victory? you look like Romans,
And not o' the court of Britain.

Cor. Hail, great king!
To sour your happiness, I must report
The queen is dead.

Cym. Whom worse than a physician
Would this report become? But I consider,
By medicine life may be prolong'd, yet death
Will seize the doctor too.—How ended she?

Cor. With horror, madly dying, like her life;
Which, being cruel to the world, concluded
Most cruel to herself. What she confess'd,
I will report, so please you: These her women
Can trip me, if I err; who, with wet cheeks,
Were present when she finish'd.

Cym. Prythee, say.

Cor. First, she confess'd she never lov'd you:
only

Affected greatness got by you, not you:
Married your royalty, was wife to your place;
Abhor'd your person.

Cym. She alone knew this:
And, but she spoke it dying, I would not
Believe her lips in opening it. Proceed.

Cor. Your daughter, whom she bore in hand
to love

With such integrity, she did confess
Was as a scorpion to her sight; whose life,
But that her flight prevented it, she had
Ta'en off by poison.

Cym. O most delicate fiend!
Who is't can read a woman?—Is there more?

Cor. More, sir, and worse. She did confess,
she had

For you a mortal mineral; which, being took,
Should by the minute feed on life, and, ling'ring,
By inches waste you: In which time she pur-
pos'd,

By watching, weeping, 'tendance, kissing, to
O'ercome you with her show; yes, and in time,
(When she had fitted you with her craft,) to
Her son into the adoption of the crown. [work
But failing of her end by his strange absence,
Grew shameless desperate; open'd in despite
Of heaven and men, her purposes; repented

The evils she hatch'd were not effected; so
Despairing, died.

Cym. Heard you all this, her women?

Lady. We did so, please your highness.

Cym. Mine eyes

Were not in fault, for she was beautiful;
Mine ears, that heard her flattery; nor my heart,
That thought her like her seeming; it had been
vicious,

To have mistrusted her: yet, O my daughter!
That it was folly in me, thou may'st say,
And prove it in thy feeling. Heaven mend all!

*Enter Lucius, Iachimo, the Soothsayer, and
other Roman Prisoners, guarded: Posthum-
ous, behind, and Imogen.*

Thou com'st not, Caius, now for tribute; that
The Britons have raz'd out, though with the loss
Of many a bold one; whose kinsmen have made
suit

That their good souls may be appeas'd with
slaughter

Of you their captives, which ourself have
So, think of your estate. [granted:]

Luc. Consider, sir, the chance of war: the day
Was yours by accident; had it gone with us,
We should not, when the blood was cool, have
threaten'd

Our prisoners with the sword. But since the
gods

Will have it thus, that nothing but our lives
May be call'd ransom, let it come: sufficeth,
A Roman with a Roman's heart can suffer:
Augustus lives to think on't: And so much
For my peculiar care. This one thing only
I will entreat: My boy, a Briton born,
Let him be ransom'd: never master had
A page so kind, so duteous, diligent,
So tender over his occasions, true,
So feat,¹ so nurse-like: let his virtue join
With my request, which, I'll make bold, your
highness

Cannot deny; he hath done no Briton harm,
Though he have serv'd a Roman: save him, sir,
And spare no blood beside.

Cym. I have surely seen him:
His favour² is familiar to me.—
Boy, thou hast look'd thyself into my grace,
And art mine own.—I know not why, nor
wherefore,

To ask, live, boy: ne'er thank thy master: live:
And say of Cymbeline what boon thou wilt,
Fitting my bounty, and thy state, I'll give it;
Yea, though thou do demand a prisoner,
The noblest ta'en.

Imo. I humbly thank your highness.

Luc. I do not bid thee beg my life, good lad;
And yet, I know, thou wilt.

Imo. No, no: alack,
There's other work in hand; I see a thing
Bitter to me as death: your life, good master,
Must shuffle for itself.

Luc. The boy disdain's me.
He leaves me, scorns me: Briefly die thy joys,
That place them on the truth of girls and boys.—
Why stands he so perplex'd?

Cym. What wouldst thou, boy?

¹ Dexterous.

² Countenance.

I love thee more and more; think more and more

What's best to ask. Know'st him thou look'st on? speak,

Wilt have him live? Is he thy kin? thy friend?

Imo. He is a Roman; no more kin to me, Than I to your highness; who, being born your vassal,

And something nearer.

Cym. Wherefore ey'st him so?

Imo. I'll tell you, sir, in private, if you please To give me hearing.

Cym. Ay, with all my heart, And lend my best attention. What's thy name?

Imo. Fidele, sir.

Cym. Thou art my good youth, my page; I'll be thy master: Walk with me; speak freely.

[*Cymbeline and Imogen converse apart.*]

Bel. Is not this boy reviv'd from death?

Arr. One said another

Not more resembles: That sweet rosy lad, Who died, and was Fidele:—What think you?

Gui. The same dead thing alive.

Bel. Peace, peace! see further; he eyes us not; forbear:

Creatures may be alike: were't he, I am sure He would have spoke to us.

Gui. But we saw him dead.

Bel. Be silent; let's see further.

Pis. [*Aside.*] It is my mistress: Since she is living, let the time run on, To good, or bad.

[*Cymbeline and Imogen come forward.*]

Cym. Come, stand thou by our side; Make thy demand aloud.—[*To Iach.*] Sir, step you forth;

Give answer to this boy, and do it freely: Or, by our greatness, and the grace of it, Which is our honour, bitter torture shall Winnow the truth from falsehood.—On, speak to him.

Imo. My boon is, that this gentleman may Of whom he had this ring. [*render*]

Post. [*Aside.*] What's that to him?

Cym. That diamond upon your finger, say, How came it yours?

I. Thou'lt torture me to leave unspoken that Which, to be spoke, would torture thee.

Cym. How! me?

Iach. I am glad to be constrain'd to utter that which

Torments me to conceal. By villainy I got this ring; 'twas Leonatus' jewel:

Whom thou didst banish; and (which more may grieve thee,

As it doth me,) a nobler sir ne'er liv'd 'Twixt sky and ground. Wilt thou hear more, my lord?

Cym. All that belongs to this.

Iach. That paragon, thy daughter,—For whom my heart drops blood, and my false spirits

Quail to remember,—Give me leave; I faint.

Cym. My daughter! what of her! Renew thy strength:

I had rather thou shouldst live while nature will,

1 Sink into dejection.

Than die ere I hear more: strive man, and speak.

Iach. Upon a time (unhappy was the clock That struck the hour!) it was in Rome, (accurs'd The mansion where!) 'twas at a feast, (O, 'would Our viands had been poison'd! or, at least, Those which I heav'd to head!) the good Post-humus,

(What should I say? he was too good, to be Where ill men were; and was the best of all Amongst the rar'st of good ones,) sitting sadly, Hearing us praise our loves of Italy For beauty that made barren the swell'd boast Of him that best could speak: for feature, laming

The shrine of Venus, or straight-pight Minerva; Postures beyond brief nature; for condition, A shop of all the qualities that man Loves woman for; besides, that hook of wiving, Fairness which strikes the eye:—

Cym. I stand on fire; Come to the matter.

Iach. All too soon I shall, Unless thou wouldst grieve quickly.—This Post-humus,

(Most like a noble lord in love, and one That had a royal lover,) took his hint; And, not dispraising whom he praised, (therein He was as calm as virtue) he began His mistress' picture; which by his tongue being made,

And then a mind put in't, either our brags Were crack'd of kitchen trulls, or his description Prov'd us unspeaking sots.

Cym. Nay, nay, to the purpose.

I. Your daughter's chastity. He spake of her As she alone were pure: Whereat I, wretch! Madescruple of his praise; and wager'd with him Pieces of gold, 'gainst this which then he wore Upon his honour'd finger, to attain

In suit the place of his bed, and win this ring By her's and mine adultery: he, true knight, Not lesser of her honour confident

Than I did truly find her, stakes this ring; And would so, had it been a carbuncle

Of Phoebus' wheel; and might so safely, had it Been all the worth of his car. Away to Britain Post I in this design: Well may you, sir, Remember me at court, where I was taught Of your chaste daughter the wide difference 'Twixt amorous and villainous. Being thus quench'd

Of hope, not longing, mine Italian brain 'Gan in your dulier Britain operate Most vilely; for my 'vantage, excellent; And, to be brief, my practice so prevail'd, That I return'd with similar proof enough To make the noble Leonatus mad,

By wounding his belief in her renown With tokens thus, and thus; averring notes Of chamber-hanging, pictures, this her bracelet, (O, cunning, how I got it!) nay, some marks Of secret on her person, that he could not But think her bond of chastity quite crack'd, I have ta'en the forfeit. Whereupon,—Methinks I see him now,—

Post. [*Coming forward.*] Ay, so thou dost, Italian fiend!—Ah me, most credulous fool,

Egregious murder, thief, any thing
That's due to all the villains past, in being,
To come!—O, give me cord, or knife, or poison,
Some upright justicer! Thou, king, send out
For torturers ingenious: It is I
That all the abhorred things o' the earth amend,
By being worse than they. I am Posthumus,
That kill'd thy daughter:—villain-like, I lie;
That caus'd a lesser villain than myself,
A sacrilegious thief, to do't:—the temple
Of virtue was she; yea, and she herself.¹
Spit, and throw stones, cast mire upon me, set
The dogs o' the street to bay me: every villain
Be call'd Posthumus Leonatus; and
Be villainy less than 'twas!—O Imogen!
My queen, my life, my wife! O Imogen,
Imogen, Imogen!

Imo. Peace, my lord; hear, hear—

Post. Shall's have a play of this? Thou
scornful page,

There lie thy part. [*Striking her: she falls.*]

Pis. O, gentlemen, help, help
Mine and your mistress:—O, my lord Post-
humus!

You ne'er kill'd Imogen till now:—Help, help!—
Mine honour'd lady!

Cym. Does the world go round?

Post. How come these staggers on me?

Pis. Wake, my mistress!
C. If this be so, the gods do mean to strike me
To death with mortal joy.

Pis. How fares my mistress?

Imo. O, get thee from my sight;
Thou gav'st me poison: dangerous fellow, hence!
Breathe not where princes are.

Cym. The tune of Imogen!

Pis. Lady,

The gods throw stones of sulphur on me, if
That box I gave you was not thought by me
A precious thing; I had it from the queen.

Cym. New matter still?

Imo. It poison'd me.

Cor. O gods!—

I left out one thing which the queen confess'd,
Which must approve thee honest: If Pisanio
Have, said she, given his mistress that confec-
tion

Which I gave him for a cordial, she is serv'd
As I would serve a rat.

Cym. What's this, Cornelius?

Cor. The queen, sir, very oft importun'd me
To temper² poisons for her; still pretending
The satisfaction of her knowledge, only
In killing creatures vile, as cats and dogs
Of no esteem: I, dreading that her purpose
Was of more danger, did compound for her
A certain stuff, which, being ta'en, would cease
The present power of life; but, in short time,
All offices of nature should again

Do their due functions.—Have you ta'en of it?

Imo. Most like I did, for I was dead.

Bel. My boys,
There was our error.

Gui. This is sure, Fidele.

Imo. Why did you throw your wedded lady
from you?

Think, that you are upon a rock; and now

1 Virtue herself.

2 Compound.

Throw me again. [*Embracing him.*]

Post. Hang there like fruit, my soul,
Till the tree die!

Cym. How now, my flesh, my child?
What, mak'st thou me a dullard in this act?
Wilt thou not speak to me?

Imo. Your blessing, sir. [*Kneeling.*]
Bel. Though you did love this youth, I blame
you not;

You had a motive for't.

[*To Guiderius and Arviragus.*]

Cym. My tears that fall,
Prove holy water on thee! Imogen,
Thy mother's dead.

Imo. I am sorry for't, my lord.

Cym. O, she was naught; and 'long of her
it was,

That we meet here so strangely: But her son
Is gone, we know not how nor where.

Pis. My lord,
Now fear is from me, I'll speak truth. Lord
Upon my lady's missing, came to me [*Cloten,*
With his sword drawn, foam'd at the mouth,
and swore,

If I discover'd not which way she was gone,
It was my instant death: By accident,
I had a feigned letter of my master's
Then in my pocket; which directed him
To seek her on the mountains near to Milford;
Where, in a frenzy, in my master's garments,
Which he enforc'd from me, away he posts
With unchaste purpose, and with oath to violate
My lady's honour: what became of him,
I further know not.

Gui. Let me end the story:

I slew him there.

Cym. Marry, the gods forbend!¹

I would not thy good deeds should from my lips
Pluck a hard sentence: prythee, valiant youth,
Deny't again.

Gui. I have spoke it, and I did it.

Cym. He was a prince.

Gui. A most uncivil one: The wrongs he did me
Were nothing prince-like; for he did provoke me
With language that would make me spurn the
sea,

If it could so roar to me: I cut off's head;
And am right glad, he is not standing here
To tell this tale of mine.

Cym. I am sorry for thee:
By thine own tongue thou art condemn'd, and
Endure our law: Thou art dead. [*must*]

Imo. That headless man
I thought had been my lord.

Cym. Bind the offender,
And take him from our presence.

Bel. Stay, sir king:

This man is better than the man he slew,
As well descended as thyself; and hath
More of thee merited, than a band of Clotens
Had ever scar for.—[*To the Guard.*] Let his
arms alone;

They were not born for bondage.

Cym. Why, old soldier,
Wilt thou undo the worth thou art unpaid for,
By tasting of our wrath? How of descent
As good as we?

1 Forbid.

Arr. In that he spake too far.
Cym. And thou shalt die for't.
Bel. We will die all three:
 But I will prove, that two of us are as good
 As I have given out him.—My sons, I must,
 For mine own part, unfold a dangerous speech,
 Though, haply, well for you.

Arr. Your danger is
 Ours.

Gui. And our good his.

Bel. Have at it, then.—
 By leave;—Thou hadst, great king, a subject, who
 Was call'd Belarius.

Cym. What of him? he is
 A banish'd traitor.

Bel. He it is, that hath
 Assum'd this age: indeed, a banish'd man;
 I know not how, a traitor.

Cym. Take him hence;
 The whole world shall not save him.

Bel. Not too hot:
 First pay me for the nursing of thy sons;
 And let it be confiscate all, so soon
 As I have receiv'd it.

Cym. Nursing of my sons!

Bel. I am too blunt and saucy: Here's my knee;
 Ere I arise, I will prefer my sons;
 Then, spare not the old father. Mighty sir,
 These two young gentlemen, that call me father,
 And think they are my sons, are none of mine;
 They are the issue of your loins, my liege,
 And blood of your begetting.

Cym. How! my issue?

Bel. So sure as you your father's. I, old
 Morgan,

Am that Belarius whom you sometime banish'd:
 Your pleasure was my mere offence, my punish-
 ment

Itself, and all my treason; that I suffer'd,
 Was all the harm I did. These gentle princes
 (For such, and so they are,) these twenty years
 Have I train'd up: those arts they have, as I
 Could put into them; my breeding was, sir, as
 Your highness knows. Their nurse, Euriphile,
 Whom for the theft I wedded, stole these
 children

Upon my banishment: I moved her to't:
 Having receiv'd the punishment before,
 For that which I did then: Beaten for loyalty
 Excited me to treason; Their dear loss,
 The more of you 'twas felt, the more it shap'd
 Unto my end of stealing them. But, gracious sir,
 Here are your sons again; and I must lose
 Two of the sweet'st companions in the world:—
 The benediction of these covering heavens
 Fall on their heads like dew! for they are
 worthy

To inlay heaven with stars.

Cym. Thou weep'st, and speak'st.
 The service, that you three have done, is more
 Unlike than this thou tell'st: I lost my children;
 If these be they, I know not how to wish
 A pair of worthier sons.

Bel. Be pleas'd a while,—

This gentleman, whom I call Polydore,
 Most worthy prince, as yours, is true Guiderius;
 This gentleman, my Cadwal, Arviragus,
 Your younger princely son; he, sir, was lapp'd

In a most curious mantle, wrought by the hand
 Of his queen-mother, which for more probation,
 I can with ease produce.

Cym. Guiderius had
 Upon his neck a mole, a sanguine star;
 It was a mark of wonder.

Bel. This is he;
 Who hath upon him still that natural stamp;
 It was wise nature's end in the duration,
 To be his evidence now.

Cym. O, what am I
 A mother to the birth of three? Ne'er mother
 Rejoic'd deliverance more:—Blessed may you be,
 That, after this strange starting from your orbs,
 You may reign in them now!—O Imogen,
 Thou hast lost by this a kingdom.

Imo. No, my lord;
 I have got two worlds by't.—O my gentle
 brother,

Have we thus met? O never say hereafter,
 But I am truest speaker: you call'd me brother
 When I was but your sister; I you brothers,
 When you were so indeed.

Cym. Did you e'er meet?

Arr. Ay, my good lord.

Gui. And at first meeting lov'd;
 Continued so, until we thought he died.

Cor. By the queen's dram she swallow'd.

Cym. O rare instinct!
 When shall I hear all through? This fierce¹
 abridgment

Hath to it circumstantial branches, which
 Distinction should be rich in.²—Where? how
 liv'd you?

And when came you to serve our Roman captive?
 How parted with your brothers? how first met
 them?

Why fled you from the court? and whither?
 These,

And your three motives to the battle, with
 I know not how much more, should be demanded;
 And all the other by-dependencies,
 From chance to chance; but nor the time, nor
 place,

Will serve long interrogatories. See,
 Posthumus anchors upon Imogen;
 And she, like harmless lightning, throws her eye
 On him, her brothers, me, her master; hitting
 Each object with a joy; the counterchange
 Is severally in all. Let's quit this ground,
 And smoke the temple with our sacrifices.—
 [To Belarius.] Thou art my brother; So we'll
 hold thee ever.

Imo. You are my father too; and did relieve me,
 To see this gracious season.

Cym. All o'erjoy'd,
 Save these in bonds; let them be joyful too,
 For they shall taste our comfort.

Imo. My good master,
 I will yet do you service.

Luc. Happy be you!

Cym. The forlorn soldier, that so nobly fought,
 He would have well becom'd this place, and
 grac'd

The thankings of a king.

Post. I am, sir,
 The soldier that did company these three

1 Rapid. 2 Which should be rich in details.

In poor beseeching; 'twas a fitment for
The purpose I then follow'd;—That I was he,
Speak, Iachimo; I had you down, and might
Have made you finish.

Iach. I am down again: [*Kneeling.*
But now my heavy conscience sinks my knee,
As then your force did. Take that life, 'baseechee
you,

Which I so often owe: but, your ring first;
And here the bracelet of the truest princess,
That ever swore her faith.

Post. Kneel not to me;
The power that I have on you, is to spare you;
The malice towards you, to forgive you: Live,
And deal with others better.

Cym. Nobly doom'd:
We'll learn our freeness of a son-in-law;
Pardon's the word to all.

Arv. You help us, sir,
As you did mean indeed to be our brother;
Joy'd are we, that you are.

Post. Your servant, princes.—Good my lord
of Rome, [*thought,*
Call forth your soothsayer. As I slept, me-
Great Jupiter, upon his eagle back,
Appear'd to me, with other spritely¹ shows
Of mine own kindred: when I wak'd, I found
This label on my bosom; whose containing
Is so from sense and hardness, that I can
Make no collection of it; let him show
His skill in the construction.

Luc. Philarmonus,—

Sooth. Here, my good lord.

Luc. Read, and declare the meaning.

Sooth. [*Reads.*] *When as a lion's whelp shall,
to himself unknown, without seeking find, and
be embraced by a piece of tender air; and when
from a stately cedar shall be lopped branches,
which, being dead many years, shall after revive,
be jointed to the old stock, and freshly grow;
then shall Posthumus end his miseries, Britain
be fortunate, and flourish in peace and plenty.*
Thou, Leonatus, art the lion's whelp;
The fit and apt construction of thy name,
Being Leo-natus, doth impart so much:
The piece of tender air, thy virtuous daughter,
[*To Cymbeline.*] Which we call *mollis aer*; and
mollis aer

We term it *mulier*: which *mulier* I divine,
Is this most constant wife, who, even now,
Answering the letter of the oracle,
Unknown to you, unsought, were clipp'd² about
With this most tender air.

Cym. This hath some seeming.

Sooth. The lofty cedar, royal Cymbeline,
Personates thee: and thy lopp'd branches point
Thy two sons forth: who, by Belarius stolen,
For many years thought dead, are now reviv'd,
To the majestick cedar join'd; whose issue
Promises Britain peace and plenty.

Cym. Well,
My peace we will begin:—And, Caius Lucius,
Although the victor, we submit to Cæsar,
And to the Roman empire; promising

¹ Ghostly.

² Embraced.

To pay our wonted tribute, from the which
We were dissuaded by our wicked queen;
Whom heavens, in justice, (both on her and hers,)
Have laid most heavy hand.

Sooth. The fingers of the powers above do tune
The harmony of this peace. The vision
Which I made known to Lucius, ere the stroke
Of this yet scarce-cold battle, at this instant,
Is full accomplish'd: For the Roman eagle,
From south to west on wing soaring aloft,
Lessen'd herself, and in the beams o' the sun
So vanish'd: which foreshow'd our princely
eagle,

The imperial Cæsar, should again unite
His favour with the radiant Cymbeline,
Which shines here in the west.

Cym. Land we the gods;
And let our crooked smokes climb to their
nostrils

From our bless'd altars! Publish we this peace
To all our subjects. Set we forward: Let
A Roman and a British ensign wave
Friendly together; so through Lud's town
march:

And in the temple of great Jupiter
Our peace we'll ratify; seal it with feasts.—
Set on there:—Never was a war did cease,
Ere bloody hands were wash'd with such a
peace. [*Exeunt.*]

A SONG,

SUNG BY GUIDERIUS AND ARVIRAGUS OVER
FIDELE, SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.

BY MR. WILLIAM COLLINS.

To fair Fidele's grassy tomb,
Soft maids and village kids shall bring
Each opening sweet, of earliest bloom,
And rifle all the breathing spring.

No wailing ghost shall dare appear
To vex with shrieks this quiet grove;
But shepherds lads assemble here,
And melting virgins own their love.

No wither'd witch shall here be seen,
No goblins lead their nightly crew:
The female fays shall haunt the green,
And dress thy grave with pearly dew.

The red-breast oft at evening hours
Shall kindly lend his little aid,
With hoary moss, and gather'd flowers,
To deck the ground where thou art laid.

When howling winds, and beating rain,
In tempests shake the sylvan cell;
Or midst the chase on every plain,
The tender thought on thee shall dwell.

Each lonely scene shall thee restore;
For thee the tear be duly shed:
Below'd, till life could charm no more;
And mourn'd till pity's self be dead.

Titus Andronicus.

Persons Represented.

SATURNINUS, Son to the late Emperor of Rome, and afterwards declared Emperor himself.

BASSIANUS, Brother to Saturninus; in love with Lavinia.

TITUS ANDRONICUS, a noble Roman, General against the Goths.

MARCUS ANDRONICUS, Tribune of the People; and Brother to Titus.

LUCIUS,
QUINTUS,
MARTIUS,
MUTIUS,
} Sons to Titus Andronicus.

Young **LUCIUS**, a Boy, Son to Lucius.

PUBLIUS, Son to Marcus the Tribune.

ÆMILIUS, a noble Roman.

ALARBUS,

CHIRON, } Sons to Tamora.

DEMETRIUS,

AARON, a Moor, beloved by Tamora.

A Captain, Tribune, Messenger, and Clown; Romans.

Goths and Romans.

TAMORA, Queen of the Goths.

LAVINIA, Daughter to Titus Andronicus.

A Nurse, and a black Child.

Kinsmen of Titus, Senators, Tribunes, Officers, Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE.—Rome; and the Country near it.

Act First.

SCENE I.—ROME. BEFORE THE CAPITOL.

The Tomb of the Andronici appearing: the Tribunes and Senators aloft, as in the Senate. Enter, below, Saturninus and his Followers, on one side; and Bassianus and his Followers, on the other; with Drum and Colours.

Sat. Noble patricians, patrons of my right, Defend the justice of my cause with arms; And, countrymen, my loving followers, Plead my successive title¹ with your swords; I am his first-born son, that was the last That wore the imperial diadem of Rome; Then let my father's honours live in me, Nor wrong mine age with this indignity.

Bas. Romans,—friends, followers, favourers of my right—

If ever Bassianus, Cæsar's son, Were gracious in the eyes of royal Rome, Keep then this passage to the Capitol: And suffer not dishonour to approach The imperial seat, to virtue consecrate, To justice, continence, and nobility: But let desert in pure election shine; And, Romans, fight for freedom in your choice.

Enter Marcus Andronicus aloft, with the Crown.

Marc. Princes that strive by factions, and by friends,

Ambitiously for rule and empery,— [stand Know, that the people of Rome, for whom we A special party, have by their common voice, In election for the Roman empery, Chosen Andronicus, surnamed Pius For many good and great deserts to Rome; A nobler man, a braver warrior,

¹ Title to the succession.

Lives not this day within the city walls:

He by the senate is accited¹ home, From weary wars against the barbarous Goths; That, with his sons, a terror to our foes, Hath yok'd a nation strong, train'd up in arms. Ten years are spent, since first he undertook This cause of Rome, and chastised with arms Our enemies' pride: Five times he hath return'd Bleeding to Rome, bearing his valiant sons In coffins from the field;

And now at last, laden with honour's spoils, Returns the good Andronicus to Rome, Renowned Titus, flourishing in arms. Let us entreat,—By honour of his name, Whom, worthily, you would have now succeed, And in the Capitol and senate's right, Whom you pretend to honour and adore,— That you withdraw you, and abate your strength; Dismiss your followers, and, as suitors should, Plead your deserts in peace and humbleness.

Sat. How fair the tribune speaks to calm my thoughts!

Bas. Marcus Andronicus, so do I affirm² In thy uprightness and integrity, And so I love and honour thee and thine, Thy nobler brother Titus and his sons, And her, to whom my thoughts are humbled all, Gracious Lavinia, Rome's rich ornament, That I will here dismiss my loving friends; And to my fortunes, and the people's favour, Commit my cause in balance to be weigh'd.

[*Exeunt the Followers of Bassianus.*]

Sat. Friends, that have been thus forward in my right,

I thank you all, and here dismiss you all; And to the love and favour of my country Commit myself, my person, and the cause.

[*Exeunt the Followers of Saturninus.*]

Rome, be as just and gracious unto me,

¹ Summoned. ² Trust.

As I am confident and kind to thee.—
Open the gates, and let me in.

Bas. Tribunes! and me, a poor competitor.
[*Sat. and Bas. go into the Capitol, and
exeunt with Senators, Marcus, &c.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Enter a Captain, and others.

C. Romans, make way; the good Andronicus,
Patron of virtue, Rome's best champion,
Successful in the battles that he fights,
With honour and with fortune is return'd,
From where he circumscribed with his sword,
And brought to yoke, the enemies of Rome.

*Flourish of Trumpets, &c. Enter Mutius and
Martius: after them, two Men, bearing a
Coffin covered with black; then Quintus and
Lucius. After them, Titus Andronicus; and
then Tamora, with Alarbus, Chiron, Deme-
trius, Aaron, and other Goths, prisoners;
Soldiers and People following. The Bearers
set down the Coffin, and Titus speaks.*

Tit. Hail, Rome, victorious in thy mourning
weeds!

Lo, as the bark that hath discharg'd her freight,
Returns with precious lading to the bay,
From whence at first she weigh'd her anchorage,
Cometh Andronicus, bound with laurel boughs,
To re-salute his country with his tears;
Tears of true joy for his return to Rome.—
Thou great defender of this Capitol,
Stand gracious to the rites that we intend!
Romans, of five and twenty valiant sons,
Half of the number that king Priam had,
Behold the poor remains, alive, and dead!
These, that survive, let Rome reward with love;
These, that I bring unto their latest home,
With burial amongst their ancestors:
Here Goths have given me leave to sheath my
sword.

Titus, unkind, and careless of thine own,
Why sufferest thou thy sons, unburied yet,
To hover on the dreadful shore of Styx?—
Make way to lay them by their brethren.

[*The Tomb is opened.*]

There greet in silence, as the dead are wont,
And sleep in peace, slain in your country's wars!
O sacred receptacle of my joys,
Sweet cell of virtue and nobility,
How many sons of mine hast thou in store,
That thou wilt never render to me more?

L. Give us the proudest prisoner of the Goths,
That we may hew his limbs, and, on a pile,
Ad manes fratrum sacrifice his flesh,
Before this earthly prison of their bones;
That so the shadows be not unappeas'd,
Nor we disturb'd with prodigies on earth.

Tit. I give him you; the noblest that survives,
The eldest son of this distressed queen.

Tam. Stay, Roman brethren;—Gracious con-
queror,

Victorious Titus, rue the tears I shed,
A mother's tears in passion for her son:
And, if thy sons were ever dear to thee,
O, think my son to be as dear to me.
Sufficeth not, that we are brought to Rome,

To beautify thy triumphs, and return,
Captive to thee, and to thy Roman yoke;
But must my sons be slaughter'd in the streets,
For valiant doings in their country's cause?
O! if to fight for king and common-weal
Were piety in thine, it is in these.

Andronicus, stain not thy tomb with blood:
Wilt thou draw near the nature of the gods?
Draw near them then in being merciful:
Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge;
Thrice noble Titus, spare my first-born son.

Tit. Patient yourself, madam, and pardon me.
These are their brethren, whom you Goths beheld
Alive, and dead; and for their brethren slain,
Religiously they ask a sacrifice:
To this your son is mark'd; and die he must,
To appease their groaning shadows that are
gone.

L. Away with him! and make a fire straight;
And with our swords, upon a pile of wood,
Let's hew his limbs, till they be clean consum'd.

[*Exeunt Lucius, Quintus, Martius, and
Mutius, with Alarbus.*]

Tam. O cruel, irreligious piety!

Chi. Was ever Scythia half so barbarous?

Dem. Oppose not Scythia to ambitious Rome.
Alarbus goes to rest; and we survive
To tremble under Titus' threatening look.

Then, madam, stand resolv'd; but hope withal,
The self-same gods, that arm'd the queen of
With opportunity of sharp revenge. [Troy
Upon the Thracian tyrant in his tent,
Mayfavour Tamora, the queen of Goths, [queen,
(When Goths were Goths, and Tamora was
To quit the bloody wrongs upon her foes.

*Re-enter Lucius, Quintus, Martius, and Mutius,
with their Swords bloody.*

L. See, lord and father, how we have perform'd
Our Roman rites: Alarbus' limbs are lopp'd,
And entrails feed the sacrificing fire, [sky.
Whose smoke, like incense, doth perfume the
Remaineth nought, but to inter our brethren,
And, with loud 'larums welcome them to Rome.

Tit. Let it be so, and let Andronicus
Make this his latest farewell to their souls.

[*Trumpets sounded, and the Coffins laid
in the Tomb.*]

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons;
Rome's readiest champions, repose you here,
Secure from worldly chances and mishaps!
Here lurks no treason, here no envy swells,
Here grow no inward grudges; here are no
storms,

No noise, but silence and eternal sleep:

Enter Lavinia.

In peace and honour rest you here, my sons!

L. In peace and honour live lord Titus long;
My noble lord and father, live in fame!

Lo! at this tomb my tributary tears
I render, for my brethren's obsequies;
And at thy feet I kneel with tears of joy
Shed on the earth, for thy return to Rome:
O, bless me here with thy victorious hand,
Whose fortunes Rome's best citizens applaud.

T. Kind Rome, that hast thus lovingly reserv'd
The cordial of mine age to glad my heart!—
Lavinia, live; outlive thy father's days,
And fame's eternal date, for virtue's praise!

Enter Marcus Andronicus, Saturninus, Bassianus, and others.

M. Long live lord Titus, my beloved brother, Gracious triumpher in the eyes of Rome!

T. Thanks, gentle tribune, noble brother Marcus.
M. And, welcome nephews, from successful wars,
 You that survive, and you that sleep in fame.
 Fair lords, your fortunes are alike in all,
 That in your country's service drew your swords:
 But safer triumph is this funeral pomp,
 That hath aspir'd to Solon's happiness,¹
 And triumphs over chance, in honour's bed,—
 Titus Andronicus, the people of Rome,
 Whose friend in justice thou hast ever been,
 Send thee by me, their tribune, and their trust,
 This palliament² of white and spotless hue;
 And name thee in election for the empire,
 With these our late-deceased emperor's sons:
 Be *candidatus* then, and put it on,
 And help to set a head on headless Rome.

Tit. A better head her glorious body fits,
 Than his that shakes for age and feebleness:
 What! should I don³ this robe, and trouble you?
 Be chosen with proclamations to-day;
 To-morrow yield up rule, resign my life,
 And set abroad new business for you all?
 Rome, I have been thy soldier forty years,
 And led my country's strength successfully,
 And buried one-and-twenty valiant sons,
 Knighted in field, slain manfully in arms,
 In right and service of their noble country:
 Give me a staff of honour for mine age,
 But not a scepter to control the world:
 Upright, he held it, that held it last.

Marc. Titus, thou shalt obtain and ask the empery.

Sat. Proud and ambitious tribune, canst thou
Tit. Patience, prince Saturnine. [tell?—

Sat. Romans, do me right;—
 Patricians, draw your swords, and sheath them
 Till Saturninus be Rome's emperor:— [not
 Andronicus, 'would thou wert shipp'd to hell,
 Rather than rob me of the people's hearts.

Luc. Proud Saturnine, interrupter of the good
 That noble-minded Titus means to thee!

Tit. Content thee, prince; I will restore to thee
 The people's hearts, and wean them from them—
B. Andronicus, I do not flatter thee, [selves.
 But honour thee, and will do it till I die;
 My faction if thou strengthen with thy friends,
 I will most thankful be: and thanks, to men
 Of noble minds, is honourable meed.

Tit. People of Rome, and people's tribunes
 I ask your voices, and your suffrages; [here,
 Will you bestow them friendly on Andronicus?

Trib. To gratify the good Andronicus,
 And gratulate his safe return to Rome,
 The people will consent whom he admits.

Tit. Tribunes, I thank you: and this suit I make,
 That you create your emperor's eldest son,
 Lord Saturnine; whose virtues will, I hope,
 Reflect on Rome, as Titan's⁴ rays on earth,
 And ripen justice in this common-weal:
 Then if you will elect by my advice,
 Crown him and say,—*Long live our emperor!*

M. With voices and applause of every sort,

Patricians, and plebeians, we create
 Lord Saturninus, Rome's great emperor;
 And say,—*Long live our emperor Saturnine!*

[*A long Flourish.*

Sat. Titus Andronicus, for thy favours done
 To us in our election this day,
 I give thee thanks in part of thy deserts,
 And will with deeds requite thy gentleness
 And, for an onset, Titus, to advance
 Thy name, and honourable family,
 Lavinia will I make my empress,
 Rome's royal mistress, mistress of my heart,
 And in the sacred Pantheon her espouse: [thee?
 Tell me, Andronicus, doth this motion please
Tit. It doth, my worthy lord; and, in this match
 I hold me highly honour'd of your grace:
 And here, in sight of Rome, to Saturnine,—
 King and commander of our common-weal,
 The wide world's emperor,—do I consecrate
 My sword, my chariot, and my prisoners;
 Presents well worthy Rome's imperial lord:
 Receive them then, the tribute that I owe,
 Mine honour's ensigns humbled at thy feet.

Sat. Thanks, noble Titus, father of my life!
 How proud I am of thee, and of thy gifts,
 Rome shall record; and, when I do forget
 The least of these unspeakable deserts,
 Romans, forget your fealty to me.

Tit. [To *Tamora*.] Now, madam, are you
 prisoner to an emperor;

To him, that for your honour and your state,
 Will use you nobly, and your followers.

Sat. A goodly lady trust me; of the hue
 That I would choose, were I to choose anew.—
 Clear up, fair queen, that cloudy countenance;
 Though chance of war hath wrought this change
 of cheer,

Thou com'st not to be made a scorn in Rome:
 Princely shall be thy usage every way.
 Rest on my word, and let not discontent
 Daunt all your hopes; Madam, he comforts you,
 Can make you greater than the queen of Goths.—
 Lavinia, you are not displeas'd with this?

Lav. Not I, my lord: sith¹ true nobility
 Warrants these words in princely courtesy.

S. Thanks, sweet Lavinia.—Romans, let us go:
 Ransomeless here we set our prisoners free:
 Proclaim our honours, lords, with trump & drum.

B. Lord Titus, by your leave, this maid is mine.

[*Seizing Lavinia.*

Tit. How, sir? Are you in earnest then, my lord?
Bas. Ay, noble Titus; and resolv'd withal,
 To do myself this reason and this right.

[*The Emperor courts Tamora in dumb show.*
Marc. *Suum cuique* is our Roman justice:

This prince in justice seizeth but his own.

Luc. And that he will, and shall, if Lucius live.

Tit. Traitors, avaunt! Where is the emperor's
 guard?

Treason, my lord; Lavinia is surpris'd.

Sat. Surpris'd! by whom?

Bas. By him that justly may
 Bear his betroth'd from all the world away.

[*Exeunt Marcus and Bassianus, with Lavinia.*
Mut. Brothers, help to convey her hence away,
 And with my sword I'll keep this door safe.

[*Exeunt Lucius, Quintus, and Martius.*

1 Since.

1 ("No man can be pronounced happy before his
 2 A robe. 3 Put on. 4 The sun. [death.")

T. Follow, my lord, and I'll soon bring her back.

Mut. My lord, you pass not here.

Tit. What, villain boy!

Barr'st me my way in Rome? [*Titus kills Mutius.*]

Mut. Help, Lucius, help.

Re-enter Lucius.

L. My lord, you are unjust; and, more than so, In wrongful quarrel you have slain your son.

Tit. Nor thou, nor he, are any sons of mine:

My sons would never so dishonour me:

Traitor, restore Lavinia to the emperor.

Luc. Dead, if you will: but not to be his wife,

That is another's lawful promis'd love. [*Exit.*]

Sat. No, Titus, no; the emperor needs her not,

Not her, nor thee, nor any of thy stock:

I'll trust, by leisure, him that mocks me once;

Thee never, nor thy traitorous haughty sons,

Confederates all thus to dishonour me.

Was there none else in Rome to make a stale¹ of,

But Saturnine? Full well, Andronicus,

Agree these deeds with that proud brag of thine,

That said'st, I begg'd the empire at thy hands.

Tit. O monstrous! what reproachful words are these?

S. But, go thy ways; go, give that changing piece

To him that flourish'd for her with his sword:

A valiant son-in-law thou shalt enjoy;

One fit to bandy with thy lawless sons,

To ruffle in the commonwealth of Rome.

T. These words are razors to my wounded heart.

Sat. And therefore, lovely Tamora, queen of

Goths,—

That, like the stately Phœbe² amongst her nymphs,

Dost overshadow the gallant'st dames of Rome,—

If thou be pleas'd with this my sudden choice,

Behold I choose thee, Tamora, for my bride,

And will create thee empress of Rome.

Speak, queen of Goths, dost thou applaud my choice?

And here I swear by all the Roman gods,—

Sith² priest and holy water are so near,

And tapers burn so bright, and every thing

In readiness for Hymeneus stand,—

I will not re-salute the streets of Rome,

Or climb my palace, till from forth this place

I lead espous'd my bride along with me.

Tam. And here, in sight of heaven, to Rome

I swear,

If Saturnine advance the queen of Goths,

She will a handmaid be to his desires,

A loving nurse, a mother to his youth.

Sat. Ascend, fair queen, Pantheon:—Lords, accompany

Your noble emperor, and his lovely bride,

Sent by the heavens for prince Saturnine,

Whose wisdom hath her fortune conquered:

There shall we consummate our spousal rites.

[*Exeunt Saturninus, and his Followers; Tamora, and her Sons; Aaron, and Goths.*]

Tit. I am not bid³ to wait upon this bride;—

Titus, when wert thou wont to walk alone,

Dishonour'd thus, and challenged of wrongs?

Re-enter Marcus, Lucius, Quintus, and Martius.

Marc. O Titus, see, O, see, what thou hast done!

In a bad quarrel slain a virtuous son.

¹ Mock.

² Since.

³ Invited.

Tit. No, foolish tribune, no: no son of mine,— Nor thou, nor these confederates in the deed That hath dishonour'd all our family; Unworthy brother, and unworthy sons!

Luc. But let us give him burial, as becomes Give Mutius burial with our brethren.

Tit. Traitors, away! he rests not in this tomb This monument five hundred years hath stood Which I have sumptuously re-edified:

Here none but soldiers, and Rome's servitors,

Repose in fame; none basely slain in brawls:—

Bury him where you can, he comes not here.

Marc. My lord, this is impiety in you:

My nephew Mutius' deeds do plead for him;

He must be buried with his brethren.

Quin. Mart. And shall, or him we will accompany.

Tit. And shall? What villain was it spoke that word?

Quin. He that would vouch't in any place but here.

Tit. What, would you bury him in my despite?

Marc. No, noble Titus; but entreat of thee

To pardon Mutius, and to bury him.

T. Marcus, even thou hast struck upon my crest,

And, with these boys, mine honour thou hast wounded:

My foes I do repute you every one;

So trouble me no more, but get you gone.

Marc. He is not with himself; let us withdraw.

Quin. Not I, till Mutius' bones be buried.

[*Marcus and the Sons of Titus kneel.*]

Marc. Brother, for in that name doth nature plead.

Quin. Father, and in that name doth nature speak.

T. Speak thou no more, if all the rest will speed.

Marc. Renowned Titus, more than half my soul,—

Luc. Dear father, soul and substance of us all,—

Marc. Suffer thy brother Marcus to inter

His noble nephew here in virtue's nest,

That died in honour and Lavinia's cause.

Thou art a Roman, be not barbarous.

The Greeks, upon advice, did bury Ajax

That slew himself; and wise Laertes' son

Did graciously plead for his funerals.

Let not young Mutius then, that was thy joy,

Be barr'd his entrance here.

Tit. Rise, Marcus, rise:—

The dismal'st day is this that e'er I saw,

To be dishonour'd by my sons in Rome!—

Well, bury him, and bury me the next.

[*Mutius is put into the Tomb.*]

Luc. There lie thy bones, sweet Mutius, with thy friends,

Till we with trophies do adorn thy tomb!

All. No man shed tears for noble Mutius:

He lives in fame that died in virtue's cause.

Marc. My lord,—to step out of these dreary dumps,—

How comes it, that the subtle queen of Goths Is of a sudden thus advanc'd in Rome?

Tit. I know not, Marcus; but, I know, it is; Whether by device or no, the heavens can tell:

Is she not then beholden to the man

That brought her for this high good turn so far?

Yes, and will nobly him remunerate.

Flourish. Re-enter, at one side, Saturninus, attended; Tamora, Chiron, Demetrius, and Aaron: at the other, Bassianus, Lavinia, and others.

Sat. So, Bassianus, you have play'd your prize; Jove give you joy, sir, of your gallant bride.

Bas. And you of yours, my lord: I say no more, Nor wish no less; and so I take my leave.

S. Traitor, if Rome have law, or we have power, Thou and thy faction shall repent this rape.

Bas. Rape, call you it, my lord, to seize my own, My true-betrothed love, and now my wife? But let the laws of Rome determine all; Mean while I am possess'd of that is mine.

Sat. 'Tis good, sir: You are very short with us; But, if we live, we'll be as sharp with you.

Bas. My lord, what I have done, as best I may, Answer I must, and shall do with my life.

Only thus much I give you grace to know, By all the duties that I owe to Rome,

This noble gentleman, lord Titus here, Is in opinion, and in honour, wrong'd;

That, in the rescue of Lavinia, With his own hand did slay his youngest son,

In zeal to you, and highly mov'd to wrath To be controll'd in that he frankly gave:

Receive him then to favour, Saturnine; That hath express'd himself, in all his deeds,

A father, and a friend, to thee, and Rome. *Tit.* Prince Bassianus, leave to plead my deeds:

'Tis thou, and those, that have dishonour'd me; Rome and the righteous heavens be my judge,

How I have lov'd and honour'd Saturnine! *Tam.* My worthy lord, if ever Tamora

Were gracious in those princely eyes of thine, Then hear me speak indifferently for all;

And at my suit, sweet, pardon what is past. *Sat.* What! madam! be dishonour'd openly,

And basely put it up without revenge? *Tam.* Not so, my lord: The gods of Rome

forefend,¹ I should be author to dishonour you!

But, on mine honour, dare I undertake For good lord Titus' innocence in all,

Whose fury not dissembled, speaks his griefs: Then, at my suit, look graciously on him;

Lose not so noble a friend on vain suppose, Nor with sour looks afflict his gentle heart.—

My lord, be rul'd by me, be won at last, Dissemble all your griefs and discontents:

You are but newly planted in your throne; Lest then the people and patricians too,

Upon a just survey, take Titus' part, And so supplant us for ingratitude,

(Which Rome reputes to be a heinous sin,) Yield at entreats, and then let me alone:

I'll find a day to massacre them all, And raze their faction, and their family,

The cruel father, and his traitorous sons, To whom I sued for my dear son's life;

And make them know, what 'tis to let a queen

Kneel in the streets, and beg for grace in vain.—

Come, come, sweet emperor,—come, Andronicus, Take up this good old man, and cheer the heart

That dies in tempest of thy angry frown.

¹ Forbid.

S. Rise, Titus, rise; my empress hath prevail'd. *Tit.* I thank your majesty, and her, my lord: These words, these looks, infuse new life in me.

Tam. Titus, I am incorporate in Rome, A Roman now adopted happily,

And must advise the emperor for his good. This day all quarrels die, Andronicus;—

And let it be mine honour, good my lord, That I have reconcil'd your friends and you.—

For you, prince Bassianus, I have pass'd My word and promise to the emperor,

That you will be more mild and tractable.— And fear not, lords,—and you, Lavinia;—

By my advice, all humbled on your knees, You shall ask pardon of his majesty. [ness,

Luc. We do, and vow to heaven and to his high- That, what we did, was mildly, as we might,

Tend'ring our sister's honour, and our own. *Marc.* That on mine honour here I do protest.

Sat. Away, and talk not; trouble us no more.— *Tam.* Nay, nay, sweet emperor, we must all

be friends: The tribune and his nephews kneel for grace;

I will not be denied. Sweet heart, look back. *S.* Marcus, for thy sake, and thy brother's here,

And at my lovely Tamora's entreats, I do remit these young men's heinous faults.

Stand up. Lavinia, though you left me like a churl,

I found a friend; and sure as death I swore, I would not part a bachelor from the priest.

Come, if the emperor's court can feast two brides, You are my guests, Lavinia, and your friends,

This day shall be a love-day, Tamora. *Tit.* To-morrow, an it please your majesty,

To hunt the panther and the hart with me, With horn and hound, we'll give you grace

bonjour. *S.* Be it so, Titus, and grammarcy too. [Exeunt.

Act Second.

SCENE I.—BEFORE THE PALACE.

Enter Aaron.

Aar. Now climbeth Tamora Olympus' top, Safe out of fortune's shot: and sits aloft,

Secure of thunder's crack, or lightning's flash; Advanc'd above pale envy's threat'ning reach.

As when the golden sun salutes the morn, And, having gilt the ocean with his beams,

Gallops the zodiack in his glistening coach, And overlooks the highest-peering hills;

So Tamora.— Upon her wit doth earthly honour wait,

And virtue stoops and trembles at her frown. Then, Aaron, arm thy heart, and fit thy thoughts

To mount aloft with thy imperial mistress, [long And mount her pitch; whom thou in triumph

Hast prisoner held, fetter'd in amorous chain, And faster bound to Aaron's charming eyes,

Than is Prometheus tied to Caucasus. Away with slavish weeds, and idle thoughts!

I will be bright, and shine in pearl and gold, To wait upon this new-made empress.

To wait, said I! to wanton with this queen,

Aside.

This goddess, this Semiramis;—this queen,
This syren, that will charm Rome's Saturnine,
And see his shipwreck, and his common-weal's.
Holla! what storm is this?

Enter Chiron and Demetrius, braving.

Dem. Chiron, thy years want wit, thy wit wants edge,

And manners, to intrude where I am grac'd;
And may, for aught thou know'st, affected be.

Chi. Demetrius, thou dost overween in all;
And so in this to bear me down with braves.

'Tis not the difference of a year, or two,
Makes me less gracious, thee more fortunate:

I am as able, and as fit, as thou,
To serve, and to deserve my mistress' grace;

And that my sword upon thee shall approve,
And plead my passions for Lavinia's love.

Aar. Clubs, clubs! these lovers will not keep the peace.

D. Why, boy, although our mother, unadvis'd,
Gave you a dancing-rapier by your side,
Are you so desperate grown, to threat your friends?

Go to; have your lath glued within your sheath,
Till you know better how to handle it.

Chi. Mean while, sir, with the little skill I have,
Full well shalt thou perceive how much I dare.

Dem. Ay, boy, grow ye so brave? [*They draw.*]

Aar. Why, how now, lords?

So near the emperor's palace dare you draw,
And maintain such a quarrel openly?

Full well I wot² the ground of all this grudge;
I would not for a million of gold,

The cause were known to them it most concerns:
Nor would your noble mother, for much more,

Be so dishonour'd in the court of Rome.

For shame, put up.

Dem. Not I; till I have sheath'd
My rapier in his bosom, and withal, [throat,
Thrust these reproachful speeches down his
That he hath breath'd in my dishonour here.

Chi. For that I am prepar'd and full resolv'd,—
Foul-spoken coward! that thunder'st with thy tongue,

And with thy weapon nothing dar'st perform.

Aar. Away, I say.—

Now by the gods, that warlike Goths adore,
This petty brabble³ will undo us all.—

Why, lords,—and think you not how dangerous
It is to jut upon a prince's right?

What, is Lavinia then become so loose,

Or Bassianus so degenerate,

That for her love such quarrels may be broach'd,
Without controlment, justice, or revenge?

Young lords, beware!—an should the empress know [please.

This discord's ground, the musick would not
Chi. I care not, I, knew she and all the world;

I love Lavinia more than all the world.
D. Youngling, learn thou to make some meaner

Lavinia is thine elder brother's hope. [choice;

A. Why, are ye mad? or know ye not, in Rome
How furious and impatient they be,

And cannot brook competitors in love?

I tell you, lords, you do but plot your deaths

By this device.

1 An outcry for assistance. 2 Know. 3 Quarrel.

Chi. Aaron, a thousand deaths
Would I propose, to achieve her whom I love.

Aar. To achieve her!—How?

Dem. Why mak'st thou it so strange?
She is a woman, therefore may be woo'd;

She is a woman, therefore may be won;

She is Lavinia, therefore must be lov'd.

What, man! more water glideth by the mill

Than wots the miller of; and easy it is

Of a cut loaf to steal a shive, we know:

Though Bassianus be the emperor's brother,
Better than he have yet worn Vulcan's badge.

Aar. [*Aside.*] Ay, and as good as Saturninus may.

Dem. Then why should he despair, that knows
to court it

With words, fair looks, and liberality?

What, hast thou not full often struck a doe,

And borne her cleanly by the keeper's nose?

Aar. Why, hark ye, hark ye,—And are you
such fools,

To square¹ for this? Would it offend you then
That both should speed?

Chi. I faith, not me.

Dem. Nor me,

So I were one.

A. For shame, be friends; and join for that you

'Tis policy and stratagem must do [jar.

That you affect; and so must you resolve;

That what you cannot, as you would, achieve,

You must perforce accomplish as you may.

Take this of me, Lucrece was not more chaste

Than this Lavinia, Bassianus' love.

A speedier course than lingering languishment

Must we pursue, and I have found the path.

My lords, a solemn hunting is in hand;

There will the lovely Roman ladies troop:

The forest walks are wide and spacious;

And many unfrequented plots there are,

Fitted by kind² for rape and villainy:

Single you thither then this dainty doe,

And strike her home by force, if not by words:

This way, or not at all, stand you in hope.

Come, come, our empress, with her sacred³ wit,

To villainy and vengeance consecrate,

Will we acquaint with all that we intend;

And she shall file our engines with advice,⁴

That will not suffer you to square¹ yourselves,

But to your wishes' height advance you both.

The emperor's court is like the house of fame,

The palace full of tongues, of eyes, of ears:

The woods are ruthless, dreadful, deaf, and dull;

There speak, and strike, shadow'd from heaven's

And revel with Lavinia. [eye,

Chi. Thy counsel, lad, smells of no cowardice.

Dem. Sit fas aut nefas, till I find a charm

To calm these fits, *per Styga, per manes vehor.*
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—A FOREST NEAR ROME.

A LODGE SEEN AT A DISTANCE. HORNS,
AND CRY OF HOUNDS HEARD.

Enter Titus Andronicus with Hunters, &c.
Marcus, Lucius, Quintus, and Martius.

T. The hunt is up, the morn is bright and grey,

1 Quarrel. 3 Sacred here signifies accursed; a Latin.
2 By nature. 4 Remove impediments by counsel. [ism.

The fields are fragrant, and the woods are green:
Uncouple here, and let us make a bay,
And wake the emperor and his lovely bride,
And rouse the prince; and ring a hunter's peal,
That all the court may echo with the noise.
Sons, let it be your charge, as it is ours,
To tend the emperor's person carefully:
I have been troubled in my sleep this night,
But dawning day new comfort hath inspir'd.

Horns wind a peal. Enter Saturninus, Tamora, Bassianus, Lavinia, Chiron, Demetrius, and Attendants.

Tit. Many good morrows to your majesty;—
Madam, to you as many and as good!—
I promised your grace a hunter's peal.

Sat. And you have rung it lustily, my lords,
Somewhat too early for you ladies.

Lav. I say, no;
I have been broad awake two hours and more.

S. Come on then, horse and chariots let us have,
And to our sport:—[*To Ta.*] Madam, now shall ye
Our Roman hunting. [see

Marc. I have dogs, my lord,
Will rouse the proudest panther in the chase,
And climb the highest promontory top.

T. And I have horse will follow where the game
Makes way, and run like swallows o'er the plain.

Dem. Chiron, we hunt not, we, with horse
nor hound,
But hope to pluck a dainty doe to ground.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.—A DESERT PART OF THE FOREST.

Enter Aaron, with a Bag of Gold.

Aar. He that had wit, would think that I had
To bury so much gold under a tree, [none,
And never after to inherit it.

Let him, that thinks of me so abjectly,
Know, that this gold must coin a stratagem;
Which, cunningly effected, will beget
A very excellent piece of villainy;
And so repose, sweet gold, for their unrest,¹

[*Hides the Gold.*]

That have their alms out of the empress' chest.

Enter Tamora.

T. My lovely Aaron, wherefore look'st thou sad,
When every thing doth make a gleeful boast?
The birds chaunt melody on every bush;
The snake lies rolled in the cheerful sun;
The green leaves quiver with the cooling wind,
And make a checquer'd shadow on the ground:
Under their sweet shade, Aaron, let us sit,
And—whilst the babbling echo mocks the hounds,
Replying shrilly to the well-tun'd horns,
As if a double hunt were heard at once,—
Let us sit down, and mark their yelling noise:
And curtain'd with a counsel-keeping cave,—
We may possess a golden slumber;
Whiles hounds and horns, and sweet melodious
Be unto us, as is a nurse's song [birds,
Of lullaby, to bring her babe asleep.

A. Madam, though Venus govern your desires,
Saturn is dominator over mine:
What signifies my deadly-standing eye,

¹ Disquiet.

My silence, and my cloudy melancholy?
My fleece of woolly hair that now uncurls,
Even as an adder, when she doth unroll
To do some fatal execution?
Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand,
Blood and revenge are hammering in my head.
Hark, Tamora,—the empress of my soul,
Which never hopes more heaven than rests in
thee,—

This is the day of doom for Bassianus;
His Philomel must lose her tongue to-day:
Thy sons make pillage of her chastity,
And wash their hands in Bassianus' blood.
Seest thou this letter? take it up, I pray thee,
And give the king this fatal-plotted scroll:—
Now question me no more, we are espied;
Here comes a parcel¹ of our hopeful booty,
Which dreads not yet their lives' destruction.

Tam. Ah, my sweet Moor, sweeter to me than
life!

A. No more, great empress, Bassianus comes:
Be cross with him: and I'll go fetch thy sons
To back thy quarrels, whatsoe'er they be.

[*Exit.*]

Enter Bassianus and Lavinia.

B. Who have we here? Rome's royal empress,
Unfurnish'd of her well-beseeming troop?

Or is it Dian, habited like her;
Who hath abandoned her holy groves,
To see the general hunting in this forest?

Tam. Saucy controller of our private steps?
Had I the power, that, some say, Dian had,
Thy temples should be planted presently
With horns, as was Actæon's; and the hounds
Should drive upon thy new-transformed limbs,
Unmannerly intruder as thou art!

Lav. Under your patience, gentle empress,
'Tis to be doubted, that your Moor and you
Are singled forth to try experiments: [day!
Jove shield your husband from his hounds to—
'Tis pity they should take him for a stag.

B. Believe me, queen, your swarth Cimmerian
Doth make your honour of his body's hue,
Spotted, detested, and abominable.

Why are you sequester'd from all your train?
Dismounted from your snow-white goodly steed.
And wander'd hither to an obscure plot,
Accompanied with a barbarous Moor,
If foul desire had not conducted you?

Lav. My noble lord, I pray you, let us hence,
And let her 'joy her raven-colour'd love.

Bas. The king, my brother, shall have note
of this.

L. A. For these slips have made him noted long:
Good king! to be so mightily abus'd!

Tam. Why have I patience to endure all this?

Enter Chiron and Demetrius.

D. How now, dear sovereign, and our gracious
mother,
Why doth your highness look so pale and wan?

Tam. Have I not reason, think you, to look pale
These two have 'tic'd me hither to this place,
A barren and detested vale, you see it is:
The trees, though summer, yet forlorn and lean,
O'ercome with moss, and baneful misletoe.
Here never shines the sun; here nothing breeds

¹ Part.

Unless the nightly owl, or fatal raven.
 And, when they show'd me this abhorred pit,
 They told me, here, at dead time of the night,
 A thousand fiends, a thousand hissing snakes,
 Ten thousand swelling toads, as many urchins,¹
 Would make such fearful and confused cries,
 As any mortal body, hearing it,
 Should straight fall mad, or else die suddenly.
 No sooner had they told this hellish tale,
 But straight they told me, they would bind me
 Unto the body of a dismal yew; *[here]*
 And leave me to this miserable death.
 And then they call'd me foul adulteress,
 Lascivious Goth, and all the bitter terms
 That ever ear did hear to such effect.
 And, had you not by wondrous fortune come,
 This vengeance on me had been executed:
 Revenge it, as you love your mother's life,
 Or be ye not henceforth call'd my children.

Dem. This is a witness that I am thy son.

[Stabs Bassianus.]

Chi. And this for me, struck home to show
 my strength. *[Stabbing him likewise.]*

Lav. Ay, come, Semiramis,—nay, barbarous
 Tainora!

For no name fits thy nature but thy own!

Tam. Give me thy poniard; you shall know,
 my boys,

Your mother's hand shall right your mother's
 wrong. *[her:]*

Dem. Stay, madam, here is more belongs to
 First, thrash the corn, then after burn the straw:
 This minion stood upon her chastity,

Upon her nuptial vow, her loyalty, *[ness:]*
 And with that painted hope braves your might-
 And shall she carry this unto her grave? *[hole.]*

Chi. Drag hence her husband to some secret

T. Let not this wasp outlive, us both to sting.

Chi. I warrant you, madam; we will make
 that sure.—

Come, mistress, now, perforce, we will enjoy
 That nice-preserved honesty of yours.

L. O Tamora! Thou bear'st a woman's face.—

T. I will not hear her speak; away with her.

L. Sweet lords, entreat her hear me but a word.

Dem. Listen, fair madam: Let it be your glory
 To see her tears: but be your heart to them,
 As unrelenting flint to drops of rain.

Lav. When did the tiger's young ones teach
 the dam?

O, do not learn her wrath; she taught it thee:
 The milk thou suck'dst from her, did turn to
 marble;

Even at thy teat thou hadst thy tyranny.—

[To Chir.] Yet every mother breeds not sons
 Do thou entreat her show a woman pity. *[alike:]*

Chi. What! wouldst thou have me prove my-
 self a bastard?

Lav. 'Tis true; the raven doth not hatch a
 Yet I have heard, (O could I find it now!) lark;
 The lion mov'd with pity, did endure
 To have his princely paws par'd all away.

Some say, that ravens foster forlorn children,
 The whilst their own birds famish in their nests;
 O, be to me, though thy hard heart say no,
 Nothing so kind, but something pitiful! *[her.]*

Tam. I know not what it means; away with
 1 Hedgehogs.

L. O, let me teach thee: for my father's sake
 That gave thee life, when well he might have slain
 Be not obdurate, open thy deaf ears. *[the:]*

Tam. Hadst thou in person ne'er offended me
 Even for his sake am I pitiless:—

Remember, boys, I pour'd forth tears in vain
 To save your brother from the sacrifice;
 But fierce Andronicus would not relent.

Therefore, away with her, and use her as you
 The worse to her, the better lov'd of me. *[will]*

Lav. O Tamora, be call'd a gentle queen,
 And with thine own hands kill me in this place;
 For, 'tis not life, that I have begg'd so long;
 Poor I was slain, when Bassianus died.

Tam. What begg'st thou then? fond woman
 let me go. *[more:]*

L. 'Tis present death I beg; and one thing
 That womanhood denies my tongue to tell:

O, keep me from their worse than killing lust,
 And tumble me into some loathsome pit;

Where never man's eye may behold my body:
 Do this, and be a charitable murderer.

Tam. So should I rob my sweet sons of their
 No, let them satisfy their lust on thee. *[fee:]*

D. Away, for thou hast staid us here too long.

Lav. No grace? No womanhood? Ah, beastly
 creature!

The blot and enemy to our general name!

Confusion fall—

Chi. Nay, then I'll stop your mouth:—Bring
 thou her husband;

[Dragging off Lavinia.]

This is the hole where Aaron bid us hide him.

[Exeunt.]

Tam. Farewell, my sons; see that you make
 her sure:

Ne'er let my heart know merry cheer indeed,
 Till all the Andronici be made away.—

Now will I hence to seek my lovely Moor.

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.—THE SAME.

Enter Aaron, with Quintus and Martius.

A. Come on, my lords; the better foot before:
 Straight will I bring you to the loathsome pit,
 Where I espy'd the panther fast asleep.

Q. My sight is very dull, whate'er it bodes.

Mart. And, mine, I promise you: were't not
 for shame,

Well could I leave our sport to sleep awhile.

[Martius falls into the pit.]

Quin. What, art thou fallen? What subtle
 hole is this, *[briers:]*

Whose mouth is cover'd with rude-growing
 Upon whose leaves are drops of new-shed blood,
 As fresh as morning's dew distill'd on flowers!
 A very fatal place it seems to me:— *[fall:]*

Speak, brother, hast thou hurt thee with the

Mart. O, brother, with the smallest object
 That ever eye, with sight, made heart lament.

Aar. *[Aside.]* Now will I fetch the king to
 find them here;

That he thereby may give a likely guess,
 How these were they that made away his

brother, *[Exit Aaron.]*
M. Why, dost not comfort me, and help me out
 From this unhallow'd and blood-stain'd hole?

Quin. I am surprised with an uncouth fear:
A chilling sweat o'er-runs my trembling joints;
My heart suspects more than mine eye can see.

M. To prove thou hast a true-divining heart,
Aaron and thou look down into this den,
And see a fearful sight of blood and death.

Q. Aaron is gone; and my compassionate heart
Will not permit mine eyes once to behold
The thing whereat it trembles by surmise:

O, tell me how it is; for ne'er till now
Was I a child, to fear I know not what.

Mart. Lord Bassianus lies embred here.
All on a heap, like to a slaughter'd lamb,
In this detested, dark, blood-drinking pit.

Q. If it be dark, how dost thou know 'tis he?

Mart. Upon his bloody finger he doth wear
A precious ring, that lightens all the hole,
Which, like a taper in some monument,
Doth shine upon the dead man's earthy cheeks,
And shows the ragged entrails of this pit;
So pale did shine the moon on Pyramus,
When he by night lay bath'd in maiden blood.
O brother, help me with thy fainting hand,
If fear hath made thee faint, as me it hath,—
Out of this fell devouring receptacle,
As hateful as Cocytus' misty mouth.

Q. Reach me thy hand, that I may help thee
out;

Or, wanting strength to do thee so much good,
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave.

I have no strength to pluck thee to the brink.
Mart. Nor I no strength to climb without
thy help.

Q. Thy hand once more; I will not loose
Till thou art here aloft, or I below: [again,
Thou canst not come to me, I come to thee.

[Falls in.
Enter Saturninus and Aaron.

Sat. Along with me: I'll see what hole is here.
And what he is, that now is leap'd into it.
Say, who art thou, that lately didst descend
Into this gaping hollow of the earth?

Mart. The unhappy son of old Andronicus;
Brought hither in a most unlucky hour,
To find thy brother Bassianus dead.

S. My brother dead? I know thou dost but
He and his lady both are at the lodge, [jest;
Upon the north side of this pleasant chase;
Tis not an hour since I left him there.

M. We know not where you left him all alive,
But, out alas! here have we found him dead.

*Enter Tamora, with Attendants; Titus
Andronicus, and Lucius.*

Tam. Where is my lord the king?

Sat. Here, Tamora; though griev'd with
killing grief.

Tam. Where is thy brother Bassianus?

Sat. Now to the bottom dost thou search my
wound;

Poor Bassianus here lies murdered.

Tam. Then all too late I bring this fatal writ.
[Giving a Letter.

The complot of this timeless¹ tragedy;
And wonder greatly, that man's face can fold
In pleasing smiles such murderous tyranny.

¹ Untimely.

Sat. [Reads.] *An if we miss to meet him
handsomely,—*

*Sweet huntsman, Bassianus 'tis, we mean,—
Do thou so much as dig the grave for him;
Thou knowest our meaning: Look for thy re-
Among the nettles at the elder tree, [ward
Which overshades the mouth of that same pit,
Where we decree to bury Bassianus.*

Do this, and purchase us thy lasting friends.

O, Tamora! was ever heard the like?

This is the pit, and this the elder tree:

Look, sirs, if you can find the huntsman out,
That should have murdered Bassianus here.

Aar. My gracious lord, here is the bag of
gold. [Showing it.

Sat. Two of thy whelps, [To Tit.] fell curs of
bloody kind,

Have here bereft my brother of his life:—

Sirs, drag them from the pit unto the prison;

There let them bide, until we have devis'd

Some never-heard-of torturing pain for them.

Tam. What, are they in this pit? O wondrous
How easily murder is discover'd! [thing!

Tit. High emperor, upon my feeble knee,
I beg this boon, with tears not lightly shed,

That this fell fault of my accursed sons,
Accursed, if the fault be proved in them,—

Sat. If it be proved! you see it is apparent,—
Who found this letter? Tamora, was it you?

Tam. Andronicus himself did take it up.

Tit. I did, my lord: yet let me be their bail:

For by my father's reverend tomb, I vow,

They shall be ready at your highness' will,
To answer their suspicion with their lives.

Sat. Thou shalt not bail them: see, thou
follow me. [derers;

Some bring the murder'd body, some the mur-
Let them not speak a word, the guilt is plain:

For, by my soul, were there worse end than
That end upon them should be executed. [death,

Tam. Andronicus, I will entreat the king;
Fear not thy sons, they shall do well enough.

Tit. Come, Lucius, come; stay not to talk
with them. [Exeunt severally.

SCENE V.—THE SAME.

*Enter Demetrius and Chiron, with Lavinia;
her Hands cut off, and her Tongue cut out.*

D. So now, go tell, an if thy tongue can speak,
Who 'twas that cut thy tongue, and ravish'd thee.

Ch. Write down thy mind, bewray thy
meaning so;

And, if thy stumps will let thee, play the scribe.

Dem. See, how with signs and tokens she can
scowl. [hands.

C. Go home, call for sweet water, wash thy
Dem. She hath no tongue to call, nor hands
to wash;

And so let's leave her to her silent walks.

C. An 'twere my case, I should go hang myself.

Dem. If thou hadst hands to help thee knit
the cord. [Exeunt Demetrius and Chiron.

Enter Marcus.

Marc. Who's this,—my niece, that flies away
so fast?

Cousin, a word; Where is your husband?—

If I do dream, 'would all my wealth would wake me !

If I do wake, some planet strike me down,
That I may slumber in eternal sleep !—

Speak, gentle niece, what stern ungentle hands
Have lopp'd, and hew'd, and made thy body bare
Of her two branches? those sweet ornaments
Whose circling shadows kings have sought to
sleep in;

And might not gain so great a happiness,
As half thy love? Why dost not speak to me?—
Alas, a crimson river of warm blood,
Like to a bubbling fountain stirr'd with wind,
Doth rise and fall between thy rosed lips,
Coming and going with thy honey breath.
But, sure, some Tereus hath deflower'd thee;
And, lest thou shouldst detect him, cut thy
tongue.

Ah, now thou turn'st away thy face for shame!

And, notwithstanding all this loss of blood,—
As from a conduit with three issuing spouts,—
Yet do thy cheeks look red as Titan's face,
Blushing to be encounter'd with a cloud.
Shall I speak for thee? shall I say, 'tis so?

O, that I knew thy heart; and knew the beast,
That I might rail at him to ease my mind!
Sorrow concealed, like an oven stopp'd,
Doth burn the heart to cinders where it is.

Fair Philomela, she but lost her tongue,
And in a tedious sampler sew'd her mind:
But, lovely niece, that mean is cut from thee;
A craftier Tereus hast thou met withal,
And he hath cut those pretty fingers off,
That could have better sew'd than Philomel.

O, had the monster seen those lily hands
Tremble, like aspen leaves, upon a lute,
And make the silken strings delight to kiss them:
He would not then have touch'd them for his life;

Or, had he heard the heavenly harmony,
Which that sweet tongue hath made,
He would have dropp'd his knife, and fell asleep,
As Cerberus at the Thracian poet's¹ feet.

Come, let us go, and make thy father blind:
For such a sight will blind a father's eye:
One hour's storm will drown the fragrant meads:
What will whole months of tears thy father's
eyes !

Do not draw back, for we will mourn with thee;
O, could our mourning ease thy misery !

[*Exeunt.*]

Act Third.

SCENE I.—ROME. A STREET.

Enter Senators, Tribunes, and Officers of Justice, with Martius and Quintus, bound, passing on to the Place of Execution: Titus going before, pleading.

Tit. Hear me, grave fathers! noble tribunes, stay !

For pity of mine age, whose youth was spent
In dangerous wars, whilst you securely slept;
For all my blood in Rome's great quarrel shed;
For all the frosty nights that I have watch'd;
And for these bitter tears, which now you see

1 (Orpheus.)

Filling the aged wrinkles in my cheeks;
Be pitiful to my condemned sons,
Whose souls are not corrupted as 'tis thought !
For two and twenty sons I never wept,
Because they died in honour's lofty bed.
For these, these, tribunes, in the dust I write
[*Throwing himself on the Ground.*]
My heart's deep languor, and my soul's sad tears.
Let my tears stanch the earth's dry appetite;
My sons' sweet blood will make it shame and
blush.

[*Exeunt Senators, Tribunes, &c., with the Prisoners.*]

O earth, I will befriend thee more with rain,
That shall distil from these two ancient urns,
Than youthful April shall with all his showers:
In summer's drought, I'll drop upon thee still;
In winter, with warm tears I'll melt the snow,
And keep eternal spring-time on thy face,
So thou refuse to drink my dear son's blood.

Enter Lucius, with his Sword drawn.

O, reverend tribunes? gentle aged men !
Unbind my sons, reverse the doom of death;
And let me say, that never wept before,
My tears are now prevailing orators.

Luc. O, noble father, you lament in vain;
The tribunes hear you not, no man is by,
And you recount your sorrows to a stone.

Tit. Ah, Lucius, for thy brothers let me plead:
Grave tribunes, once more I entreat of you.

Luc. My gracious lord, no tribune hears you
speak.

Tit. Why, 'tis no matter, man: if they did hear,
They would not mark me; or, if they did mark,
All bootless to them, they'd not pity me.

Therefore I tell my sorrows to the stones;
Who, though they cannot answer my distress,
Yet in some sort they're better than the tribunes,
For that they will not intercept my tale:

When I do weep, they humbly at my feet
Receive my tears, and seem to weep with me;
And, were they but attired in grave weeds,
Rome could afford no tribune like to these.

A stone is soft as wax, tribunes more hard than
stones:

A stone is silent, and offendeth not: [death.
And tribunes with their tongues doom men to
But therefore stand'st thou with thy weapon
drawn ? [death:

Luc. To rescue my two brothers from their
For which attempt, the judges have pronounc'd
My everlasting doom of banishment.

Tit. O happy man! they have befriended thee.
That Rome is but a wilderness of tigers?

Tigers must prey; and Rome affords no prey,
But me and mine: How happy art thou then,
From these devourers to be banished !
But who comes with our brother Marcus here ?

Enter Marcus and Lavinia.

Marc. Titus, prepare thy noble eyes to weep;
Or, if not so, thy noble heart to break;
I bring consuming sorrow to thine age.

Tit. Will it consume me? let me see it then.

Marc. This was thy daughter.

Tit. Why, Marcus, so she is.

Luc. Ah me! this object kills me!

Tit. Faint-hearted boy, arise, and look upon her:—

Speak, my Lavinia, what accursed hand hath made thee handless in thy father's sight? What fool hath added water to the sea?

Or brought a faggot to bright burning Troy?

My grief was at the height before thou cam'st,

And now, like Nilus,¹ it disdaineth bounds.—

Give me a sword, I'll chop off my hands too;

For they have fought for Rome, and all in vain;

And they have nurs'd this woe, in feeding life;

In bootless prayer have they been held up,

And they have served me to effectless use:

Now, all the service I require of them

Is, that the one will help to cut the other.—

'Tis well, Lavinia, thou that hast no hands;

For hands, to do Rome service, are but vain.

Luc. Speak, gentle sister, who hath martyr'd thee?

Mar. O, that delightful engine of her thoughts,

That blabb'd them with such pleasing eloquence,

Is torn from forth that pretty hollow cage;

Where, like a sweet melodious bird, it sung

Wet varied notes, enchanting every ear!

Luc. O, say thou for her, who hath done this deed?

Marc. O, thus I found her, straying in the park,

Seeking to hide herself, as doth the deer,

That hath receiv'd some unrecuring wound.

Tit. It was my deer, and he that wounded her,

Hath hurt me more, than had he kill'd me dead:

Or now I stand as one upon a rock,

Environ'd with a wilderness of sea;

Who marks the waxing tide grow wave by wave,

Expecting ever when some envious surge

Will in his brinish bowels swallow him.

His way to death my wretched sons are gone;

Here stands my other son, a banish'd man;

And here my brother, weeping at my woes;

But that, which gives my soul the greatest spurn,

My dear Lavinia, dearer than my soul.—

Had I but seen thy picture in this plight,

It would have maddened me; What shall I do

Now I behold thy lovely body so?

Thou hast no hands, to wipe away thy tears;

Or tongue, to tell me who hath martyr'd thee:

My husband he is dead; and, for his death,

My brothers are condemn'd, and dead by this:—

Look, Marcus! ah, son Lucius, look on her!

When I did name her brothers, then fresh tears

Flood on her cheeks; as doth the honey dew

Upon a gather'd lily almost wither'd.

Marc. Perchance, she weeps because they

kill'd her husband:

Perchance, because she knows them innocent.

T. If they did kill thy husband, then be joyful,

Because the law hath ta'en revenge on them.—

No, they would not do so foul a deed;

Witness the sorrow that their sister makes.—

Gentle Lavinia, let me kiss thy lips;

Make some sign how I may do thee ease:

Call thy good uncle, and thy brother Lucius;

And thou, and I, sit round about some fountain;

Looking all downwards, to behold our cheeks

As they are stain'd? like meadows, yet not dry

With miry slime left on them by a flood?

And in the fountain shall we gaze so long,
Till the fresh taste be taken from that clearness,
And made a brine pit with our bitter tears!

Or shall we cut away our hands, like thine?

Or shall we bite our tongues, and in dumb shows

Pass the remainder of our hateful days?

What shall we do? let us that have our tongues,

Plot some device of further misery,

To make us wonder'd at in time to come.

Luc. Sweet father, cease your tears; for, at
your grief,

See, how my wretched sister sobs and weeps.

Marc. Patience, dear niece:—good Titus, dry
thine eyes.

Tit. Ah, Marcus, Marcus! brother, well I wot,¹

Thy napkin cannot drink a tear of mine, [crown.]
For thou, poor man, hast drown'd it with thine

Luc. Ah, my Lavinia, I will wipe thy cheeks.

T. Mark, Marcus, mark! I understand her

signs:

Had she a tongue to speak, now would she say

That to her brother which I said to thee;

His napkin, with his true tears all bewet,

Can do no service on her sorrowful cheeks:

O, what a sympathy of woe is this?

As far from help as limbo is from bliss!

Enter Aaron.

Aar. Titus Andronicus, my lord the emperor

Sends thee this word,—That, if thou love thy sons,

Let Marcus, Lucius, or thyself, old Titus,

Or any one of you, chop off your hand,

And send it to the king: he for the same,

Will send thee hither both thy sons alive;

And that shall be the ransom for their fault.

Tit. O, gracious emperor! O, gentle Aaron!

Did ever raven sing so like a lark,

That gives sweet tidings of the sun's uprise?

With all my heart, I'll send the emperor

My hand:

Good Aaron, wilt thou help to chop it off?

Luc. Stay, father; for that noble hand of thine,

That hath thrown down so many enemies,

Shall not be sent: my hand will serve the turn:

My youth can better spare my blood than you;

And therefore mine shall save my brothers' lives.

Marc. Which of your hands hath not defended

And rear'd aloft the bloody battle-axe, [Rome,

Writing destruction on the enemy's castle?

O, none of both but are of high desert:

My hand hath been but idle; let it serve

To ransom my two nephews from their death;

Then have I kept it to a worthy end.

A. Nay, come agree, whose hand shall go along,

For fear they die before their pardon come.

Marc. My hand shall go.

Luc. By heaven, it shall not go.

Tit. Sirs, strive no more; such wither'd herbs

as these

Are meet for plucking up, and therefore mine.

Luc. Sweet father, if I shall be thought thy son,

Let me redeem my brothers both from death.

M. And, for our father's sake, and mother's

Now let me show a brother's love to thee. [care.]

Tit. Agree between you; I will spare my hand.

Luc. Then I'll go fetch an axe.

Marc. But I will use the axe.

[*Exeunt Lucius and Marcus.*]

¹ The Nile.

¹ Know.

T. Come hither, Aaron; I'll deceive them both;
Lend me thy hand, and I will give thee mine.

Aar. If that be call'd deceit, I will be honest,
And never, whilst I live, deceive men so:—
[Aside.] But I'll deceive you in another sort,
And that you'll say ere half an hour can pass.
[He cuts off Titus's Hand.]

Enter Lucius and Marcus.

Tit. Now, stay your strife; what shall be, is
despatch'd. —

Good Aaron, give his majesty my hand:
Tell him, it was a hand that warded him
From thousand dangers; bid him bury it;
More hath it merited, that let it have.
As for my sons, say, I account of them
As jewels purchas'd at an easy price;
And yet dear too, because I bought mine own.

Aar. I go, Andronicus; and for thy hand,
Look by and by to have thy sons with thee:—
[Aside.] Their heads, I mean.—O, how this
villainy

Doth fat me with the very thoughts of it!
Let fools do good, and fair men call for grace,
Aaron will have his soul black like his face. [Exit.]

Tit. O, here I lift this one hand up to heaven,
And bow this feeble ruin to the earth:
If any power pities wretched tears,
To that I call:—[To Lavinia.] What, wilt thou
kneel with me?

Do then, dear heart; for heaven shall hear our
prayers;

Or with our sighs we'll breathe the welkin¹ dim,
And stain the sun with fog, as sometime clouds,
When they do hug him in their melting bosoms.

Marc. O! brother, speak with possibilities,
And do not break into these deep extremes.

Tit. Is not my sorrow deep, having no bottom?
Then be my passions bottomless with them.

Marc. But yet let reason govern thy lament.

Tit. If there were reason for these miseries,
Then into limits could I bind my woes: [flow?
When heaven doth weep, doth not the earth o'er-
If the winds rage, doth not the sea wax mad,
Threat'ning the welkin with his big-swoln face?
And wilt thou have a reason for this coil?²
I am the sea; hark, how her sighs do blow!
She is the weeping welkin, I the earth:
Then must my sea be moved with her sighs;
Then must my earth with her continual tears
Become a deluge, overflow'd and drown'd.
For why? my bowels cannot hide her woes,
But like a drunkard must I vomit them.
Then give me leave—for losers will have leave
To ease their stomachs with their bitter tongues.

Enter a Messenger, with two Heads and a Hand.

Mess. Worthy Andronicus, ill art thou repaid
For that good hand thou sent'st the emperor.
Here are the heads of thy two noble sons;
And here's thy hand, in scorn to thee sent back;
Thy griefs their sports, thy resolution mock'd:
That was is me to think upon thy woes,
More than remembrance of my father's death.
[Exit.]

Marc. Now let hot Ætna cool in Sicily,
And be my heart an ever-burning fire!
These miseries are more than may be borne!

¹ The sky.

² Bustle.

To weep with them that weep, doth ease some
But sorrow flouted at is double death. [deal.]

Luc. Ah, that this sight should make so deep
a wound,

And yet detested life not shrink thereat!
That ever death should let life bear his name,
Where life hath no more interest than to breathe
[Lavinia kisses him.]

Marc. Alas, poor heart that kiss is comfortless,
As frozen water to a starved snake.

T. When will this fearful slumber have an end?

M. Now, farewell, flattery: Die, Andronicus:
Thou dost not slumber: see, thy two sons' heads
Thy warlike hand; thy mangled daughter here
Thy other banish'd son, with this dear sight
Struck pale and bloodless; and thy brother, I,
Even like a stony image, cold and numb.

Ah! now no more will I control thy griefs:
Render off thy silver hair, thy other hand
Gnawing with thy teeth; and be this dismal sight
The closing up of our most wretched eyes!
Now is a time to storm; why art thou still?

Tit. Ha, ha, ha!

Marc. Why dost thou laugh? it fits not with
this hour.

Tit. Why, I have not another tear to shed:
Besides this sorrow is an enemy,
And would usurp upon my wat'ry eyes,
And make them blind with tributary tears;
Then which way shall I find revenge's cave?
For these two heads do seem to speak to me;
And threat me, I shall never come to bliss,
Till all these mischiefs be return'd again,
Even in their throats that have committed them.
Come, let me see what task I have to do.—
You heavy people, circle me about;
That I may turn me to each one of you,
And swear unto my soul to right your wrongs
The vow is made.—Come, brother, take a head
And in this hand the other will I bear:
Lavinia, thou shalt be employed in these things
Bear thou my hand, sweet wench, between thy
teeth.

As for thee, boy, go, get thee from my sight:
Thou art an exile, and thou must not stay:
Hie to the Goths, and raise an army there:
And, if you love me, as I think you do,
Let's kiss and part, for we have much to do.

[Exeunt Titus, Marcus, and Lavinia.]

Luc. Farewell, Andronicus, my noble father
The woful'st man that ever lived in Rome!
Farewell, proud Rome! till Lucius come again
He leaves his pledges dearer than his life.
Farewell, Lavinia, my noble sister;
O, would thou wert as thou 'fore hast been!
But now nor Lucius nor Lavinia lives,
But in oblivion, and hateful griefs.
If Lucius live, he will requite your wrongs;
And made proud Saturninus and his empress
Beg at the gates, like Tarquin and his queen.
Now will I to the Goths, and raise a power,
To be reveng'd on Rome and Saturnine. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

A ROOM IN TITUS' HOUSE. A BANQUET SET OUT

Enter Titus, Marcus, Lavinia, and young
Lucius, a Boy.

Tit. So, so; now sit: and look you eat no more

Than will preserve just so much strength in us
As will revenge these bitter woes of ours.
Marcus, unknot that sorrow-wreathen knot;
Thy niece and I, poor creatures, want our hands,
And cannot passionate our tenfold grief
With folded arms. This poor right hand of mine
Is left to tyrannise upon my breast;
And when my heart, all mad with misery,
Beats in this hollow prison of my flesh,
Then thus I thump it down.—
Thou map of woe, that thus dost talk in signs!

[To Lavinia.

When thy poor heart beats with outrageous
beating,

Thou canst not strike it thus to make it still.
Wound it with sighing, girl, kill it with groans;
Or get some little knife between thy teeth,
And just against thy heart make thou a hole;
That all the tears that thy poor eyes let fall,
May run into that sink, and soaking in,
Drown the lamenting fool in sea-salt tears.

Ma. Fie, brother, fie! teach her not thus to lay
Such violent hands upon her tender life.

Tit. How, now! has sorrow made thee dote
already?

Why, Marcus, no man should be mad but I,
What violent hands can she lay on her life!

Ah, wherefore dost thou urge the name of hands;—
To bid Æneas tell the tale twice o'er,

How Troy was burnt, and he made miserable?
O, handle not the theme, to talk of hands;

Lest we remember still, that we have none.—
Fie, fie, how frantically I square my talk!

As if we should forget we had no hands,
If Marcus did not name the word of hands!

Come, let's fall to; and, gentle girl, eat this:—
Here is no drink! Hark, Marcus, what she says;

I can interpret all her martyr'd signs;—
She says, she drinks no other drink but tears,

Brew'd with her sorrows, mesh'd upon her cheeks:
speechless complainer, I will learn thy thought;

In thy dumb action will I be as perfect,
As begging hermits in their holy prayers:

Thou shalt not sigh, nor hold thy stumps to heaven,
Nor wink, nor nod, nor kneel, nor make a sign,

But I, of these, will wrest an alphabet. [ing.
And, by still practice, learn to know thy mean.

Boy. Good grandsire, leave these bitter deep
laments:

Make my aunt merry with some pleasing tale.
Marc. Alas, the tender boy, in passion mov'd,

Doth weep to see his grandsire's heaviness.
T. Peace, tender sapling; thou art made of tears,

And tears will quickly melt thy life away.—
[Marcus strikes the Dish with a Knife.

What dost thou strike at, Marcus, with thy knife?
Marc. At that that I have kill'd, my lord; a fly.

T. Out on thee, murderer! thou kill'st my heart:
Mine eyes are cloy'd with view of tyranny:

A deed of death done on the innocent,
Becomes not Titus' brother: Get thee gone;

see thou art not for my company.
Marc. Alas, my lord, I have but kill'd a fly.

Tit. But how, if that fly had a father and mother?
How would he hang his slender gilded wings,

and buzz lamenting doings in the air:
Poor harmless fly!

1 Constant.

That with his pretty buzzing melody,
Came here to make us merry; and thou hast
kill'd him.

M. Pardon me, sir; 'twas a black ill-favour'd fly,
Like to the empress' Moor; therefore I kill'd him.

Tit. O, O, O,

Then pardon me for reprehending thee,
For thou hast done a charitable deed.

Give me thy knife, I will insult on him;
Flattering myself, as if it were the Moor,

Come hither purposely to poison me.—
There's for thyself, and that's for Tamora.—

Ah, sirrah!—

Yet I do think we are not brought so low,
But that, between us, we can kill a fly,

That comes in likeness of a coal-black Moor.
Marc. Alas, poor man! grief has wrought

on him,
He takes false shadows for true substances.

Tit. Come, take away.—Lavinia, go with me:
I'll to thy closet; and go read with thee

Sad stories, chanced in the times of old.—
Come, boy, and go with me; thy sight is young,

And thou shalt read, when mine begins to dazzle.
[Exeunt.

Act Fourth.

SCENE I.—BEFORE 'TITUS' HOUSE.

Enter Titus and Marcus. Then enter young
Lucius, Lavinia running after him.

Boy. Help, grandsire, help! my aunt Lavinia
Follows me every where, I know not why:—

Good uncle Marcus, see how swift she comes!
Alas, sweet aunt, I know not what you mean.

M. Stand by me, Lucius; do not fear thine aunt.
Tit. She loves thee, boy, too well to do thee harm.

Boy. Ay, when my father was in Rome, she did.
Marc. What means my niece Lavinia by these

signs?
Tit. Fear her not, Lucius:—Somewhat doth

she mean:
See, Lucius, see, how much she makes of thee:

Somewhither would she have thee go with her.
Ay, boy, Cornelia never with more care

Read to her sons, than she hath read to thee,
Sweet poetry, and Tully's Orator. [thus?

Canst thou not guess wherefore she plies thee
Boy. My lord, I know not, I, nor can I guess,

Unless some fit or frenzy do possess her:
For I have heard my grandsire say full oft,

Extremity of griefs would make men mad;
And I have read that Hecuba of Troy

Ran mad through sorrow: That made me to fear:
Although, my lord, I know my noble aunt

Loves me as dear as e'er my mother did,
And would not, but in fury, fright my youth:

Which made me down to throw my books, & fly:
Causeless, perhaps; But pardon me, sweet aunt:

And, madam, if my uncle Marcus go,
I will most willingly attend your ladyship.

Marc. Lucius, I will.

[Lavinia turns over the Books which
Lucius has let fall.

Tit. How now, Lavinia?—Marcus, what means
this?

Some book there is that she desires to see:—
Which is it, girl, of these?—Open them, boy.—
But thou art deeper read, and better skill'd;
Come, and take choice of all my library,
And so beguile thy sorrow, till the heavens
Reveal thy vile contriver of this deed.—

Why lifts she up her arms in sequence thus?

Marc. I think, she means, that there was more than one

Confederate in the fact:—Ay, more there was:—
Or else to heaven she heaves them for revenge.

Tit. Lucius, what book is that she tosseth so?

Boy. Grandsire, 'tis Ovid's *Metamorphosis*;
My mother gaveth me.

Marc. For love of her that's gone,
Perhaps she cull'd it from among the rest.

Tit. Soft! see, how busily she turns the leaves!
Help her:—

What would she find;—Lavinia, shall I read?
This is the tragic tale of Philomel,
And treats of Tereus' treason, and his rape;
And rape, I fear, was root of thine annoy.

Marc. See, brother, see; note how she quotes
the leaves. [girl]

T. Lavinia, wert thou thus surpris'd, sweet
Ravish'd and wrong'd, as Philomela was,
Forc'd in the ruthless,² vast, and gloomy woods?—
See, see!—

Ay, such a place there is, where we did hunt,
(O, had we never, never, hunted there!)
Pattern'd by that the poet here describes,
By nature made for murders, and for rapes.

Marc. O, why should nature build so foul a den,
Unless the gods delight in tragedies!

Tit. Give signs, sweet girl,—for here are none
but friends,—

What Roman lord it was durst do the deed:
Or slunk not Saturnine, as Tarquin erst,
That left the camp to sin in Lucrece' bed?

Marc. Sit down, sweet niece;—brother, sit
down by me.—

Apollo, Pallas, Jove, or Mercury,
Inspire me, that I may this treason find!—
My lord, look here;—Look here, Lavinia:
This sandy plot is plain; guide, if thou canst,
This after me, when I have writ my name
Without the help of any hand at all.

[He writes his Name with his Staff, and
guides it with his Feet and Mouth.

Curs'd be that heart, that forc'd us to this shift!—
Write thou, good niece; and here display, at last,
What Heaven will have discover'd for revenge:
Heaven guide thy pen to print thy sorrows plain,
That we may know the traitors, and the truth!

[She takes the Staff in her Mouth, and
guides it with her Stumps, and writes.

T. O, do you read, my lord, what she hath writ?
Stuprum—Chiron—Demetrius.

M. What, what!—the lustful sons of Tamora
Performers of this heinous, bloody deed?

Tit. *Magne Dominator poli,*
Tam lentus audis scelera? tam lentus vides?

Marc. O, calm thee, gentle lord! although I
know,

There is enough written upon this earth,
To stir a mutiny in the mildest thoughts,
And arm the minds of infants to exclams.

1 Observes.

2 Pitiless.

My lord, kneel down with me; Lavinia, kneel
And kneel, sweet boy, the Roman Hector's hope
And swear with me,—as with the woeful feere,
And father, of that chaste dishonour'd dame,
Lord Junius Brutus sware for Lucrece' rape,
That we will prosecute, by good advice,
Mortal revenge upon these traitorous Goths,
And see their blood, or die with this reproach

Tit. 'Tis sure enough, an you knew how,
But if you hurt these bear-whelps, then beware
The dam will wake; and, if she wind you once
She's with the lion deeply still in league,
And, when he sleeps, will she do what she list
You're a young huntsman, Marcus; let it alone;
And, come, I will go get a leaf of brass,
And with a gad² of steel will write these words,
And lay it by: the angry northern wind
Will blow these sands, like Sibil's leaves
abroad, [you

And where's your lesson then?—Boy, what say
Boy. I say, my lord, that if I were a man,

Their mother's bed-chamber should not be safe
For these bad bondmen to the yoke of Rome.

Marc. Ay, that's my boy! thy father hath
full oft

For this ungrateful country done the like.

Boy. And uncle, so will I, an if I live.

Tit. Come, go with me into mine armoury;
Lucius, I'll fit thee; and withal, my boy
Shall carry from me to the empress' sons
Presents, that I intend to send them both:
Come, come; thou'lt do thy message, wilt thou
not? [sire.

B. Ay, with my dagger in their bosoms, grand-

Tit. No, boy, not so; I'll teach thee another
course.

Lavinia, come:—Marcus, look to my house;

Lucius and I'll go brave it at the court;

Ay, marry, will we, sir; and we'll be waited on.
[Exeunt Titus, Lavinia, and Boy.

Marc. O heavens, can you hear a good man
groan,

And not relent, or not compassion him?

Marcus, attend him in his ecstasy;

That hath more scars of sorrow in his heart,
Than foemen's marks upon his batter'd shield:

But yet so just, that he will not revenge:

Revenge the heavens for old Andronicus! [Exit.

SCENE II.—A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

Enter Aaron, Chiron, and Demetrius, at one
Door; at another Door, young Lucius, and
an Attendant, with a bundle of Weapons,
and Verses writ upon them.

Chi. Demetrius, here's the son of Lucius;

He hath some message to deliver to us.

Aar. Ay, some mad message from his mad
grandfather.

Boy. My lords, with all the humbleness I may,
I greet your honours from Andronicus;—

[Aside.] And pray the Roman gods, confound
you both.

Dem. Gramercy, lovely Lucius! What's the
news?

Boy. [Aside.] That you are both decipher'd,
that's the news,

1 Husband.

2 A point.

For villains mark'd with rape. May it please you,

My grandsire, well advis'd, hath sent by me
The goodliest weapons of his armoury,
To gratify your honourable youth,
The hope of Rome; for so he bade me say;
And so I do, and with his gifts present
Your lordships, that whenever you have need,
You may be armed and appointed well:
And so I leave you both, [*Aside.*] like bloody
villains. [*Exeunt Boy and Attendant.*]

Dem. What's here? A scroll; and written
Let's see. [*round about?*]

*Integer vitæ, scelerisque purus,
Non eget Mauri jaculis, nec arcu.*

Chi. O, 'tis a verse in Horace; I know it well:
I read it in the grammar long ago.

Aar. Ay, just!—a verse in Horace:—right,
you have it.

Now, what a thing it is to be an ass!
Here's no sound jest! the old man hath
found their guilt;

And sends the weapons wrapp'd about
with lines,
That wound, beyond their feeling, to the
quick.

But were our witty empress well a-foot,
She would applaud Andronicus' conceit.
But let her rest in her unrest awhile.—
And now, young lords, was't not a happy star
Led us to Rome, strangers, and more than so,
Captives, to be advanced to this height?
It did me good, before the palace gate
To brave the tribune in his brother's hearing.

Dem. But me more good, to see so great a lord
Basely insinuate, and send us gifts.

Aar. Had he not reason, lord Demetrius?
Did you not use his daughter very friendly?

Dem. Come, let us go; and pray to all the
for our beloved mother in her pains. [*gods*]

Aar. [*Aside.*] Pray to the devils, the gods
have given us o'er. [*Flourish.*]

Dem. Why do the emperor's trumpets flourish
thus?

Chi. Belike for joy the emperor hath a son.
Dem. Soft; who comes here?

*Enter a Nurse, with a Black-a-moor Child in
her arms.*

Nur. Good morrow, lords:
tell me, did you see Aaron the Moor?

Aar. Well, more, or less, or ne'er a whit at all,
ere Aaron is: and what with Aaron now?

Nur. O, gentle Aaron, we are all undone!
ow help, or woe betide thee evermore!

Aar. Why, what a caterwauling dost thou
keep? [*arms?*]

What dost thou wrap and fumble in thine
Nur. O, that which I would hide from heaven's
eye,

our empress' shame, and stately Rome's dis-
grace;—

he is deliver'd, lords, she is deliver'd.
Aar. To whom?

Nur. I mean, she's brought to bed.
Aar. Well, Jove

ive her good rest! What hath she got?
N. A joyless, dismal, black, and sorrowful issue;

Here is the babe, as loathsome as a toad
Amongst the fairest breeders of our clime.
The empress sends it thee, thy stamp, thy seal,
And bids thee christen it with thy dagger's point.

A. Out, out, you wretch! is black so base a
hue?

Sweet blowse, you are a beauteous blossom, sure.
Dem. Villain, what hast thou done?

Aar. Done! that which thou
Canst not undo.

Chi. Thou hast undone our mother.
D. Woe to her chance, & to her loathed choice!

Accurs'd the offspring of so foul a fiend!
Chi. It shall not live.

Aar. It shall not die.
Nur. Aaron, it must: the mother wills it so.

A. What, must it, nurse? then let no man but I,
Do execution on my flesh and blood.

D. I'll broach¹ the tadpole on my rapier's point;
Nurse, give it me: my sword shall soon de-
spatch it. bowels up.

Aar. Sooner this sword shall plough thy
[*Takes the Child from the Nurse, and draws.*]

Stay, murderous villains! will you kill your
brother?

Now, by the burning tapers of the sky,
He dies upon my scimitar's sharp point,

That touches this my first-born son and heir!
I tell you, younglings, not Enceladus,

With all his threat'ning band of Typhon's brood,
Nor great Alcides, nor the god of war,

Shall seize this prey out of his father's hands.
What, what; ye sanguine, shallow-hearted boys!

Ye white-lim'd walls! ye ale-house painted signs!
Coal-black is better than another hue,

In that it scorns to bear another hue:
For all the water in the ocean

Can never turn a swan's black legs to white,
Although she lave them hourly in the flood.

Tell the empress from me, I am of age
To keep mine own; excuse it how she can.

D. Wilt thou betray thy noble mistress thus?
A. My mistress is my mistress; this, myself;

The vigour and the picture of my youth:
This, before all the world, do I prefer;

This, maugre² all the world, will I keep safe,
Or some of you shall smoke for it in Rome.

Dem. By this our mother is for ever sham'd.
C. Rome will despise her for this foul escape.

N. The emperor, in his rage, will doom her death.
Chi. I blush to think upon this ignomy.³

A. Why, there's the privilege your beauty bears:
Fie, treacherous hue! that will betray with blush-

The close enacts and counsels of the heart! [*sing*]
Here's a young lad fram'd of another leer⁴:

Look how the black slave smiles upon the father;
As who should say, *Old lad, I am thine own.*

He is your brother, lords; sensibly fed
Of that self-blood that first gave life to you;

And, from that womb, where you imprison'd
He is enfranchised and come to light: [*were,*]

Nay, he's your brother by the surer side,
Although my seal be stamped in his face.

N. Aaron, what shall I say unto the empress?
Dem. Advise thee, Aaron, what is to be done,

And we will all subscribe to thy advice;
Save thou the child, so we may all be safe.

¹ Spit. ² In spite of. ³ Ignominy. ⁴ Complexion.

Aar. Then sit we down, and let us all consult.
My son and I will have the wind of you :
Keep there: Now talk at pleasure of your safety.

[*They sit on the ground.*]

Dem. How many women saw this child of his?

Aar. Why so, brave lords? when we all join
in league,

I am a lamb: but if you brave the Moor,
The chafed boar, the mountain lioness,
The ocean swells not so as Aaron storms.—

But, say again, how many saw the child?

Nur. Cornelia the midwife, and myself,
And no one else but the deliver'd empress.

Aar. The empress, the midwife, and yourself:
Two may keep counsel when the third's away:
Go to the empress; tell her, this I said:—

[*Stabbing her.*]

Weke, Weke!—so cries a pig prepar'd to the spit.

Dem. What mean'st thou, Aaron! Wherefore
didst thou this?

Aar. O, lord, sir, 'tis a deed of policy:
Shall she live to betray this guilt of ours?
A long-tongu'd babbling gossip? no, lords, no.
And now be it known to you my full intent.
Not far, one Muliteus lives, my countryman;
His wife but yesternight was brought to bed;
His child is like to her, fair as you are:
Go pack¹ with him, and give the mother gold,
And tell them both the circumstance of all;
And how by this their child shall be advanc'd
And be receiv'd for the emperor's heir,
And substituted in the place of mine,
To calm this tempest whirling in the court;
And let the emperor dandle him for his own.
Hark ye, lords, ye see, that I have given her
physick, [*Pointing to the Nurse.*]

And you must needs bestow her funeral;
The fields are near, and you are gallant grooms:
This done, see that you take no longer days,
But send the midwife presently to me.
The midwife, and the nurse well made away,
Then let the ladies tatle what they please.

Chl. Aaron, I see thou wilt not trust the air
With secrets.

Dem. For this care of Tamora,
Herself, and hers, are highly bound to thee.

[*Exeunt Demetrius and Chiron bearing
off the Nurse.*]

A. Now to the Goths, as swift as swallow flies;
There to dispose this treasure in mine arms,
And secretly to greet the empress' friends.—
Come on, you thick-lipp'd slave, I'll bear you
For it is you that puts us to our shifts: [hence;
I'll make you feed on berries, and on roots,
And feed on curds and whey, and suck the goat,
And cabin in a cave; and bring you up
To be a warrior, and command a camp. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—A PUBLIC PLACE.

*Enter Titus, bearing Arrows, with Letters at
the ends of them; with him Marcus, young
Lucius, and other Gentlemen, with Bows.*

Tit. Come, Marous, come;—Kinsmen, this is
the way:—

Sir, boy, now let me see your archery; [straight:
Look ye draw home enough, and 'tis there

1 Contrive.

Terras Astrœa relinquit: [fled.
Be you remembered, Marcus, she's gone, she's
Sir, take you to your tools. You, cousins, shall
Go sound the ocean, and cast your nets;

Happily you may find her in the sea;
Yet there's as little justice as at land:—
No; Publius and Sempronius, you must do it;
'Tis you must dig with mattock and with spade,
And pierce the inmost centre of the earth:
Then, when you come to Pluto's region,
I pray you, deliver him this petition:
Tell him, it is for justice, and for aid:

And that it comes from old Andronicus,
Shaken with sorrows in ungrateful Rome.—
Ah, Rome!—Well, well; I made thee miserable,
What time I threw the people's suffrages
On him that thus doth tyrannize o'er me.—
Go, get you gone; and pray be careful all,
And leave you not a man of war unsearch'd;
This wicked emperor may have shipp'd her hence,
And, kinsman, then we may go pipe for justice.

Marc. O, Publius, is this not a heavy case,
To see thy noble uncle thus distract?

Pub. Therefore, my lord, it highly us concerns,
By day and night to attend him carefully;
And feed his humour kindly as we may,
Till time begets some careful remedy.

Marc. Kinsmen, his sorrows are past remedy.
Join with the Goths; and with revengful wail
Take wreak on Rome for this ingratitude,
And vengeance on the traitor Saturnine.

Tit. Publius, how now? how now, my mas-
ters? What

Have you met with her? [word,

Pub. No, my good lord, but Plutus sends you
If you will have Revenge from hell, you shall!
Marry, for Justice, she is so employ'd, [else,
He thinks, with Jove in heaven, or somewhere
So that perforce you must needs stay a time.

Tit. He doth me wrong, to feed me with delays.
I'll dive into the burning lake below,
And pull her out of Acheron by the heels.—

Marcus, we are but shrubs, no cedars we;
No big-bon'd men, fram'd of the Cyclop's size:
But metal, Marcus, steel to the very back;
Yet wrung with wrongs, more than our backs
can bear:

And sith¹ there is no justice in earth nor hell,
We will solicit heaven; and move the gods,
To send down justice for to wreak our wrongs.
Come, to this gear. You are a good archer, Mar-
cus. [*He gives them the Arrows.*]

Ad Jovem, that's for you:—Here, *ad Apollinem*:—
Ad Martem, that's for myself:—

Here, boy, to Pallas:—Here, to Mercury:
To Saturn, Caius, not to Saturnine.—
You were as good to shoot against the wind.—
To it, boy. Marcus, loose when I bid;
O' my word I have written to effect;
There's not a god left unsolicited.

Marc. Kinsmen, shoot all your shafts into the
We will afflict the emperor in his pride. [court:
Tit. Now, masters, draw. [*They shoot.*] O, well
said, Lucius! good boy.

Marc. My lord, I aim a mile beyond the moon;
Your letter is with Jupiter by this. [joy,

Tit. Why, there it goes: Jove give your lordship

1 Since.

Enter a Clown, with a Basket and Two Pigeons.

New, news from heaven! Marcus, the post is come.

Sirrah, what tidings? have you any letters?

Shall I have justice? what says Jupiter?

Clo. He! the gibbet-maker? he says, that he hath taken them down again, for the man must not be hanged till the next week.

Tit. But what says Jupiter, I ask thee?

Clo. Alas, sir, I know not Jupiter; I never drank with him in all my life.

Tit. Why, villain, art not thou the carrier?

Clo. Ay, of my pigeons, sir; nothing else.

Tit. Why, didst thou not come from heaven?

Clo. From heaven? alas, sir, I never came there. Heaven forbid, I should be so bold to press to heaven in my young days. Why, I am going with my pigeons to the tribunal plebs, to take up a matter of brawl betwixt my uncle and one of the imperial's men.

Marc. Why, sir, that is as fit as can be, to serve for your oration; and let him deliver the pigeons to the emperor from you.

Tit. Tell me, can you deliver an oration to the emperor with a grace?

Clo. Nay, truly, sir, I could never say grace in all my life.

Tit. Sirrah, come hither, make no more ado, But give your pigeons to the emperor:

By me, thou shalt have justice at his hands. Hold, hold;—mean while, here's money for thy

Give me a pen and ink.—[*charges.*]

Sirrah, can you with a grace deliver a supplica-

Clo. Ay, sir. [*tion?*]

Tit. Then here is a supplication for you. And when you come to him, at the first approach,

you must kneel; then kiss his foot; then deliver up your pigeons; and then look for your reward. I'll be at hand, sir: see you do it bravely.

Clo. I warrant you, sir, let me alone.

Tit. Sirrah, hast thou a knife? Come, let me see it.

Here, Marcus, fold it in the oration; For thou hast made it like an humble suppliant:

And when thou hast given it to the emperor, Knock at my door, and tell me what he says.

Clo. Sir; I will.

Tit. Come, Marcus, let's go:—Publius, follow me. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.—BEFORE THE PALACE.

Enter Saturninus, Tamora, Chiron, Demetrius, Lords, and others; Saturninus with the Arrows in his Hand, that Titus shot.

Sat. Why, lords, what wrongs are these? Was ever seen

An emperor of Rome thus overborne, Troubled, confronted thus; and, for the extent

Of equal justice us'd in such contempt? My lords, you know, as do the mighty gods,

However these disturbers of our peace Buzin the people's ears, there nought hath pass'd,

But even with law, against the wilful sons Of old Andronicus. And what an if

His sorrows have so o'erwhelm'd his wits, Shall we be thus afflicted in his wrecks,

1 Equal.

His fits, his frenzy, and his bitterness?

And now he writes to heaven for his redress:

See, here's to Jove, and this to Mercury;

This to Apollo; this to the god of war:

Sweet scrolls to fly about the streets of Rome!

What's this, but libelling against the senate,

And blazoning our injustice every where?

A goodly humour, is it not, my lords?

As who would say, in Rome no justice were.

But, if I live, his feigned ecstasies

Shall be no shelter to these outrages:

But he and his shall know, that justice lives

In Saturninus' health; whom, if she sleep,

He'll so awake, as she in fury shall

Cut off the proud'st conspirator that lives.

Tam. My gracious lord, my lovely Saturnine,

Lord of my life, commander of my thoughts,

Calm thee, and bear the faults of Titus' age,

The effects of sorrow for his valiant sons,

Whose loss hath pierc'd him deep, and scarr'd his

And rather comfort his distressed plight; [heart;

Than prosecute the meanest, or the best,

For these contempts. [*Aside.*] Why, thus it shall

High-witted Tamora to gloze! with all: [become

But, Titus, I have touch'd thee to the quick,

Thy life-blood out: If Aaron now be wise,

Then all is safe, the anchor's in the port.—

Enter Clown.

How now, good fellow? wouldst thou speak with us? [imperial.

Clo. Yes, forsooth, an your mistership be

T. Empress I am, but yonder sits the emperor.

Clo. 'Tis he. Saint Stephen, give you good

den:—I have brought you a letter, and a couple

of pigeons here. [*Saturninus reads the Letter.*]

S. Go, take him away, and hang him presently.

Clo. How much money must I have?

Tam. Come, sirrah, you must be hang'd.

Clo. Hang'd! then I have brought up a neck

to a fair end. [*Exit guarded.*]

Sat. Dispiteful and intolerable wrongs!

Shall I endure this monstrous villainy?

I know from whence this same device proceeds:

May this be borne?—as if his traitorous sons,

That died by law for murder of our brother,

Have by my means been butcher'd wrongfully.—

Go, drag the villain hither by the hair;

Nor age, nor honour, shall shape privilege:—

For this proud mock, I'll be thy slaughter-man;

Sly frantick wretch, that help'st to make me

great,

In hope thyself should govern Rome and me.

Enter Æmilius.

What news with thee, Æmilius?

Æmil. Arm, arm, my lords; Rome never had

more cause!

The Goths have gather'd head; and with a power

Of high resolved men, bent to the spoil,

They hither march amain, under conduct

Of Lucius, son to old Andronicus;

Who threatens, in course of this revenge, to do

As much as ever Coriolanus did.

Sat. Is warlike Lucius general of the Goths?

These tidings nip me; and I hang the head

As flowers with frost, or grass beat down with

storms.

1 Flatter.

Ay, now begin our sorrows to approach :
 'Tis he the common people love so much ;
 Myself hath often over-heard them say,
 (When I have walked like a private man,) *That Lucius' banishment was wrongfully,*
 And they have wish'd that Lucius were their
 emperor.

T. Why should you fear? is not your city strong?

Sat. Ay, but the citizens favour Lucius ;
 And will revolt from me, to succour him.

Tam. King, be thy thoughts imperious¹ like
 thy name.

Is the sun dimm'd, that gnats do fly in it?
 The eagle suffers little birds to sing,
 And is not careful what they mean thereby ;
 Knowing that with the shadow of his wings,
 He can at pleasure stint their melody :
 Even so mayst thou the giddy men of Rome.
 Then cheer thy spirit : for know, thou emperor,
 I will enchant the old Andronicus,
 With words more sweet, and yet more dangerous,
 Than baits to fish, or honey stalks to sheep ;
 When as the one is wounded with the bait,
 The other rotted with delicious feed.

Sat. But he will not entreat his son for us.

Tam. If Tamora entreat him, then he will :
 For I can smooth, and fill his aged ear
 With golden promises ; that were his heart
 Almost impregnable, his old ears deaf,
 Yet should both ear and heart obey my tongue—
 Go thou before, be our ambassador. [*To Æmilius.*
 Say, that the emperor requests a parley
 Of warlike Lucius, and appoint the meeting,
 Even at his father's house, the old Andronicus.

Sat. Æmilius, do this message honourably :
 And if he stand on hostage for his safety,
 Bid him demand what pledged will please him best.

Æmil. Your bidding shall I do effectually.
 [*Exit Æmilius.*

Tam. Now will I to that old Andronicus ;
 And temper him with all the art I have,
 To pluck proud Lucius from the warlike Goths,
 And now, sweet emperor, be blithe again,
 And bury all thy fear in my devices.

Sat. Then go successfully, and plead to him.
 [*Exeunt.*

Act Fifth.

SCENE I.—PLAINS NEAR ROME.

*Enter Lucius, and Goths, with Drum and
 Colours.*

L. Approved warriors, and my faithful friends,
 I have received letters from great Rome,
 Which signify what hate they bear their emperor,
 And how desirous of our sight they are.
 Therefore, great lords, be, as your titles witness,
 Imperious, and impatient of your wrongs ;
 And, wherein Rome hath done you any scath,²
 Let him make treble satisfaction.

1 Goth. Brave slip, sprung from the great Andronicus,
 Whose name was once our terror, now our com-
 Whose high exploits, and honourable deeds,
 Ingrateful Rome requites with foul contempt,

¹ Imperial.

² Harm.

Be bold in us : we'll follow where thou lead'st,—
 Like stinging bees in hottest summer's day,
 Led by their master to the flower'd fields,—
 And be aveng'd on curs'd Tamora.

Goths. And, as he saith, so say we all with him.

Luc. I humbly thank him, and I thank you all.
 But who comes here, led by a lusty Goth?

*Enter a Goth, leading Aaron, with his Child in
 his arms.*

2 Goth. Renowned Lucius, from our troops I
 To gaze upon a ruinous monastery ; [stray'd,
 And as I earnestly did fix mine eye
 Upon the wasted building, suddenly
 I heard a child cry underneath a wall :
 I made unto the noise ; when soon I heard
 The crying babe controll'd with this discourse :
*Peace, tawny slave ; half me, and half thy dam !
 Did not thy hue bewray whose brat thou art,
 Had nature lent thee but thy mother's look,
 Villain, thou might'st have been an emperor :
 Peace, villain, peace !—even thus he rates the
 babe,—*

*For I must bear thee to a trusty Goth ;
 Who, when he knows thou art the empress' babe,
 Will hold thee dearly for thy mother's sake.*
 With this, my weapon drawn, I rush'd upon him,
 Surpris'd him suddenly ; and brought him hither,
 To use as you think needful of the man.

Luc. O worthy Goth ! this is the incarnate devil
 That robb'd Andronicus of his good hand :
 This is the pearl that pleas'd your empress' eye ;
 Say, wall-eyed slave, whither wouldst thou convey
 This growing image of thy fiend-like face?
 Why dost not speak? What! deaf? No; not a word?
 A halter, soldiers; hang him on this tree,
 And by his side his fruit of bastardy.

Aar. Touch not the boy, he is of royal blood.

Luc. Too like the sire for ever being good.—
 First, hang the child, that he may see it sprawl ;
 A sight to vex the father's soul withal.
 Get me a ladder. [*A Ladder brought, which
 Aaron is obliged to ascend.*

Aar. Lucius, save the child ;

And bear it from me to the empress.
 If thou do this, I'll show thee wondrous things,
 That highly may advantage thee to hear :
 If thou wilt not, befall what may befall,
 I'll speak no more ; But vengeance slay you all !

Luc. Say on ; and if it please me which thou
 speak'st,

Thy child shall live, and I will see it nourish'd.

A. An if it please thee? why, assure thee, Lucius,
 'Twill vex thy soul to hear what I shall speak ;
 For I must talk of murders, rapes, and massacres,
 Acts of black night, abominable deeds,
 Complots of mischief, treason ; villainies
 Ruthful to hear, yet piteously perform'd :
 And this shall all be buried by my death,
 Unless thou swear to me, my child shall live.

Luc. Tell on thy mind ; I say, thy child shall live.

Aar. Swear, that he shall, and then I will begin.
L. Who should I swear by? thou believ'st no god ;
 That granted, how canst thou believe an oath?

Aar. What if I do not? as, indeed, I do not :
 Yet,—for I know thou art religious,
 And hast a thing within thee, called conscience ;
 With twenty idle tricks and ceremonies:

Which I have seen thee careful to observe,—
Therefore I urge thy oath:—For that, I know
An idiot holds his bauble for a god,
And keeps the oath, which by that god he swears:
To that I'll urge him:—Therefore, thou shalt vow
By that same god, what god soe'er it be,
That thou ador'st and hast in reverence,—
To save my boy, to nourish, and bring him up;
Or else I will discover nought to thee.

Luc. Even by my god, I swear to thee, I will.

Aar. First, know thou, I'm his father by the empress.

Luc. O most insatiate, luxurious woman!

A. Tut, Lucius! this was but a deed of charity,
To that which thou shalt hear of me anon,
'Twas her two sons that murder'd Bassianus:
They cut thy sister's tongue, and ravish'd her,
And cut her hands; and trimm'd her as thou saw'st.

Luc. O, detestable villain! call'st thou that

A. Why, she was wash'd, and cut, and trimm'd; and 'twas

Trim sport for them that had the doing of it.

L. O, barbarous, beastly villains, like thyself!

A. Indeed, I was their tutor to instruct them;
That wanton spirit had they from their mother,
As sure a card as ever won the set:

That bloody mind, I think, they learn'd of me,
As true a dog as ever fought at head.—

Well, let my deeds be witness of my worth.
I train'd thy brethren to that guileful hole,
Where the dead corpse of Bassianus lay:

I wrote the letter that thy father found,
And hid the gold within the letter mention'd,
Confederate with the queen, and her two sons:

And what not done, that thou hast cause to rue,
Wherein I had no stroke of mischief in it?

I play'd the cheater for thy father's hand;
And when I had it, drew myself apart,
And almost broke my heart with extreme laugh—

I pry'd me through the crevice of a wall, [fer.
When, for his hand, he had his two sons' heads;

Beheld his tears, and laugh'd so heartily,
That both mine eyes were rainy like to his;

And when I told the empress of this sport,
She swooned almost at my pleasing tale,

And, for my tidings, gave me twenty kisses.

Goth. What! canst thou say all this, and never blush?

Aar. Ay, like a black dog, as the saying is.

L. Art thou not sorry for these heinous deeds?

A. Ay, that I had not done a thousand more.

Even now I curse the day, (and yet, I think,
Few come within the compass of my curse,) *[fer.*

Wherein I did not some notorious ill:
As kill a man, or else devise his death;

Accuse some innocent, and forswear myself:
Set deadly enmity between two friends;

Make poor men's cattle break their necks;
Set fire on barns and hay-stacks in the night,

And bid the owners quench them with their tears.
Oft have I digg'd up dead men from their graves,

And set them upright at their dear friends' doors,
Even when their sorrows almost were forgot;

And on their skins, as on the bark of trees,
Have with my knife carved in Roman letters,

Let not your sorrow die, though I am dead.
Tut, I have done a thousand dreadful things,

As willingly as one would kill a fly:

And nothing grieves me heartily indeed,
But that I cannot do ten thousand more.

Luc. Bring down the devil; for he must not die
So sweet a death, as hanging presently.

Aar. If there be devils, would I were a devil,
To live and burn in everlasting fire;

So I might have your company in hell,
But to torment you with my bitter tongue!

Luc. Sirs, stop his mouth, and let him speak
no more.

Enter a Goth.

Goth. My lord, there is a messenger from Rome,
Desires to be admitted to your presence.

Luc. Let him come near.—

Enter Æmilius.

Welcome, Æmilius, what's the news from Rome?

Æ. Lord Lucius, and you princes of the Goths,
The Roman emperor greets you all by me:

And, for he understands you are in arms,
He craves a parley at your father's house,

Willing you to demand your hostages,
And they shall be immediately deliver'd.

1 Goth. What says our general?

Luc. Æmilius, let the emperor give his pledges
Unto my father and my uncle Marcus,

And we will come.—March away. *[Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—ROME. BEFORE TITUS' HOUSE.

Enter Tamora, Chiron, & Demetrius, disguised.

Tam. Thus, in this strange and sad habiliment,
I will encounter with Andronicus;

And say, I am Revenge, sent from below,
To join with him, and right his heinous wrongs.

Knock at his study, where, they say, he keeps,
To ruminate strange plots of dire revenge;

Tell him, Revenge is come to join with him,
And work confusion on his enemies. *[They knock.*

Enter Titus above.

Tit. Who doth molest my contemplation?
Is it your trick, to make me ope the door;

That so my sad decrees may fly away,
And all my study be to no effect?

You are deceiv'd; for what I mean to do,
See here, in bloody lines I have set down;

And what is written shall be executed.

Tam. Titus, I am come to talk with thee.

Tit. No; not a word; How can I grace my talk,
Wanting a hand to give it action?

Thou hast the odds of me, therefore no more.

Tam. If thou didst know me, thou wouldst
talk with me.

Tit. I am not mad; I know thee well enough:
Witness this wretched stump, these crimson lines;

Witness these trenches, made by grief and care;
Witness the tiring day, and heavy night;

Witness all sorrow, that I know thee well
For our proud empress, mighty Tamora:

Is not thy coming for my other hand?

Tam. Know thou, sad man, I am not Tamora;
She is thy enemy, and I thy friend:

I am Revenge; sent from the infernal kingdom,
To ease the gnawing vulture of thy mind,
By working wreakful vengeance on thy foes.
Come down, and welcome me to this world's light;

Confer with me of murder and of death :
There's not a hollow cave, or lurking-place,
No vast obscurity, or misty vale,
Where bloody murder, or detested rape,
Can couch for fear, but I will find them out;
And in their ears tell them my dreadful name,
Revenge, which makes the foul offender quake.

T. Art thou Revenge? and are thou sent to me,
To be a torment to mine enemies? [*me.*]

Tam. I am; therefore come down, and welcome

Tit. Do me some service, ere I come to thee.
Lo, by thy side where Rape and Murder stand;
Now give some 'surance that thou art Revenge,
Stab them, or tear them on thy chariot wheels;
And then I'll come, and be thy waggoner,
And whirl along with thee about the globes.
Provide thee proper palfries, black as jet,
To hale thy vengeful waggon swift away,
And find out murderers in their guilty caves:
And, when thy car is loaden with their heads,
I will dismount, and by the waggon wheel
Trot, like a servile footman all day long;
Even from Hyperion's rising in the east,
Until his very downfall in the sea.
And day by day I'll do this heavy task,
So thou destroy Rapine and Murder there.

Tam. These are my ministers, and come with me. [*call'd*]

Tit. Are they thy ministers? what are they

Tam. Rapine and Murder; therefore called so,
'Cause they take vengeance on such kind of men.

Tit. Good heaven, how like the empress' sons
they are!

And you, the empress! But we worldly men
Have miserable, mad, mistaking eyes.
O sweet Revenge, now do I come to thee:
And, if one arm's embracement will content thee,
I will embrace thee in it by and by.

[*Exit Titus, from above.*]

Tam. This closing with him fits his lunacy:
Whate'er I forge, to feed his brain-sick fits,
Do you uphold and maintain in your speeches,
For now he firmly takes me for Revenge:
And, being credulous in this mad thought,
I'll make him send for Lucius, his son;
And, whilst I at a banquet hold him sure,
I'll find some cunning practice out of hand,
To scatter and disperse the giddy Goths,
Or at the least, make them his enemies.
See, here he comes, and I must ply my theme.

[*Enter Titus.*]

Tit. Long have I been forlorn, and all for thee:
Welcome, dread fury, to my woful house;—
Rapine, and Murder, you are welcome too;
How like the empress and her sons you are!
Well are you fitted, had you but a Moor:—
Could not all hell afford you such a devil:—
For, well I wot, the empress never wags,
But in her company there is a Moor;
And would you represent our queen aright,
It were convenient you had such a devil:—
But welcome, as you are. What shall we do?

Tam. What wouldst thou have us do, Andronicus?

Dem. Show me a murderer, I'll deal with him.

Chi. Show me a villain, that hath done a rape,
And I am sent to be reveng'd on him.

Tam. Show me a thousand, that have done the
And I will be revenged on them all. [*wrong*]

Tit. Look round about the wicked streets o'
Rome;

And when thou find'st a man that's like thyself
Good Murder, stab him; he's a murderer.—
Go thou with him; and when it is thy hap,
To find another that is like to thee,
Good Rapine, stab him; he is a ravisher.—
Go thou with them; and in the emperor's court
There is a queen, attended by a Moor;
Well mayst thou know her by thy own proper
For up and down she doth resemble thee; [*tion*]
I pray thee, do on them some violent death,
They have been violent to me and mine.

Tam. Well hast thou lesson'd us; this shall we
But would it please thee, good Andronicus, [do.
To send for Lucius, thy thrice valiant son,
Who leads towards Rome a band of warlike
Goths,

And bid him come and banquet at thy house:
When he is here, even at thy solemn feast,
I will bring in the empress and her sons,
The emperor himself, and all thy foes;
And at thy mercy shall they stoop and kneel,
And on them shalt thou ease thy angry heart.
What says Andronicus to this device?

Tit. Marcus, my brother!—'tis sad Titus calls.

[*Enter Marcus.*]

Go, gentle Marcus, to thy nephew Lucius;
Thou shalt inquire him out among the Goths:
Bid him repair to me, and bring with him
Some of the chiefest princes of the Goths;
Bid him encamp his soldiers where they are:
Tell him, the emperor and the empress too
Feast at my house; and he shall feast with them.
This do thou for my love; and so let him,
As he regards his aged father's life.

Marc. This will I do, and soon return again.

[*Exit.*]

Tam. Now will I hence about thy business,
And take my ministers along with me.

Tit. Nay, nay, let Rape and Murder stay with
Or else I'll call my brother back again, [*me*];
And cleave to no revenge but Lucius.

Tam. [*To her Sons.*] What say you, boys? will
you abide with him,
Whiles I go tell my lord the emperor,
How I have govern'd our determin'd jest?
Yield to his humour, smooth and speak him fair,
And tarry with him, till I come again.

Tit. [*Aside.*] I know them all, though they
suppose me mad;

And will o'er-reach them in their own devices.
D. Madam, depart at pleasure, leave us here.

Tam. Farewell, Andronicus: Revenge now goes
To lay a complot to betray thy foes. [*Exit Tam.*]

Tit. I know, thou dost; and, sweet Revenge,
farewell.

C. Tell us, old man, how shall we be employ'd?
Tit. Tut, I have work enough for you to do.—
Publius, come hither, Caius, and Valentine?

[*Enter Publius and others.*]

Pub. What's your will?

Tit. Know you these two?

Pub. Th' empress's sons,
I take them, Chiron and Demetrius.

T. Fie, Publius, fie! thou art too much deceiv'd,

The one is Murder, Rape is the other's name:
And therefore bind them, gentle Publius;
Caius and Valentine, lay hands on them:
Oft have you heard me wish for such an hour,
And now I find it: therefore bind them sure;
And stop their mouths if they begin to cry.

[Exit Titus. Publius, &c., lay hold on Chiron and Demetrius.]

C. Villains, forbear: we are the empress' sons.

Pub. And therefore do we what we are commanded.— [word:]

Stop close their mouths, let them not speak a
Is he sure bound? look, that you bind them fast.

Re-enter Titus Andronicus, with Lavinia, she
bearing a Bason, and he a Knife.

Tit. Come, come, Lavinia; look, thy foes
are bound:— [me:]

Sirs, stop their mouths, let them not speak to
But let them hear what fearful words I utter.—
O villains, Chiron and Demetrius!
Here stands the spring whom you have stain'd
with mud;

This goodly summer with your winter mix'd.
You kill'd her husband; and, for that vile fault,
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death:
My hand cut off, and made a merry jest: [dear
Both her sweet hands, her tongue, and that, more
Than hands or tongue, her spotless chastity,
Inhuman traitors, you constrain'd and forc'd.
What would you say, if I should let you speak?
Villains, for shame you could not beg for grace.
Hark, wretches, how I mean to martyr you:
This one hand yet is left to cut your throats;
Whilst that Lavinia 'tween her stumps doth hold
The bason, that receives your guilty blood.

You know, your mother means to feast with me,
And calls herself, Revenge, and thinks me mad,—
Hark, villains; I will grind your bones to dust,
And with your blood and it, I'll make a paste;
And of the paste a coffin¹ I will rear,
And make two pasties of your shameful heads;
And bid that wanton, your unhallow'd dam,
Like to the earth, swallow her own increase.
This is the feast that I have bid her to,
And this the banquet she shall surfeit on;
For worse than Philomel you us'd my daughter,
And worse than Progne I will be reveng'd:
And now prepare your throats,—Lavinia, come,

[He cuts their Throats.]

Receive the blood: and, when that they are dead,
Let me go grind their bones to powder small,
And with this hateful liquor temper it;
And in that paste let their vile heads be bak'd.
Come, come, be every one officious
To make this banquet; which I wish may prove
More stern and bloody than the Centaurs' feast.
So, now bring them in, for I will play the cook,
And see them ready 'gainst their mother comes.

[Exeunt, bearing the dead Bodies.]

SCENE III.—A PAVILION, WITH TABLES, &c.

Enter Lucius, Marcus, and Goths, with Aaron
Prisoner.

L. Uncle Marcus, since 'tis my father's mind,
That I repair to Rome, I am content.

¹ Raised crust of a pie.

1 Goth. And ours, with thine, befall what
fortune will. [Moor,

L. Good uncle, take you in this barbarous
This ravenous tiger, this accursed devil;
Let him receive no sustenance, fetter him,
Till he be brought unto the empress' face,
For testimony of her foul proceedings:
And see the ambush of our friends be strong:
I fear, the emperor means no good to us.

Aar. Some devil whisper curses in mine ear,
And prompt me, that my tongue may utter forth
The venomous malice of my swelling heart!

L. Away, inhuman dog, unhallow'd slave!—
Sirs, help our uncle to convey him in.—

[Exeunt Goths with Aaron. Flourish.
The trumpets show the emperor is at hand.

Enter Saturninus and Tamora, with Tribunes,
Senators, and others.

Sat. What, hath the firmament more suns
than one? [sun?

Luc. What boots it¹ thee, to call thyself a
M. Rome's emperor, and nephew, break the
These quarrels must be quietly debated. [parle;
The feast is ready which the careful Titus
Hath ordain'd to an honourable end,
For peace, for love, for league, and good to Rome:
Please you, therefore, draw nigh, and take your

Sat. Marcus, we will. [places.]

[Hautboys sound. The Company sit down
at Table.]

Enter Titus dressed like a Cook, Lavinia, veiled,
Young Lucius, and others. Titus places the
Dishes on the Table.

Tit. Welcome, my gracious lord; welcome,
dread queen;

Welcome, ye warlike Goths; welcome, Lucius;
And welcome all: although the cheer be poor,
'Twill fill your stomachs; please you eat of it.

Sat. Why art thou thus attir'd, Andronicus?

Tit. Because I would be sure to have all well,
To entertain your highness, and your empress.

Tam. We are beholden to you, good Andronicus. [were.]

Tit. An if your highness knew my heart, you
My lord the emperor, resolve me this;

Was it well done of rash Virginus,
To slay his daughter with his own right hand,
Because she was enforc'd, stain'd, and deflour'd?

Sat. It was, Andronicus.

Tit. Your reason, mighty lord! [shame,

Sat. Because the girl should not survive her
And by her presence still renew his sorrows.

Tit. A reason mighty, strong, and effectual;
A pattern, precedent, and lively warrant,
For me, most wretched, to perform the like:—
Die, die, Lavinia, and thy shame with thee;

[He kills Lavinia.]

And, with thy shame, thy father's sorrow die!

Sat. What hast thou done, unnatural, and
unkind?

Tit. Kill'd her, for whom my tears have made
I am as woful as Virginus was: [me blind.
And have a thousand times more cause than he
To do this outrage;—and it is now done.

Sat. What, was she ravish'd? tell, who did
the deed?

¹ Of what advantage is it?

Tit. Will't please you eat? will't please your highness feed? [thus?]

Tam. Why hast thou slain thine only daughter

Tit. Not I; 'twas Chiron and Demetrius:

They ravish'd her, and cut away her tongue, And they, 'twas they, that did her all this wrong.

Sat. Go, fetch them hither to us presently.

T. Why, there they are both, bak'd in that pie: Whereof their mother daintily hath fed, Eating the flesh that she herself hath bred.

'Tis true, 'tis true; witness my knife's sharp point. [Killing *Tamora*.

Sat. Die, frantick wretch, for this accursed deed. [Killing *Titus*.

Luc. Can the son's eye behold his father bleed? There's need for meed, death for a deadly deed.

[Kills *Saturninus*. A great Tumult. The People in confusion disperse. *Marcus Lucius*, and their Partizans, ascend the Steps before *Titus*' house.

Marc. You sad-fac'd men, people and sons of By uproar sever'd, like a flight of fowl (Rome, Scatter'd by winds and high tempestuous gusts, O, let me teach you how to knit again This scatter'd corn into one mutual sheaf, These broken limbs again into one body.

Sen. Lest Rome herself be bane unto herself; And she, whom mighty kingdoms court'sy to, Like a forlorn and desperate cast-away, Do shameful execution on herself.

But if my frosty signs and chaps of age, Grave witnesses of true experience, Cannot induce you to attend my words,— Speak, Rome's dear friend; [To *Lucius*.] as erst our ancestor,

When with his solemn tongue he did discourse, To love-sick Dido's sad attending ear, The story of that baleful burning night, When subtle Greeks surpris'd king Priam's Troy; Tell us what Sinon hath bewitch'd our ears, Or who hath brought the fatal engine in, That gives our Troy, our Rome, the civil wound. My heart is not compact of flint, nor steel; Nor can I utter all our bitter grief, But floods of tears will drown my oratory, And break my very utterance; even i' the time When it should move you to attend me most, Lending your kind commiseration: Here is a captain, let him tell the tale; [speak. Your hearts will throb and weep to hear him

Luc. Then, noble auditory, be it known to you, That cursed Chiron and Demetrius Were they that murder'd our emperor's brother; And they it were that ravish'd our sister: For their fell faults our brothers were beheaded; Our father's tears despis'd; and basely cozen'd Of that true hand, that fought Rome's quarrel And sent her enemies unto the grave. [out, Lastly, myself unkindly banished,

The gates shut on me, and turn'd weeping out, To beg relief among Rome's enemies; Who drown'd their enmity in my true tears, And op'd their arms to embrace me as a friend; And I am the turn'd-forth, be it known to you, That have preserv'd her welfare in my blood; And from her bosom took the enemy's point, Sheathing the steel in my advent'rous body.

1 Once.

Alas! you know, I am no vaunter, I; My scars can witness, dumb although they are, That my report is just, and full of truth. But, soft; methinks, I do digress too much, Citing my worthless praise: O, pardon me; For when no friends are by, men praise themselves.

M. Now is my turn to speak; behold this child.

[Pointing to the Child in the arms of an Attendant.

Of this was *Tamora* deliver'd; The issue of an irreligious Moor, Chief architect and plotter of these woes: The villain is alive in *Titus*' house, Wretch that he is, to witness this is true. Now judge, what cause had *Titus* to revenge These wrongs, unspeakable, past patience, Or more than any living man could bear. Now you have heard the truth, what say you, Romans?

Have we done aught amiss? Show us wherein, And, from the place where you behold us now, The poor remainder of *Andronici*

Will, hand in hand, all headlong cast us down, And on the ragged stones beat forth our brains, And make a mutual closure of our house.

Speak, Romans, speak; and, if you say, we shall, Lo, hand in hand, *Lucius* and I will fall.

Æ. Come, come, thou reverend man of Rome, And bring our emperor gently in thy hand, *Lucius* our emperor; for well I know,

The common voice do cry, it shall be so.

Rom. [Several speak.] *Lucius*, all hail; Rome's royal emperor!

Lucius; &c., descend.

Marc. [To an Attendant.] Go, go into old *Titus*' sorrowful house;

And either hale that misbelieving Moor, To be adjudg'd some direful slaughtering death, As punishment for his most wicked life.

Rom. [Several speak.] *Lucius*, all hail; Rome's gracious governor!

Luc. Thanks, gentle Romans; May I govern so, To heal Rome's harms, and wipe away her woe! But, gentle people, give me aim awhile,— For nature puts me to a heavy task;—

Stand all aloof:—but, uncle, draw you near, To shed obsequious tears upon this trunk: O take this warm kiss on thy pale cold lips,

[Kisses *Titus*.

These sorrowful drops upon thy blood-stain'd The last true duties of thy noble son! [face,

Marc. Tear for tear, and loving kiss for kiss, Thy brother *Marcus* tenders on thy lips:

O, were the sum of these that I should pay Countless and infinite, yet would I pay them.

Luc. Come hither, boy; come, come, and learn of us [well:

To melt in showers: Thy grandsire lov'd thee Many a time he danc'd thee on his knee, Sung thee asleep, his loving breast thy pillow; Many a matter hath he told to thee, Meet, and agreeing with thine infancy; In that respect then, like a loving child, Shed yet some small drops from thy tender spring, Because kind nature doth require it so: [woe: Friends should associate friends in grief and

1 Bear with me,

Bid him farewell; commit him to the grave;
Do him that kindness, and take leave of him.

Boy. O grandsire, grandsire! even with all
my heart

Would I were dead so you did live again!—
Good heaven, I cannot speak to him for weeping;
My tears will choke me, if I ope my mouth.

Enter Attendants, with Aaron.

1 Rom. Yousad Andronici, have done with woes;
Give sentence on this execrable wretch,
That hath been breeder of these dire events.

L. Set him breast-deep in earth, and famish him.
There let him stand, and rave, and cry for food;

If any one relieves or pities him,
For the offence he dies. This is our doom:

Some stay, to see him fasten'd in the earth.
A. O. why should wrath be mute, and fury dumb?

I am no baby, I, that, with base prayers,

I should repent the evils I have done;
Ten thousand, worse than ever yet I did,
Would I perform, if I might have my will;
If one good deed in all my life I did,

I do repent it from my very soul. [hence,

Luc. Some loving friends convey the emperor

And give him burial in his father's grave:

My father, and Lavinia, shall forthwith

Be closed in our household's monument.

As for that heinous tiger, Tamora,

No funeral rite, nor man in mournful weeds,

No mournful bell shall ring her burial;

But throw her forth to beasts, and birds of prey:

Her life was beast-like, and devoid of pity;

And, being so, shall have like want of pity.

See justice done to Aaron, that vile Moor,

By whom our heavy haps had their beginning:

Then, afterwards, to order well the state;

That like events may ne'er it ruin. [Exeunt.

Pericles, Prince of Tyre.

Persons Represented.

ANTIOCHUS, *King of Antioch.*

PERICLES, *Prince of Tyre.*

HELICANUS, } *two Lords of Tyre.*

ESCANES,

SIMONIDES, *King of Pentapolis.*

CLEON, *Governor of Tharsus.*

LYSIMACHUS, *Governor of Mitylene.*

CERIMON, *a Lord of Ephesus.*

THALIARD, *a Lord of Antioch.*

PHILEMON, *Servant to Cerimon.*

LEONINE, *Servant to Dionyza.*

Marshal.

BOULT.

GOWER, *as Chorus.*

The Daughter of Antiochus.

DIONYZA, *Wife to Cleon.*

THAISA, *Daughter to Simonides.*

MARINA, *Daughter to Pericles and Thaisa.*

LYCHORIDA, *Nurse to Marina.*

DIANA.

*Lords, Ladies, Knights, Gentlemen, Sailors,
Pirates, Fishermen, and Messengers, &c.*

SCENE.—*Dispersedly in various Countries.*

Act First.

Enter Gower.

Before the Palace of Antioch.

To sing a song of old was sung,
From ashes ancient Gower is come;
Assuming man's infirmities,
To glad your ear, and please your eyes.

If hath been sung at festivals,

On ember-eves, and holy ales;

And lords and ladies of their lives

Have read it for restoratives:

The purpose is to make men glorious;

Et bonum quo antiquius eo melius.

If you, born in these latter times,

When wit's more ripe, accept my rhymes,

And that to hear an old man sing,

May to your wishes pleasure bring,

I life would wish, and that I might

Waste it for you, like taper-light.—

This city then, Antiochus the Great
Built up this city for his chiefest seat;
The fairest in all Syria;

(I tell you what mine authors say:)

This king unto him took a pheere,¹

Who died and left a female heir,

So buxom, blithe, and full of face,

As heaven had lent her all his grace:

With whom the father liking took,

And her to incest did provoke:

Bad father! to entice his own

To evil, should be done by none.

By custom, what they did begin,

Was, with long use, account no sin.

The beauty of this sinful dame

Made many princes thither frame,

Which, to prevent, he made a law

(To keep her still, and men in awe),

That whoso ask'd her for his wife,

His riddle told not, lost his life:

¹ Mate.

Hel. How dare the plants look up to heaven,
from whence

They have their nourishment?

Per. Thou know'st I have power
To take thy life.

Hel. [*Kneeling.*] I have ground the axe myself;
Do you but strike the blow.

Per. Rise, pr'ythee rise—
Sit down, sit down—thou art no flatterer:
I thank thee for it—and high heaven forbid,
That kings should let their ears hear their faults
Fit counsellor, and servant for a prince, [*hid*!
Who by thy wisdom mak'st a prince thy servant,
What wouldst thou have me do?

Hel. With patience bear
Such griefs as you do lay upon yourself.

Per. Thou speak'st like a physician, Helicanus,
Who minister'st a potion unto me,
That thou wouldst tremble to receive thyself.
Attend me then—I went to Antioch,
Where, as thou know'st, against the face of death,
I sought the purchase of a glorious beauty,
From whence an issue I might propagate,
Bring arms to princes, and to subjects joys.
Her face was to mine eye beyond all wonder;
The rest (hark in thine ear,) as black as incest;
Which by my knowledge found, the sinful father
Seem'd not to strike, but smooth—but thou
know'st this,

'Tis time to fear when tyrants seem to kiss.
Which fear so grew in me, I hither fled,
Under the covering of a careful night,
Whose seem'd my good protector—and being here,
Bethought me what was past, what might suc-
ceed.

I knew him tyrannous—and tyrants' fears
Decrease not, but grow faster than their years:
And should he doubt it (as no doubt he doth,)
That I should open to the listening air,
How many worthy princes' bloods were shed,
To keep his bed of blackness unlaid ope,—
To lop that doubt, he'll fill this land with arms,
And make pretence of wrong that I have done
him;

When all, for mine, if I may call't offence,
Must feel war's blow, who spares not innocence:
Which love to all (of which thyself art one,
Who now reprov'st me for it)——

Hel. Alas, sir!

Per. Drew sleep out of mine eyes, blood from
my cheeks,

Musings into my mind, a thousand doubts
How I might stop this tempest, ere it came;
And finding little comfort to relieve them,
I thought it princely charity to grieve them.

Hel. Well, my lord, since you have given me
leave to speak,

Freely I'll speak. Antiochus you fear,
And justly too, I think; you fear the tyrant,
Who, either by public war, or private treason,
Will take away your life.

Therefore, my lord, go travel for a while,
Till that his rage and anger be forgot,
Or Destinies do cut his thread of life.
Your rule direct to any—if to me,
Day serves not light more faithful than I'll be.

Per. I do not doubt thy faith;
But should he wrong my liberties in absence—

Hel. We'll mingle bloods together in the earth,
From whence we had our being and our birth.

Per. Tyre, I now look from thee then, and
to Tharsus

Intend my travel, where I'll hear from thee:

And by whose letters I'll dispose myself.

The care I had, and have of subjects' good,
On thee I lay, whose wisdom's strength can
bear it.

I'll take thy word for faith, not ask thine oath;
Whose shuns not to break one, will sure crack both:
But in our orbs we'll live so round and safe,
That time of both this truth shall ne'er convince,
Thou show'st a subject's shine, I a true prince.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

TYRE. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE PALACE.

Enter Thaliard.

Thal. So, this is Tyre, and this is the court.
Here must I kill king Pericles—and if I do not,
I am sure to be hanged at home: 'tis dangerous.
—Well, I perceive he was a wise fellow, and had
good discretion, that being bid to ask what he
would of the king, desired he might know none
of his secrets. Now do I see he had some reason
for it—for if a king bid a man be a villain, he is
bound by the indenture of his oath to be one.—
Hush, here come the lords of Tyre.

Enter Helicanus, Escanes, and other Lords.

Hel. You shall not need, my fellow peers of
Tyre,

Further to question of your king's departure.
His seal'd commission left in trust with me,
Doth speak sufficiently, he's gone to travel.

Thal. [*Aside.*] How! the king gone!

Hel. If further yet you will be satisfied,
Why, as it were unlicens'd of your loves,
He would depart, I'll give some light unto you.
Being at Antioch——

Thal. [*Aside.*] What from Antioch?

H. Royal Antiochus (on what cause I know
not,)

Took some displeasure at him—at least he
judg'd so:

And doubting lest that he had err'd or sinn'd,
To show his sorrow would correct himself—
So puts himself unto the shipmen's toil,
With whom each minute threatens life or death.

Thal. [*Aside.*] Well, I perceive

I shall not be hang'd now, although I would—
But since he's gone, the king it sure must
please,

He 'scap'd the land, to perish on the seas.—
But I'll present me. Peace to the lords of Tyre!

H. Lord Thaliard from Antiochus is welcome.

Thal. From him I come

With message unto princely Pericles;
But, since my landing, as I have understood
Your lord has took himself to unknown travels,
My message must return from whence it came.

Hel. We have no reason to desire it, since
Commended to our master, not to us!
Yet, ere you shall depart, this we desire,—
As friends to Antioch, we may feast in Tyre.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

THARSUS. A ROOM IN THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE.

Enter Cleon, Dionyza, and Attendants.

Cle. My Dionyza, shall we rest us here,
And by relating tales of others' griefs,
See if 'twill teach us to forget our own?

Dio. That were to blow at fire, in hope to
quench it:

For who digs hills because they do aspire,
Throws down one mountain to cast up a higher.
O my distressed lord, even such our griefs;
Here they're but felt, and seen with mistful eyes,
But like to groves, being topp'd, they higher rise.

Cle. O Dionyza,
Who wanteth food, and will not say he wants it,
Or can conceal his hunger, till he famish?
Our tongues and sorrows do sound deep our woes
Into the air—our eyes do weep, till lungs
Fetch breath, that may proclaim them louder;
that,

If the gods slumber, while their creatures want,
They may awake their helps to comfort them.
I'll then discourse our woes, felt several years,
And wanting breath to speak, help me with tears.

Dio. I'll do my best, sir.

Cle. This Tharsus, o'er which I have govern-
A city on whom plenty held full hand [ment,
(For riches strew'd herself even in the streets);
Whose towers bore heads so high, they kiss'd
the clouds,

And strangers ne'er beheld, but wonder'd at:
Whose men and dames so jetted¹ and adorn'd,
Like one another's glass to trim them by:
Their tables were stor'd full, to glad the sight,
And not so much to feed on, as delight:
All poverty was scorn'd, and pride so great,
The name of help grew odious to repeat.

Dio. O, 'tis too true. [change,
Cle. But see what heaven can do! By this our
These mouths, whom but of late, earth, sea,
and air,

Were all too little to content and please,
Although they gave their creatures in abun-
As houses are defiled for want of use, [dance,
They are now starv'd for want of exercise:
Those palates, who not yet two summers younger,
Must have inventions to delight the taste,
Would now be glad of bread, and beg for it;
Those mothers who, to nouse up their babes,
Thought nought too curious, are ready now,
To eat those little darlings whom they lov'd,
So sharp are hunger's teeth, that man and wife
Draw lots who first shall die to lengthen life;
Here stands a lord, and there a lady weeping:
Here many sink, yet those which see them fall,
Have scarce strength left to give them burial.
Is not this true?

Dio. Our cheeks and hollow eyes do witness it.

Cle. O, let those cities, that of Plenty's cup
And her prosperities so largely taste,
With their superfluous riots, hear these tears!
The misery of Tharsus may be theirs.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. Where's the lord governor?

Cle. Here.

1 Strutting.

Speak out thy sorrows which thou bring'st, in
For comfort is too far for us to expect. [haste,
Lord. We have descried, upon our neighbour-
ing shore,

A portly sail of ships make hitherward.

Cle. I thought as much.

One sorrow never comes, but brings an heir,
That may succeed as his inheritor;
And so in ours: some neighbouring nation,
Taking advantage of our misery, [power,
Have stuff'd these hollow vessels with their
To beat us down, the which are down already;
And make a conquest of unhappy me,
Whereas no glory's got to overcome.

Lord. That's the least fear; for by the sem-
blance

Of their white flags display'd, they bring us peace,
And come to us as favourers, not as foes.

Cle. Thou speak'st like him's untutor'd to
repeat,

Who makes the fairest show means most deceit.
But bring they what they will, what need we
fear? [there.

The ground's the low'st, and we are half way
Go tell their general, we attend him here,
To know for what he comes, and whence he comes,
And what he craves.

Lord. I go, my lord. [Exit.

Cle. Welcome is peace, if he on peace consist;
If wars, we are unable to resist.

Enter Pericles, with Attendants.

Per. Lord governor, for so we hear you are,
Let not our ships, and number of our men,
Be, like a beacon fir'd, to amaze your eyes.
We have heard your miseries as far as Tyre,
And see the desolation of your streets!
Nor come we to add sorrow to your tears,
But to relieve them of their heavy load;
And these our ships you happily may think
Are, like the Trojan horse, war-stuff'd within,
With bloody views, expecting overthrow,
Are stor'd with corn, to make your needy bread,
And give them life, who are hunger-starv'd, half-
All. The gods of Greece protect you! [dead.
And we'll pray for you.

Per. Rise, I pray you rise:
We do not look for reverence, but for love;
And harbourage for ourself, our ships, and men.

Cle. The which when any shall not gratify,
Or pay you with unthankfulness in thought,
Be it our wives, our children, or ourselves,
The curse of heaven and men succeed their evils!
Till when (the which, I hope, shall ne'er be seen,)
Your grace is welcome to our town and us.

Per. Which welcome we'll accept; feast here
a while,
Until our stars that frown, lend us a smile.

[Exeunt.

Act Second.

Enter Gower.

Gow. Here have you seen a mighty king
His child, I wis, to incest bring;
A better prince, and benign lord,

Hel. How dare the plants look up to heaven,
from whence

They have their nourishment?

Per. Thou know'st I have power
To take thy life.

Hel. [*Kneeling.*] I have ground the axe myself;
Do you but strike the blow.

Per. Rise, pr'ythee rise—
Sit down, sit down—thou art no flatterer:
I thank thee for it—and high heaven forbid,
That things should let their ears hear their faults
Fit counsellor, and servant for a prince, [hid!
Who by thy wisdom mak'st a prince thy servant,
What wouldst thou have me do?

Hel. With patience bear
Such griefs as you do lay upon yourself.

Per. Thou speak'st like a physician, Helicanus,
Who minister'st a potion unto me,
That thou wouldst tremble to receive thyself.
Attend me then—I went to Antioch,
Where, as thou know'st, against the face of death,
I sought the purchase of a glorious beauty,
From whence an issue I might propagate,
Bring arms to princes, and to subjects joys.
Her face was to mine eye beyond all wonder;
The rest (hark in thine ear,) as black as incest;
Which by my knowledge found, the sinful father
Seem'd not to strike, but smooth—but thou
know'st this,

'Tis time to fear when tyrants seem to kiss.
Which fear so grew in me, I hither fled,
Under the covering of a careful night,
Whose seem'd my good protector—and being here,
Bethought me what was past, what might suc-
ceed.

I knew him tyrannous—and tyrants' fears
Decrease not, but grow faster than their years:
And should he doubt it (as no doubt he doth,)
That I should open to the listening air,
How many worthy princes' bloods were shed,
To keep his bed of blackness unlaid ope,—
To lop that doubt, he'll fill this land with arms,
And make pretence of wrong that I have done
him;

When all, for mine, if I may call't offence,
Must feel war's blow, who spares not innocence:
Which love to all (of which thyself art one,
Who now reprov'st me for it)——

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Musings into my mind, a thousand doubts
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Freely I'll speak. Antiochus you fear,
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Who, either by public war, or private treason,
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Till that his rage and anger be forgot,
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Intend my travel, where I'll hear from thee:
And by whose letters I'll dispose myself.

The care I had, and have of subjects' good,
On thee I lay, whose wisdom's strength can
bear it.

I'll take thy word for faith, not ask thine oath;
Whose shuns not to break one, will sure crack both:
But in our orbs we'll live so round and safe,
That time of both this truth shall ne'er convince,
Thou show'st a subject's shine, I a true prince.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

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Enter Thaliard.

Thal. So, this is Tyre, and this is the court.
Here must I kill king Pericles—and if I do not,
I am sure to be hanged at home: 'tis dangerous.
—Well, I perceive he was a wise fellow, and had
good discretion, that being bid to ask what he
would of the king, desired he might know none
of his secrets. Now do I see he had some reason
for it—for if a king bid a man be a villain, he is
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Further to question of your king's departure.
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Why, as it were unlicens'd of your loves,
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Took some displeasure at him—at least he
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And doubting lest that he had err'd or sinn'd,
To show his sorrow would correct himself—
So puts himself unto the shipmen's toil,
With whom each minute threatens life or death.

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I shall not be hang'd now, although I would—
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With message unto princely Pericles;
But, since my landing, as I have understood
Your lord has took himself to unknown travels,
My message must return from whence it came.

Hel. We have no reason to desire it, since
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Yet, ere you shall depart, this we desire,—
As friends to Antioch, we may feast in Tyre.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

THARSUS. A ROOM IN THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE.

Enter Cleon, Dionyza, and Attendants.

Cle. My Dionyza, shall we rest us here,
And by relating tales of others' griefs,
See if 'twill teach us to forget our own?

Dio. That were to blow at fire, in hope to
quench it:

For who digs hills because they do aspire,
Throws down one mountain to cast up a higher.
O my distressed lord, even such our griefs;
Here they're but felt, and seen with mistful eyes,
But like to groves, being topp'd, they higher rise.

Cle. O Dionyza,
Who wanteth food, and will not say he wants it,
Or can conceal his hunger, till he famish?
Our tongues and sorrows do sound deep our woes
Into the air—our eyes do weep, till lungs
Fetch breath, that may proclaim them louder;
that,

If the gods slumber, while their creatures want,
They may awake their helps to comfort them.
I'll then discourse our woes, felt several years,
And wanting breath to speak, help me with tears.

Dio. I'll do my best, sir.

Cle. This Tharsus, o'er which I have govern-
A city on whom plenty held full hand [ment,
(For riches strew'd herself even in the streets);
Whose towers bore heads so high, they kiss'd
the clouds,

And strangers ne'er beheld, but wonder'd at:
Whose men and dames so jetted¹ and adorn'd,
Like one another's glass to trim them by:
Their tables were stor'd full, to glad the sight,
And not so much to feed on, as delight:
All poverty was scorn'd, and pride so great,
The name of help grew odious to repeat.

Dio. O, 'tis too true. [change,

Cle. But see what heaven can do! By this our
These mouths, whom but of late, earth, sea,
and air,

Were all too little to content and please,
Although they gave their creatures in abun-
As houses are defiled for want of use, [dance,
They are now starv'd for want of exercise:
Those palates, who not yet two summers younger,
Must have inventions to delight the taste,
Would now be glad of bread, and beg for it;
Those mothers who, to nouse up their babes,
Thought nought too curious, are ready now,
To eat those little darlings whom they lov'd,
So sharp are hunger's teeth, that man and wife
Draw lots who first shall die to lengthen life;
Here stands a lord, and there a lady weeping:
Here many sink, yet those which see them fall,
Have scarce strength left to give them burial.
Is not this true?

Dio. Our cheeks and hollow eyes do witness it.

Cle. O, let those cities, that of Plenty's cup
And her prosperities so largely taste,
With their superfluous riots, hear these tears!
The misery of Tharsus may be theirs.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. Where's the lord governor?

Cle. Here.

1 Strutting.

Speak out thy sorrows which thou bring'st, in
For comfort is too far for us to expect. [haste,
Lord. We have descried, upon our neighbour-
ing shore,

A portly sail of ships make hitherward.

Cle. I thought as much.

One sorrow never comes, but brings an heir,
That may succeed as his inheritor;
And so in ours: some neighbouring nation,
Taking advantage of our misery, [power,
Have stuff'd these hollow vessels with their
To beat us down, the which are down already;
And make a conquest of unhappy me,
Whereas no glory's got to overcome.

Lord. That's the least fear; for by the sem-
blance

Of their white flags display'd, they bring us peace,
And come to us as favourers, not as foes.

Cle. Thou speak'st like him's untutor'd to
repeat,
Who makes the fairest show means most deceit.
But bring they what they will, what need we
fear? [there.

The ground's the low'st, and we are half way
Go tell their general, we attend him here,
To know for what he comes, and whence he comes,
And what he craves.

Lord. I go, my lord. [Exit.

Cle. Welcome is peace, if he on peace consist;
If wars, we are unable to resist.

Enter Pericles, with Attendants.

Per. Lord governor, for so we hear you are,
Let not our ships, and number of our men,
Be, like a beacon fir'd, to amaze your eyes.
We have heard your miseries as far as Tyre,
And see the desolation of your streets!
Nor come we to add sorrow to your tears,
But to relieve them of their heavy load;
And these our ships you happily may think
Are, like the Trojan horse, war-stuff'd within,
With bloody views, expecting overthrow,
Are stor'd with corn, to make your needy bread,
And give them life, who are hunger-starv'd, half-
All. The gods of Greece protect you! [dead.
And we'll pray for you.

Per. Rise, I pray you rise:
We do not look for reverence, but for love;
And harbourage for ourself, our ships, and men.

Cle. The which when any shall not gratify,
Or pay you with unthankfulness in thought,
Be it our wives, our children, or ourselves,
The curse of heaven and men succeed their evils!
Till when (the which, I hope, shall ne'er be seen,)
Your grace is welcome to our town and us.

Per. Which welcome we'll accept; feast here
a while,
Until our stars that frown, lend us a smile.

[Exeunt.

Act Second.

Enter Gower.

Gow. Here have you seen a mighty king
His child, I wis, to incest bring;
A better prince, and benign lord,

Prove awful, both in need and word.
 Be quiet then, as men should be,
 Till he hath pass'd necessity.
 I'll show you those in trouble's reign,
 Losing a mite, a mountain gain.
 The good in conversation
 (To whom I give my benison,)
 Is still at Tharsus, where each man
 Thinks all is writ he spoken can:
 And, to remember what he does,
 Gild his statue to make it glorious:
 But tidings to the contrary
 Are brought your eyes: what need speak I?

Dumb Show.

Enter at one door Pericles, talking with Cleon; all the Train with them. Enter at another door, a Gentleman with a Letter to Pericles; Pericles shows the Letter to Cleon; then gives the Messenger a reward, and knights him. Exit Pericles, Cleon, &c., severally.

Gow. Good Helicane, that staid at home
 (Not to eat honey like a drone,
 From others' labours; for though he strive
 To killen bad, keep good alive;
 And, to fulfil his prince's desire,)
 Sends word of all that haps in Tyre:
 How Thaliard came full bent with sin,
 And hid intent, to murder him;
 And that in Tharsus was not best
 Longer for him to make his rest:
 He knowing so put forth to seas,
 Where when men been, there's seldom ease;
 For now the wind begins to blow;
 Thunder above, and deeps below,
 Make such unquiet, that the ship
 Should house him safe, is wreck'd and split:
 And he, good prince, having all lost,
 By waves from coast to coast is toss'd:
 All perishen of man, of pelf,
 Ne aught escapen but himself;
 Till fortune, tir'd with doing bad,
 Threw him ashore, to give him glad;
 And here he comes: what shall be next,—
 Pardon old Gower; this 'longs the text. *[Exit.]*

SCENE I.—PENTAPOLIS.

AN OPEN PLACE BY THE SEA SIDE.

Enter Pericles wet.

Per. Yet cease your ire, ye angry stars of heaven!
 Wind, rain, and thunder, remember, earthly man
 Is but a substance that must yield to you;
 And I, as fits my nature, do obey you;
 Alas, the sea hath cast me on the rocks,
 Wash'd me from shore to shore, and left me
 breath

Nothing to think on, but ensuing death:
 Let it suffice the greatness of your powers,
 To have bereft a prince of all his fortunes;
 And having thrown him from your watery grave,
 Here to have death in peace, is all he'll crave.

Enter Three Fishermen.

1 Fisher. What, ho, Pilche!

2 Fisher. Ho! come, and bring away the nets.

1 Fisher. What, Patch-breech, I say!

3 Fisher. What say you, master?

1 Fisher. Look how thou stirrest now! come away, or I'll fetch thee with a wannon.¹

3 Fisher. Faith, master, I am thinking of the poor men that were cast away before us, even now.

1 Fisher. Alas, poor souls, it grieved my heart to hear what pitiful cries they made to us, to help them, when, well-a-day, we could scarce help ourselves.

3 Fisher. Nay, master, said not I as much, when I saw the porpus, how he bounced and tumbled? they say, they are half fish, half flesh: a plague on them, they ne'er come but I look to be wash'd. Master, I marvel how the fishes live in the sea.

1 Fisher. Why, as men do a-land; the great ones eat up the little ones: I can compare our rich misers to nothing so fitly as to a whale; 'a plays and tumbles, driving the poor fry before him, and at last devours them all at a mouthful. Such whales have I heard on a' the land, who never leave gaping, till they've swallow'd the whole parish, church, steeple, bells, and all.

Per. A pretty moral.

3 Fisher. But, master, if I had been the sexton, I would have been that day in the belfry.

2 Fisher. Why, man?

3 Fisher. Because he should have swallow'd me too: and when I had been in his belly, I would have kept such a jangling of the bells, that he should never have left, till he cast bells, steeple, church, and parish, up again. But if the good king Simonides were of my mind—

Per. Simonides?

3 Fisher. We would purge the land of these drones, that rob the bee of her honey.

Per. How from the finny subject of the sea These fishers tell the infirmities of men; And from their watery empire recollect All that may men approve, or men detect!— Peace be at your labour, honest fishermen.

2 Fisher. Honest! good fellow, what's that? if it be a day fits you, scratch it out of the calendar, and no body will look after it.

P. Nay, see, the sea hath cast upon your coast—

2 Fisher. What a drunken knave was the sea, to cast thee in our way!

Per. A man whom both the waters and the wind In that vast tennis-court, hath made the ball For them to play upon, entreats you pity him; He asks of you, that never us'd to beg.

1 Fisher. No, friend, cannot you beg? here's them in our country of Greece, gets more with begging, than we can do with working.

2 Fisher. Canst thou catch any fishes then?

Per. I never practis'd it.

2 Fisher. Nay, then thou wilt starve sure: for here's nothing to be got nowadays, unless thou canst fish for't.

Per. What I have been, I have forgot to know; But what I am, want teaches me to think on; A man shrunk up with cold: my veins are chill, And have no more of life than may suffice To give my tongue that heat, to ask your help; Which if you shall refuse, when I am dead, For I am a man, pray see me buried.

1 Fisher. Die quoth-a? Now gods forbid! I have a gown here; come, put it on; keep thee

¹ Equivalent to—With a vengeance.

warm. Now, afore me, a handsome fellow! Come, thou shalt go home, and we'll have flesh for holidays, fish for fasting-days, & more o'er puddings and flap-jacks,¹ and thou shalt be welcome.

Per. I thank you, sir.

2 Fisher. Hark you, my friend, you said you could not beg.

Per. I did but crave.

2 Fisher. But crave? Then I'll turn craver and so I shall 'scape whipping. [too,

Per. Why, are all your beggars whipped then?

2 Fisher. O, not all, my friend, not all; for if all your beggars were whipp'd, I would wish no better office, than to be beadle. But, master, I'll go draw up the net.

[*Exeunt two of the Fishermen.*]

Per. How well this honest mirth becomes their labour!

1 Fisher. Hark you, sir! do you know where

Per. Not well. [you are?

1 Fisher. Why, I'll tell you: this is called Pentapolis, and our king, the good Simonides.

P. The good king Simonides, do you call him?

1 Fisher. Ay, sir; and he deserves to be so called, for his peaceable reign, and good government.

P. He is a happy king, since he gains from his subjects the name of good, by his government. How far is his court distant from this shore?

1 Fisher. Marry, sir, half a day's journey; and I'll tell you, he hath a fair daughter, and tomorrow is her birthday; and there are princes and knights come from all parts of the world, to just and tourney for her love.

Per. Were my fortunes equal to my desires, I could wish to make one there.

1 Fisher. O, sir, things must be as they may; and what a man cannot get, he may lawfully deal for. His wife's soul—

Re-enter the two Fishermen, drawing up a net.

2 Fisher. Help, master, help; here's a fish hangs in the net, like a poor man's right in the law; 'twill hardly come out. Ha! bots on't, 'tis come at last, and 'tis turn'd to a rusty armour.

P. An armour, friends! I pray you let me see it. Thanks, fortune, yet, that after all my crosses, Thou giv'st me somewhat to repair myself; And, though it was mine own, part of mine heritage,

Which my dead father did bequeath to me, With this strict charge (even as he left his life,) Keep it, my Pericles, it hath been a shield

'Twixt me and death (and pointed to this brace²;) For that it sav'd me, keep it: in like necessity,

The which the gods protect thee from! it may defend thee.

It kept where I kept, I so dearly lov'd it; Till the rough seas, that spare not any man, Took it in rage, though calm'd, have given it again.

I thank thee for't; my shipwreck's now no ill, Since I have here my father's gift by will.

1 Fisher. What mean you, sir?

P. To beg of you, kind friends, this coat of For it was sometime target to a king; [worth, I know it by this mark. He lov'd me dearly,

¹ Pancakes.

² Arm-armour.

And for his sake, I wish the having of it: And that you'd guide me to your sovereign's Where with't I may appear a gentleman; [court And if that ever my low fortune's better, I'll pay your bounties; till then, rest your debtor.

1 Fisher. Why, wilt thou tourney for the lady?

P. I'll show the virtue I have borne in arms.

1 Fisher. Why, do you take it, and the gods give thee good on't!

2 Fisher. Ay, but hark you, my friend; 'twas we that made up this garment through the rough seams of the waters: there are certain condolences, certain vails. I hope, sir, if you thrive, you'll remember from whence you had it.

Per. Believ't, I will.

Now, by your furtherance, I am cloth'd in steel; And spite of all the rupture of the sea, This jewel holds his biding¹ on my arm; Unto thy value will I mount myself Upon a courser, whose delightful steps Shall make the gazer joy to see him tread.— Only, my friend, I yet am unprovided Of a pair of bases.²

2 Fisher. We'll sure provide: thou shalt have my best gown to make thee a pair; and I'll bring thee to the court myself.

Per. Then honour be but a goal to my will; This day I'll rise, or else add ill to ill. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME. A PUBLIC WAY, OR PLATFORM, LEADING TO THE LISTS. A PAVILION BY THE SIDE OF IT, FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE KING, PRINCESS, LORDS, &c.

Enter Simonides, Thaisa, Lords, & Attendants.

S. Are the knights ready to begin the triumph?

1 Lord. They are, my liege; And stay your coming to present themselves.

Sim. Return them, we are ready; and our daughter,

In honour of whose birth these triumphs are, Sits here, like beauty's child, whom nature gart For men to see, and seeing wonder at.

[*Exit a Lord.*]

Thai. It pleaseth you, my father, to express My commendations great, whose merit's less.

Sim. 'Tis fit it should be so; for princes are A model, which heaven makes like to itself: As jewels lose their glory, if neglected, So princes their renown, if not respected.

'Tis now your honour, daughter, to explain The labour of each knight in his device.

Thai. Which, to preserve mine honour, I'll perform.

Enter a Knight: he passes over the Stage, and his Squire presents his Shield to the Princess.

Sim. Who is the first that doth prefer himself?

Thai. A knight of Sparta, my renowned father: And the device he bears upon his shield Is a black Æthiop, reaching at the sun; The word,³ *Lux tua vita mihi.* [you.

Sim. He loves you well, that holds his life of

[*The second Knight passes.*]

Who is the second, that presents himself?

Thai. A prince of Macedon, my royal father: And the device he bears upon his shield

¹ Place.

² Breeches.

³ The motto.

Sim. And further tell him, we desire to know,
Of whence he is, his name, and parentage.

Thai. The king, my father, sir, has drunk to
Per. I thank him, [you.]

Thai. Wishing it so much blood unto your life.

Per. I thank both him and you, and pledge
him freely.

Thai. And further he desires to know of you,
Of whence you are, your name and parentage.

P. A gentleman of Tyre—(my name, Pericles,
My education being in arts and arms;)—
Who looking for adventures in the world,
Was by the rough seas reft of ships and men,
And, after shipwreck, driven upon this shore.

Thai. He thanks your grace; names himself
A gentleman of Tyre, who only by [Pericles,
Misfortune of the seas has been bereft
Of ships and men, and cast upon this shore.

Sim. Now by the gods, I pity his misfortune,
And will awake him from his melancholy.
Come, gentlemen, we sit too long on trifles,
And waste the time, which looks for other revels.
Even in your armours, as you are address'd,
Will very well become a soldier's dance.

I will not have excuse, with saying, this
Loud musick is too harsh for ladies' heads;
Since they love men in arms. [*The Knights dance.*
So, this was well ask'd, 'twas so well perform'd.
Come, sir;

Here is a lady that wants breathing too:
And I have often heard, you knights of Tyre
Are excellent in making ladies trip:
And that their measures are as excellent.

Per. In those that practise them, they are,
my lord.

Sim. O, that's as much, as you would be denied
[*The Knights and Ladies dance.*

Of your fair courtesy.—Unclasp, unclasp;
Thanks, gentlemen, to all; all have done well;
But you the best. [*To Pericles.*] Pages and
lights, conduct [sir,

These knights unto their several lodgings: Yours,
We have given order to be next our own.

Per. I am at your grace's pleasure.

Sim. Princes, it is too late to talk of love,
For that's the mark I know you level at:
Therefore, each one betake him to his rest;
To-morrow, all for speeding do their best.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

TYRE. A ROOM IN THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE.

Enter Helicanus and Escanes.

Hel. No, no, my Escanes; know this of me,—
Antiochus from incest liv'd not free;
For which, the most high gods not minding longer
To withhold the vengeance that they had in store,
Due to his heinous capital offence,
Even in the height and pride of all his glory,
When he was seated, and his daughter with him,
In a chariot of inestimable value,
A fire from heaven came, and shrivel'd up
Their bodies, even to loathing; for they so stunk,
That all those eyes ador'd them, ere their fall,
Scorn now their hand should give them burial.

Esca. 'Twas very strange.

Hel. And yet but just; for though

This king were great, his greatness was no guard
To bar heaven's shaft; but sin had his reward.

Esca. 'Tis very true.

Enter three Lords.

1 Lord. See, not a man in private conference,
Or council, has respect with him but he,

2 L. It shall no longer grieve without reproof:

3 Lord. And curst be he that will not second it.

1 L. Follow me, then: Lord Helicane, a word.

Hel. With me? and welcome: Happy day,
my lords.

1 L. Know that our griefs are risen to the top,
And now at length they overflow their banks.

Hel. Your griefs, for what? wrong not the
prince you love.

1 L. Wrong not yourself then, noble Helicane,
But if the prince do live, let us salute him,
Or know what ground's made happy by his
breath.

If in the world he live, we'll seek him out;

If in his grave he rest, we'll find him there;

And be resolv'd he lives to govern us,

Or dead, gives cause to mourn his funeral,

And leaves us to our free election.

2 Lord. Whose death's, indeed, the strongest
in our censure:

And knowing this kingdom, if without a head

(Like goodly buildings left without a roof,)

Will soon to ruin fall, your noble self,

That best know'st how to rule, and how to reign,

We thus submit unto,—our sovereign.

All. Live, noble Helicane!

H. Try honour's cause, forbear your suffrages:

If that you love Prince Pericles, forbear.

Take I your wish, I leap into the seas,

Where's hourly trouble for a minute's ease.

A twelvemonth longer, let me then entreat you

To forbear choice if the absence of your king;

If in which time expir'd, he not return,

I shall with aged patience bear your yoke.

But if I cannot win you to this love,

Go search like noblemen, like noble subjects,

And in your search spend your adventurous

Whom if you find, and win unto return, [worth;

You shall like diamonds sit about his crown.

1 L. To wisdom he's a fool that will not yield;

And, since Lord Helicane enjoineth us,

We with our travels will endeavour it.

Hel. Then you love us, we you, and we'll
clasp hands;

When peers thus knit, a kingdom ever stands.

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE V.

PENTAPOLIS. A ROOM IN THE PALACE.

*Enter Simonides, reading a Letter; the Knights
meet him.*

1 Knight. Good morrow to the good Simonides.

Sim. Knights, from my daughter this I let
you know,

That for this twelvemonth, she'll not undertake
A married life.

Her reason to herself is only known,

Which from herself by no means can I get.

2 K. May we not get access to her, my lord?

Sim. 'Faith, by no means; she hath so strictly
tied her

To her chamber, that it is impossible.
One twelve moons more she'll wear Diana's
livery;

This by the eye of Cynthia hath she vow'd,
And on her virgin honour will not break it.

3 *Knight*. Though loath to bid farewell, we
take our leaves. [Exeunt.]

Sim. So

They're well despatch'd; now to my daughter's
letter;

She tells me here, she'll wed the stranger knight,
Or never more to view nor day nor light.

Mistress, 'tis well, your choice agrees with mine;
I like that well:—nay, how absolute she's in't,
Not minding whether I dislike or no!

Well, I commend her choice;

And will no longer have it be delay'd.

Soft, here he comes:—I must dissemble it.

Enter Pericles.

Per. All fortune to the good Simonides!

S. To you as much, sir! I am beholden to you,
For your sweet musick this last night: my ears,
I do protest, were never better fed
With such delightful pleasing harmony.

Per. It is your grace's pleasure to commend;
Not my desert.

Sim. Sir, you are musick's master.

P. The worst of all her scholars, my good lord.

Sim. Let me ask one thing. What do you
think, sir, of

My daughter?

Per. As of a most virtuous princess.

Sim. And she is fair too, is she not?

Per. As a fair day in summer; wondrous fair.

S. My daughter, sir, thinks very well of you;

Ay, so well, sir, that you must be her master,

And she'll your scholar be; therefore look to it.

Per. Unworthy I to be her schoolmaster.

S. She thinks not so; peruse this writing else.

Per. [Aside.] What's here?

A letter, that she loves the knight of Tyre?

'Tis the king's subtilty, to have my life.

O, seek not to entrap, my gracious lord,

A stranger, and distressed gentleman,

That never aim'd so high, to love your daughter.

But bent all offices to honour her.

S. Thou hast bewitch'd my daughter, and thou
A villain. [art]

Per. By the gods, I have not, sir.

Never did thought of mine levy offence;

Nor never did my actions yet commence

A deed might gain her love, or your displeasure.

Sim. Traitor, thou liest.

Per. Traitor!

Sim. Ay, traitor, sir.

Per. Even in his throat (unless it be the king,)

That calls me traitor, I return the lie.

Sim. [Aside.] Now, by the gods, I do applaud
his courage.

Per. My actions are as noble as my thoughts,
That never relish'd of a base descent.

I came unto your court, for honour's cause,

And not to be a rebel to her state;

And he that otherwise accounts of me,

This sword shall prove he's honour's enemy.

Sim. Not—

Here comes my daughter, she can witness it.

Enter Thaisa.

Per. Then, as you are as virtuous as fair,
Resolve your angry father, if my tongue
Did e'er solicit, or my hand subscribe
To any syllable that made love to you?

Thai. Why, sir, say if you had,
Who takes offence at that would make me glad?

Sim. Yea, mistress, are you so peremptory?

[Aside.] I am glad of it with all my heart. I'll
tame you;

I'll bring you in subjection,—

Will you, not having my consent, bestow

Your love and your affections on a stranger?

[Aside.] (Who, for aught I know to the contrary,

Or think, may be as great in blood as I.)

Hear, therefore, mistress; frame your will to
mine,—

And you, sir, hear you.—Either be rul'd by me,

Or I will make you—man and wife.—

Nay, come; your hands and lips must seal it too.—

And being join'd, I'll thus your hopes destroy;—

And for a further grief,—God give you joy!

What, are you both pleas'd?

Thai. Yes, if you love me, sir.

Per. Even as my life, my blood that fosters it.

Sim. What, are you both agreed?

Both. Yes, please your majesty.

Sim. It pleaseth me so well, I'll see you wed.
[Exeunt.]

Act Third.

Enter Gower.

Gow. Now sleep yslaked hath the rout:

No din but snores, the house about,

Made louder by the o'er-fed breast

Of this most pompous marriage feast.

The cat, with eyne¹ of burning coal,

Now couches fore the mouse's hole:

And crickets sing at th' oven's mouth,

As the blither for their drouth.²

Be attent,

And time that is so briefly spent,

With your fine fancies quaintly echo³;

What's dumb in show, I'll plain with speech.

Dumb Show.

Enter Pericles and Simonides at one door, with

Attendants: a Messenger meets them, kneels,

and gives Pericles a Letter. Pericles shows it

to Simonides; the Lords kneel to the former.

Then enter Thaisa with child, and Lychorida.

Simonides shows his Daughter the Letter; she

rejoices: she and Pericles take leave of her Fa-

ther, and depart. Then Simonides, &c. retire.

Gow. By many a dearn⁴ and painful perch,⁵

Of Pericles the careful search

By the four opposing coignes,⁶

Which the world together joins,

Is made, with all due diligence,

That horse, and sail, and high expense,

Can stead the quest. At last from Tyre

(Fame answering the most strong inquire),

To the court of King Simonides

Are letters brought; the tenour these;

1 Eyes.

2 Dryness.

3 Eke out.

4 Dismal.

5 Distance.

6 Corners.

Antiochus and his daughter's dead;
 The men of Tyrus, on the head
 Of Helicanus would set on
 The crown of Tyre, but he will none:
 The mutiny there he hastes t' oppress;
 Says to them, if King Pericles
 Come not home, in twice six moons,
 He, obedient to their dooms,
 Will take the crown. The sum of this,
 Brought hither to Pentapolis,
 Y-ravished the regions round,
 And every one with claps 'gan sound,
Our heir apparent is a king:
Who dream'd, who thought of such a thing?
 Brief, he must hence depart to Tyre:
 His queen, with child, makes her desire
 (Which who shall cross?) along to go
 (Omit we all their dole and woe;)
 Lychorida, her nurse, she takes,
 And so to sea. Their vessel shakes
 On Neptune's billow; half the flood
 Hath their keel cut; but fortune's mood
 Varies again; the grizzled north
 Disgorges such a tempest forth,
 That, as a duck for life that dives,
 So up and down the poor ship drives.
 The lady shrieks, and, well-a-neighbor!
 Doth fall in travail with her fear:
 And what ensues in this fell storm,
 Shall, for itself, itself perform.
 I will relate; action may
 Conveniently the rest convey:
 Which might not what by me is told.
 In your imagination hold
 This stage, the ship, upon whose deck
 The sea-tost prince appears to speak. *[Exit.]*

SCENE I.

Enter Pericles, on a Ship at Sea.

Per. Thou God of this great vast, rebuke these
 surges, [that hast
 Which wash both heaven and hell; and thou,
 Upon the winds command, bind them in brass,
 Having call'd them from the deep! O still thy
 deaf'ning,
 Thy dreadful thunders; gently quench thy
 nimble
 Sulphureous flashes!—O how, Lychorida,
 How does my queen?—Thou storm, thou! veno-
 mously
 Wilt thou spit all thyself?—The seaman's whistle
 Is as a whisper in the ears of death,
 Unheard.—Lychorida!—Lucina, O
 Divinest patroness, and midwife, gentle
 To those that cry by night, convey thy deity
 Aboard our dancing boat; make swift the pangs
 Of my queen's travails!—Now, Lychorida—

Enter Lychorida, with an Infant.

Lyc. Here is a thing
 Too young for such a place, who if it had
 Conceit would die as I am like to do.
 Taken in your arms this piece of your dead queen.
Per. How! how, Lychorida!
Lyc. Patience, good sir; do not assist the storm.
 Here's all that is left living of your queen,—
 A little daughter; for the sake of it,
 Be manly, and take comfort.

Per. O you gods!

Why do you make us love your goodly gifts,
 And snatch them straight away? We, here below,
 Recall not what we give, and therein may
 Vie honour with yourselves.

Lyc. Patience, good sir,
 Even for this charge.

Per. Now, mild may be thy life!
 For a more blust'rous birth had never babe:
 Quiet and gentle thy conditions!
 For thou art the rudest welcom'd to this world.
 That e'er was prince's child. Happy what follows!
 Thou hast as chiding a nativity,
 As fire, air, water, earth, and heaven can make,
 To herald thee from the womb: even at the first,
 Thy loss is more than can thy portage quit,
 With all thou canst find here.—Now the good
 Throw their best eyes upon it! [gods]

Enter two Sailors.

1 Sail. What courage, sir? Heav'n save you.

Per. Courage enough: I do not fear the flaw;
 It hath done to me the worst. Yet, for the love
 Of this poor infant, this fresh-new sea-farer,
 I would, it would be quiet.

1 Sail. Slack the bolins? there; thou wilt not,
 wilt thou? Blow and split thyself.

2 Sail. But sea-room, an the brine and cloudy
 billow kiss the moon, I care not.

1 Sail. Sir, your queen must overboard: the
 sea works high, the wind is loud, and will not
 lie till the ship be cleared of the dead.

Per. That's your superstition.

1 Sail. Pardon us, sir; with us at sea, it still
 hath been observed; and we are strong in cus-
 tom. Therefore briefly yield her; for she must
 overboard straight.

Per. Be it as you think meet.—Most wretched

Lyc. Here she lies, sir. [queen!]

P. A terrible child-bed hast thou had, my dear,
 No light, no fire; the unfriendly elements
 Forgot thee utterly: nor have I time
 To give thee hallow'd to thy grave, but straight
 Must cast thee, scarcely coffin'd, in the ooze;
 Where, for a monument upon thy bones,
 And aye-remaining lamps, the belching whale,
 And humming water must o'erwhelm thy corpse,
 Lying with simple shells. Lychorida,
 Bid Nestor bring me spices, ink, and paper,
 My casket and my jewels; and bid Nicander
 Bring me the satin coffer: lay the babe
 Upon the pillow: hie thee, whiles I say
 A priestly farewell to her: suddenly, woman.

[Exit Lychorida.]

2 Sail. Sir, we have a chest beneath the hatches
 caulk'd and bitumed ready.

Per. I thank thee. Mariner, say what coast is

2 Sail. We are near Tharsus. [this?]

Per. Thither, gentle mariner,
 Alter thy course for Tyre. When canst thou
 reach it?

2 Sail. By break of day if the wind cease.

Per. O make for Tharsus.

There will I visit Cleon, for the babe
 Cannot hold out to Tyrus; there I'll leave it
 At careful nursing. Go thy ways, good mariner:
 I'll bring the body presently. *[Exeunt.]*

1 Blast. 2 Bowlines. 3 Muddy water.

SCENE II.

EPHESUS. A ROOM IN CERIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter Cerimon, a Servant, and some Persons who have been shipwrecked.

Cer. Philemon, ho!

Enter Philemon.

Phil. Doth my lord call?

Cer. Get fire and meat for these poor men; It has been a turbulent and stormy night.

Ser. I have been in many; but such a night as Till now I ne'er endured. [this,

Cer. Your master will be dead ere you return; There's nothing can be minister'd to nature, That can recover him. [To Philemon.] Give this to the 'pothecary, And tell me how it works.

*[Exeunt Philemon, Servant, and those who had been shipwrecked.]**Enter two Gentlemen.*

1 Gent. Good morrow, sir.

2 Gent. Good morrow to your lordship.

Cer. Gentlemen,

Why do you stir so early?

1 Gent. Sir,

Our lodging, standing bleak upon the sea, Shook, as the earth did quake, The very principals did seem to rend, And all to topple; pure surprise and fear Made me to quit the house.

2 Gent. That is the cause we trouble you so 'Tis not our husbandry. [early;

Cer. O, you say well.

1 Gent. But I much marvel that your lordship, having

Rich tire about you, should at these early hours Shake off the golden slumber of repose.

It is most strange, Nature should be so conversant with pain, Being thereto not compell'd.

Cer. I held it ever,

Virtue and cunning were endowments greater Than nobleness and riches; careless heirs May the two latter darken and expend; But immortality attends the former, Making a man a god. 'Tis known, I ever Have studied physick, through which secret art, By turning o'er authorities, I have [Together with my practice] made familiar To me and to my aid, the blest infusions That dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones; And I can speak of the disturbances That nature works, and of her cures; which gives A more content in course of true delight [une Than to be thirsty after tottering honour, Or tie my treasure up in silken bags, To please the fool and death.

2 Gent. Your honour has through Ephesus pour'd forth

Your charity, and hundreds call themselves Your creatures, who by you have been restor'd; And not your knowledge, personal pain, but even Your purse, still open, hath built Lord Cerimon Such strong renown as time shall never—

Enter two Servants with a Chest.

Serv. So; lift there.

Cer. What is that?

Serv. Sir, even now Did the sea toss upon our shore this chest; 'Tis of some wreck.

Cer. Set't down, let's look on it. 2 Gent. 'Tis like a coffin, sir.

Cer. Whate'er it be, 'Tis wondrous heavy. Wrench it open straight; If the sea's stomach be o'ercharg'd with gold, It is a good constraint of fortune, that It belches upon us.

2 Gent. 'Tis so, my lord.

Cer. How close 'tis caulk'd and bitum'd!— Did the sea cast it up?

Serv. I never saw so huge a billow, sir, As toss'd it upon shore.

Cer. Come, wrench it open; Soft, soft!—it smells most sweetly in my sense.

2 Gent. A delicate odour.

Cer. As ever hit my nostril; so,—up with it. O you most potent gods! what's here? a corse!

1 Gent. Most strange!

Cer. Shrouded in cloth of state; balm'd and entreasur'd

With bags of spices full! A passport too! Apollo, perfect me i' the characters!

*[Unfolds a scroll.]**Here I give to understand**[Reads.]**(If e'er this coffin drive a-land,)**I, king Pericles, have lost**This queen, worth all our mundane cost.**Who finds her, give her burying,**She was the daughter of a king:**Besides this treasure for a fee,**The gods requite his charity!*

If thou liv'st, Pericles, thou hast a heart

That even cracks for woe!—This chanc'd to—

2 Gent. Most likely, sir. [night.

Cer. Nay, certainly to-night; For look, how fresh she looks!—They were too rough,

That threw her in the sea. Make fire within; Fetch hither all the boxes in my closet,

Death may usurp on nature many hours,

And yet the fire of life kindle again

The overpressed spirits. I have heard

Of an Egyptian, had nine hours lien dead,

By good appliance was recover'd.

Enter a Servant, with Boxes, Napkins, and Fire.

Well said, well said; the fire and the cloths.— The rough and woful musick that we have,

Cause it sound, 'beseech you. [block!— The vial once more;—How thou stirr'st, thou

The musick there.—I pray you, give her air:— Gentlemen,

This queen will live; nature awakes; a warmth Breathes out of her; she hath not been entranc'd

Above five hours. See, how she 'gins to blow Into life's flower again!

1 Gent. The heavens, sir; Through you, increase our wonder, and set up Your fame for ever.

Cer. She is alive; behold, Her eyelids, cases to those heavenly jewels

Which Pericles hath lost,

Begin to part their fringes of bright gold;

he diamonds of a most praised water
appear, to make the world twice rich. O live,
and make us weep to hear your fate, fair creature,
are as you seem to be! [She moves.

Thais. O dear Diana,
Where am I? Where's my lord? What world
is this?

2 Gent. Is not this strange?

1 Gent. Most rare.

Cer. Hush, gentle neighbours;
and may your hands to the next chamber bear her.
et linen; now this matter must be look'd to,
or her relapse is mortal. Come, come, come;
and Æsculapius guide us!

[Exeunt, carrying Thaisa away.]

SCENE III.

THARSUS. A ROOM IN CLEON'S HOUSE.

Enter Pericles, Cleon, Dionysa, Lychorida, and
Marina.

P. Most honour'd Cleon, I must needs begone;
my twelve months are expir'd, and Tyrus stands
in a litigious peace. You, and your lady,
take from my heart all thankfulness! The gods
take up the rest upon you!

Cle. Your shafts of fortune, though they hurt
you mortally,

yet glance full wand'ringly on us.

Dion. O your sweet queen!
that the strict fates had pleas'd you had brought
her hither,

to have bless'd mine eyes!

Per. We cannot but obey
the powers above us. Could I rage and roar
as doth the sea she lies in, yet the end
must be as 'tis. My babe Marina (whom,
or she was born at sea, I have nam'd so) here
charge your charity withal, and leave her
the infant of your care; beseeching you
to give her princely training, that she may be
fanner'd as she is born.

Cle. Fear not, my lord: but think
our grace, that fed my country with your corn
for which the people's prayers still fall upon
you.)

Just in your child be thought on. If neglect
should therein make me vile, the common body,
by you reliev'd, would force me to my duty:
but if to that my nature need a spur,
the gods revenge it upon me and mine,
to the end of generation!

Per. I believe you;
our honour and your goodness teach me credit,
without your vows. Till she be married, madam,
my bright Diana, whom we honour all,
uncissar'd shall this hair of mine remain,
though I show will in't. So I take my leave.
Good madam, make me blessed in your care
in bringing up my child.

Dion. I have one myself,
who shall not be more dear to my respect,
than yours, my lord.

Per. Madam, my thanks and prayers.

Cle. We'll bring your grace e'en to the edge o'
the shore;

then give you up to the mask'd Neptune, and
the gentlest winds of heaven.

Per. I will embrace
Your offer. Come, dear'st madam.—O, no tears,
Lychorida, no tears:
Look to your little mistress, on whose grace
You may depend hereafter.—Come, my lord.
[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

EPHESUS. A ROOM IN CERIMON'S HOUSE.

Enter Cerimon and Thaisa.

C. Madam, this letter, and some certain jewels,
Lay with you in your coffer; which are now
At your command. Know you the character?

Thais. It is my lord's.
That I was shipp'd at sea, I well remember,
Even on my yearning¹ time; but whether there
Delivered or no, by the holy gods,
I cannot rightly say: But since King Pericles,
My wedded lord, I ne'er shall see again,
A vestal livery will I take me to,
And never more have joy.

Cer. Madam, if this you purpose as you speak,
Diana's temple is not distant far,
Where you may 'bide until your date expire.
Moreover, if you please, a niece of mine
Shall there attend you.

Thais. My recompense is thanks, that's all:
Yet my good will is great, though the gift small.
[Exeunt.]

Act Fourth.

Enter Gower.

Gow. Imagine Pericles arriv'd at Tyre,
Welcom'd and settled to his own desire.
His woful queen leave at Ephesus,
To Dian there a votaress.
Now to Marina bend your mind,
Whom our fast growing scene must find
At Tharsus, and by Cleon train'd
In musick, letters; who hath gain'd
Of education all the grace,
Which makes her both the heart and place
Of general wonder. But alack!
That monster envy, oft the wrack
Of earned praise, Marina's life
Seeks to take off by treason's knife.
And in this kind hath our Cleon
One daughter, and a wench full grown,
Even ripe for marriage; this maid
Hight Philoten: and it is said
For certain in our story, she
Would ever with Marina be:
Be't when she weav'd the sleided² silk
With fingers long, small, white as milk;
Or when she would with sharp needl³ wound
The cambrick, which she made more sound
By hurting it; or when to the lute
She sung, and made the night-bird mute,
That still records with moan; or when
She would with rich and constant pen
Vail⁴ to her mistress Dian; still
This Philoten contends in skill

1 Near delivery.

2 Untwisted.

3 Needle.

4 Do homage.

With absolute Marina; so
 With the dove of Paphos might the crow
 Vie feathers white. Marina gets
 All praises, which are paid as debts,
 And not as given. This so darks
 In Philoten all graceful marks,
 That Cleon's wife, with envy rare,
 A present murder does prepare
 For good Marina, that her daughter
 Might stand peerless by this slaughter.
 The sooner her vile thoughts to stead,
 Lychorida, our nurse, is dead;
 And cursed Dionyza hath
 The pregnant instrument of wrath
 Prest for this blow. The unborn event
 I do commend to your content:
 Only I carry winged time
 Post on the lame feet of my rhyme;
 Which never could I so convey,
 Unless your thoughts went on my way.—
 Dionyza does appear,
 With Leonine, a murderer. [Exit.

SCENE I.—THARSUS.

AN OPEN PLACE NEAR THE SEA-SHORE.

Enter Dionyza and Leonine.

Dion. Thy oath remember; thou hast sworn to do it;

'Tis but a blow, which never shall be known.
 Thou canst not do a thing in the world so soon,
 To yield thee so much profit. Let not conscience,
 Which is but cold, inflaming love, thy bosom
 Inflamm too nicely; nor let pity, which
 Even women have cast off, melt thee, but be
 A soldier to thy purpose.

Leon. I'll do't; but yet she is a goodly creature.

Dion. The fitter then the gods should have her. Here

Weeping she comes for her old nurse's death.
 Thou art resolv'd?

Leon. I am resolv'd.

Enter Marina, with a Basket of Flowers.

Mar. No, no, I will rob Tellus of her weed,
 To strew thy green with flowers: the yellows,
 The purple violets, and marigolds, [blues,
 Shall, as a chaplet, hang upon thy grave,
 While summer days do last. Ah me! poor maid,
 Born in a tempest, when my mother died,
 This world to me is like a lasting storm,
 Whirring me from my friends.

D. How now, Marina! why do you keep alone?
 How chance my daughter is not with you? Do not
 Consume your blood with sorrowing: you have
 A nurse of me. O how your favour's chang'd
 With this unprofitable woe! Come, come;
 Give me your wreath of flowers. Ere the sea
 mar it,

Walk forth with Leonine; the air is quick there,
 Piercing, and sharpens well the stomach. Come;
 Leonine, take her by the arm, walk with her.

Mar. No, I pray you;
 I'll not bereave you of your servant.

Dion. Come, come;
 I love the king your father, and yourself,
 With more than foreign heart. We every day
 Expect him here: when he shall come, and find
 Our paragon to all reports, thus blasted,

He will repent the breadth of his great voyag
 Blame both my lord and me, that we have ta'en
 No care to your best courses. Go, I pray you
 Walk, and be cheerful once again; reserve
 That excellent complexion, which did steal
 The eyes of young and old. Care not for me
 I can go home alone.

Mar. Well, I will go;
 But yet I have no desire to it.

Dion. Come, come, I know 'tis good for you,
 Walk half an hour, Leonine, at the least;
 Remember what I have said.

Leon. I warrant you, madam.

Dion. I'll leave you, my sweet lady, for a while
 Pray you walk softly, do not heat your blood.
 What? I must have a care of you.

Mar. Thanks, sweet madam.—

[Exit Dionyza]

Is this wind westerly that blows?

Leon. South-west

Mar. When I was born, the wind was north.

Leon. Was't so?

Mar. My father, as nurse said, did never fear
 But cry'd, *Good seamen!* to the sailors, galling
 His kingly hands with hauling of the ropes;
 And, claspings to the mast, endur'd a sea
 That almost burst the deck.

Leon. When was this?

Mar. When I was born:
 Never was waves nor wind more violent;
 And from the ladder-tackle washes off
 A canvass-climber. *Ha!* says one, *will thou!*
 And with a dropping industry they skip
 From stern to stern: the boatswain whistles, and
 The master calls, and trebles their confusion.

Leon. Come, say your prayers.

Mar. What mean you?

Leon. If you require a little space for prayer,
 I grant it: Pray! but be not tedious,
 For the gods are quick of ear, and I am sworn
 To do my work with haste.

Mar. Why will you kill me?

Leon. To satisfy my lady.

Mar. Why would she have me kill'd?

Now, as I can remember, by my troth,
 I never did her hurt in all my life:
 I never spake bad word, nor did ill turn
 To any living creature: believe me, la,
 I never kill'd a mouse, nor hurt a fly:
 I trod upon a worm against my will,
 But I wept for it. How have I offended,
 Wherein my death might yield her profit, or
 My life imply her danger?

Leon. My commission

Is not to reason of the deed, but do it.

Mar. You will not do't for all the world, I hope
 You are well favour'd, and your looks foreshow
 You have a gentle heart. I saw you lately,
 When you caught hurt in parting two that fought
 Good sooth, it show'd well in you: do so now!
 Your lady seeks my life: come you between,
 And save poor me, the weaker.

Leon. I am sworn,

And will despatch.

Enter Pirates, whilst Marina is struggling.

1 Pirate. Hold, villain! [Leonine runs away]
 1 Ship boy.

2 Pirate. A prize! a prize!
3 Pirate. Half-part, mates, half-part. Come,
 's have her aboard suddenly.

[*Exeunt Pirates with Marina.*]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Re-enter Leonine.

Leon. These roving thieves serve the great
 pirate Valdes:
 d they have seiz'd Marina. Let her go: [dead,
 ere's no hope she'll return. I'll swear she's
 d thrown into the sea.—But I'll see further;
 rhaps they will but please themselves upon
 t carry her aboard. If she remain, [her,
 hom they have ravish'd, must by me be slain.
 [Exit.

SCENE III.

THARSUS. A ROOM IN CLEON'S HOUSE.

Enter Cleon and Dionya.

Dion. Why, are you foolish? Can it be undone?
Cle. O Dionya, such a piece of slaughter
 e sun and moon ne'er looked upon!

Dion. I think

u'll turn a child again.

Cle. Were I chief lord of all the spacious
 give it to undo the deed. O lady, [world,
 uch less in blood than virtue, yet a princess
 equal any single crown o' the earth,
 the justice of compare! O villain Leonine,
 hom thou hast poison'd too! [ness

thou hadst drunk to him, it had been a kind-
 coming well thy feat: what canst thou say,
 hen noble Pericles shall demand his child?

Dion. That she is dead. Nurses are not the
 foster it, nor ever to preserve. [fates,

e died by night; I'll say so. Who can cross
 less you play the impious innocent, [it?
 id for an honest attribute, cry out,
 e died by foul play.

Cle. O, go to. Well, well,
 all the faults beneath the heavens, the gods
 like this worst.

Dion. Be one of those, that think
 e pretty wrens of Tharsus will fly hence,
 d open this to Pericles. I do shame
 o think of what a noble strain you are,
 d of how coward a spirit.

Cle. To such a proceeding
 ho ever but his approbation added,
 ough not his pre-consent, he did not flow
 om honourable courses.

Dion. Be it so then:
 et none does know, but you, how she came
 or none can know, Leonine being gone. [dead,
 e did disdain my child, and stood between
 er and her fortunes: None would look on
 at cast their gazes on Marina's face; [her,
 hilst ours were blurted at, and held a malkin,
 ot worth the time of day. It pierced me
 thorough;

nd though you call my course unnatural,
 ou not your child well loving, yet I find,
 greets me as an enterprise of kindness,
 erform'd to your sole daughter.

Cle. Heavens forgive it!

Dion. And as for Pericles,

1 A coarse woman.

What should he say? We wept after her hearse,
 And even yet we mourn: her monument
 Is almost finish'd, and her epitaphs
 In glittering golden characters express
 A general praise to her, and care in us
 At whose expense 'tis done.

Cle. Thou art like the harpy,
 Which, to betray, doth wear an angel's face,
 Seize with an eagle's talons.

Dion. You are like one, that superstitiously
 Doth swear to the gods, that winter kills the flies;
 But yet I know you'll do as I advise. [*Exeunt.*]

*Enter Gower, before the Monument of Marina
 at Tharsus.*

Gow. Thus time we waste, and longest leagues
 make short;

Sail seas in cockles,¹ I have, and wish but for't;
 Making (to take your imagination,)
 From bourn to bourn,² region to region.

By you being pardon'd, we commit no crime
 To use one language, in each several clime,
 Where our scenes seem to live. I do beseech you,
 To learn of me, who stand i' the gaps to teach
 The stages of our story. Pericles [you

Is now again thwarting the wayward seas
 (Attended on by many a lord and knight),
 To see his daughter, all his life's delight.

Old Escanes, whom Helicanus late
 Advanc'd in time to great and high estate,
 Is left to govern. Bear you it in mind,
 Old Helicanus goes along behind. [brought

Well sailing ships, and bounteous winds, have
 This king to Tharsus (think his pilot thought;
 So with his steerage shall your thoughts grow on.)
 To fetch his daughter home, who first is gone.
 Like motes and shadows see them move awhile;
 Your ears unto your eyes I'll reconcile.

Dumb Show.

*Enter at one door, Pericles, with his Train;
 Cleon and Dionya at the other. Cleon shows
 Pericles the Tomb of Marina; whereat Peri-
 cles makes lamentation, puts on Sackcloth,
 and in a mighty passion departs. Then
 Cleon and Dionya retire.*

Gow. See how belief may suffer by foul show!
 This borrow'd passion stands for true old woe;
 And Pericles, in sorrow all devour'd, [shower'd,
 With sighs shot through, and biggest tears o'er-
 Leaves Tharsus, and again embarks. He swears
 Never to wash his face, nor cut his hairs;
 He puts on sackcloth, and to sea. He bears
 A tempest, which his mortal vessel tears,
 And yet he rides it out. Now please you wit
 The epitaph is for Marina writ
 By wicked Dionya.

[*Reads the Inscription on Marina's Monument.*
 The fairest, sweetest, and best, lies here,
 Who wither'd in her spring of year.

She was of Tyrus, the king's daughter,
 On whom foul death hath made this slaughter:
 Marina was she call'd; and at her birth, [earth:
 Thetis, being proud, swallow'd some part of the
 Therefore the earth, fearing to be overflow'd,
 Hath Thetis' birth-child on the heavens bestow'd:

1 Mussel shells, in which witches were supposed to

2 Boundary. [sail.

*Wherefore she does (and swears she'll never stint)
Make raging battery upon shores of flint.*

No visor does become black villainy,
So well as soft and tender flattery.
Let Pericles believe his daughter's dead,
And bear his courses to be ordered
By lady fortune—while our scenes display
His daughter's woe and heavy well-a-day,
In her unholy service. Patience then,
And think you now all are in Mitylene. [*Exit.*]

SCENE IV.—A HOUSE IN MITYLENE.

Enter Pirates and Boult, dragging in Marina.

Boult. [To Marina.] Come your ways.—My masters, has she any qualities?

Pirate. She has a good face, speaks well, and has excellent good clothes; there's no further necessity of qualities can make her be refused.

Boult. What's her price?

Pirate. I cannot be baited one doit of a thousand pieces.

Boult. Well, follow me, my masters; you shall have your money presently.

M. Alack, that Leonine was so slack, so slow! (He should have struck, not spoke;) or that these pirates

(Not enough barbarous) had not overboard
Thrown me, to seek my mother!

Boult. Why lament you, pretty one?

Mar. That I am pretty.

B. Come, the gods have done their part in you.

Mar. I accuse them not.

Boult. You are lit into my hands, where you are like to live.

Mar. The more my fault,
To 'scape his hands, where I was like to die.

Boult. Come your ways; follow me.

M. If fires be hot, knives sharp, or waters deep,
Unsuited still my honour will I keep.
Diana, aid my purpose!

Boult. What have we to do with Diana?

Pray you, will you go with us?

Mar. Whether would you have me?

Boult. To sell the jewel that you hold so dear.

Mar. 'Pr'ythee tell me one thing first.

Boult. Come now, your one thing.

Mar. What canst thou wish thine enemy to be?

Boult. Why, I could wish him to be my master, or rather, my mistress.

M. Neither of these are yet so bad as thou art, Since they do better thee in their command.
Thou hold'st a place, for which the pained'st fiend

Of hell would not in reputation change.

Boult. What would you have me? go to the wars, would you? where a man may serve seven years for the loss of a leg, and have not money enough in the end to buy him a wooden one?

M. Do any thing but this thou doest. Empty Old receptacles, common sewers, of filth; Serve by indenture to the common hangman; Any of these ways are better yet than this. O that the gods would safely from this place Deliver me! Here, here is gold for thee. Proclaim that I can sing, weave, sew, and dance, With other virtues, which I'll keep from boast;

And I will undertake all these to teach. I doubt not but this populous city will Yield many scholars.

Boult. But can you teach all this you speak of?

Mar. Prove that I cannot.

Boult. Well, I will see what I can do for thee; if I can place thee, I will.

Mar. But, amongst honest people?

Boult. 'Faith, my acquaintance lies little amongst them. But come, I'll do for thee what I can; come your ways. [*Exeunt.*]

Act Fifth.

Enter Gower.

G. Marina thus the danger 'scapes, and chance
Into an honest house, our story says.

She sings like one immortal, and she dances
As goddess-like to her admired lays:

Deep clerks she dumbs, and with her neeld
composes

Nature's own shape, of bud, bird, branch, o
berry;

That even her art sisters the natural roses:
Her inkle, silk, twin with the rubied cherry:

That pupils lacks she none of noble race,
Who pour their bounty on her; and her gain

She gives the cursed Boult. Here we her place
And to her father turn our thoughts again,

Where we left him, on thesea. We there him lost
Whence driven before the winds, he is arriv'd

Here where his daughter dwells; and on this
coast *

Suppose him now at anchor. The city striv'd
God Neptune's annual feast to keep; from

Lysimachus our Tyrian ship spies, [when
His banners sable, trimm'd with rich expense

And to him in his barge with fervour hies.
In your supposing once more put your sight;

Of heavy Pericles think this the bark;
Where, what is done in action, more, if might,

Shall be discover'd; please you, sit, and hark.
[*Exit.*]

SCENE I.—ON BOARD PERICLES' SHIP, OFF
MITYLENE. A CLOSE PAVILION ON DECK,
WITH A CURTAIN BEFORE IT; PERICLES WITH-
IN IT, RECLINED ON A COUCH. A BARGE
LYING BESIDE THE TYRIAN VESSEL.

*Enter Two Sailors, one belonging to the Tyrian
Vessel, the other to the Barge; to them Helicanus.*

Tyr. Sail. [To the Sailor of Mitylene.] Where's
the Lord Helicanus? he can resolve you.

O here he is.—

Sir, there's a barge put off from Mitylene,
And in it is Lysimachus, the governor,

Who craves to come aboard. What is your will?

Hel. That he have his. Call up some gentlemen.

Tyr. Sail. Ho, gentlemen! my lord calls.

Enter Two Gentlemen.

1 *Gent.* Doth your lordship call?

Hel. Gentlemen,

There is some of worth would come aboard; I
pray you,

To greet them fairly.

The Gentlemen and the Two Sailors descend, and go on board the Barge.

Enter from thence, Lysimachus and Lords; the Tyrian Gentlemen and the Two Sailors.

Tyr. Sail. Sir, this is the man that can, in aught you would, resolve you.

Lys. Hail, reverend sir! the gods preserve you!

Hel. And you, sir, to outlive the age I am, and die as I would do.

Lys. You wish me well. Sing on shore, honouring of Neptune's triumphs,

being this goodly vessel ride before us, made to it, to know of whence you are.

Hel. First, sir, what is your place?

Lys. I am governor of this place you lie before.

Hel. Sir, your vessel is of Tyre, in it the king's man, who for this three months hath not spoken

to any one, nor taken sustenance, but to prorogue his grief.

Lys. Upon what ground is his distemperature?

Hel. Sir, it would be too tedious to repeat; but the main grief of all springs from the loss of a beloved daughter and a wife.

Lys. May we not see him, then?

Hel. You may indeed, sir, but bootless is your sight; he will not speak to any.

Lys. Yet, let me obtain my wish.

Hel. Behold him, sir: [*Pericles discovered.*] this was a goodly person,

ill the disaster, that, one mortal night, rove him to this. [*Hail.*]

Lys. Sir, king, all hail! the gods preserve you! hail, royal sir!

Hel. It is in vain; he will not speak to you.

1 Lord. Sir, we have a maid in Mitylene, I durst wager, would win some words of him.

Lys. 'Tis well bethought. He, questionless, with her sweet harmony and other choice attractions, would allure and make a battery through his deafened parts which now are midway stopp'd: he is all happy as the fairest of all, and, with her fellow maids; is now upon the leafy shelter that abuts against the island's side.

[*He whispers one of the attendant Lords.—Exit Lord, in the Barge of Lysimachus.*]

Hel. Sure all's effectless; yet nothing we'll omit

that bears recovery's name. But, since your kindness, [further,] we have stretched thus far, let us beseech you that for our gold we may provision have, wherein we are not destitute for want, but weary for the staleness.

Lys. O, sir, a courtesy which if we should deny, the most just Heaven or every graff would send a caterpillar. And so inflict our province.—Yet once more let me entreat to know at large the cause of your king's sorrow.

Hel. Sit, sir, I will recount it;—But see, I am prevented.

Enter, from the Barge, Lord, Marina, and a young Lady.

Lys. O, here is

The lady that I sent for. Welcome, fair one! Is't not a goodly presence?

Hel. A gallant lady.

L. She's such, that were I well assur'd she came Of gentle kind, and noble stock, I'd wish No better choice, and think me rarely wed. Fair one, all goodness that consists in bounty Expect even here, where is a kingly patient: If that thy prosperous-artificial feat Can draw him but to answer thee in aught, Thy sacred physick shall receive such pay As thy desires can wish.

Mar. Sir, I will use My utmost skill in his recovery, Provided none but I and my companion Be suffer'd to come near him.

Lys. Come, let us leave her, And the gods make her prosperous! [*Mar. sings.*]

Lys. Mark'd he your musick?

Mar. No, nor look'd on us.

Lys. See, she will speak to him.

Mar. Hail, sir! my lord, lend ear:—

Per. Hum! ha!

Mar. I am a maid, My lord, that ne'er before invited eyes, But have been gaz'd on, comet-like: she speaks, My lord, that may be, hath endur'd a grief Might equal yours, if both were justly weigh'd. Though wayward fortune did malign my state, My derivation was from ancestors Who stood equivalent with mighty kings: But time hath rooted out my parentage, And to the world and awkward casualties Bound me in servitude.—[*Aside.*] I will desist; But there is something that glows upon my cheek,

And whispers in mine ear, Go not till he speak.

P. My fortunes—parentage—good parentage—To equal mine! was it not thus? what say you?

Mar. I said, my lord, if you did know my parentage,

You would not do me violence.¹

Per. I do think so, I pray you turn your eyes again upon me.—You are like something that—What country-woman?

Here of these shores?

Mar. No, nor of any shores:

Yet I was mortally brought forth, and am No other than I appear.

Per. I am great with woe, and shall deliver weeping.

My dearest wife was like this maid, and such a one

My daughter might have been: my queen's square brows;

Her stature to an inch; as wand-like straight;

As silver voic'd; her eyes as jewel-like,

And cas'd as richly: in pace another Juno;

Who starves the ears she feeds, and makes them hungry,

¹ This refers to a part of the story on which this play is founded, but which was not introduced into the play.

The more she gives them speech.—Where do you live?

M. Where I am but a stranger: from the deck You may discern the place.

Per. Where were you bred? And how achiev'd you these endowments, which You make more rich to owe?

Mar. Should I tell my history, 'Twould seem like lies disdain'd in the reporting.

Per. 'Pr'ythee, speak; Falseness cannot come from thee, for thou look'st Modest as justice, and thou seem'st a palace For the crown'd truth to dwell in; I'll believe thee,

And make my senses credit thy relation, To points that seem impossible; for thou look'st Like one I lov'd indeed. What were thy friends? Didst thou not say, when I did push thee back (Which was when I perceiv'd thee,) that thou From good descending? [cam'st

Mar. So indeed I did.

Per. Report thy parentage, I think thou said'st Thou hadst been toss'd from wrong to injury, And that thou thought'st thy griefs might equal mine,

If both were open'd.

Mar. Some such thing indeed I said, and said no more but what my thoughts Did warrant me was likely.

Per. Tell thy story; If thine consider'd prove the thousandth part Of my endurance, thou art a man, and I Have suffer'd like a girl: yet thou dost look Like Patience, gazing on king's graves, and smiling

Extremity out of act. What were thy friends? How lost thou them! Thy name, my most kind virgin?

Recount, I do beseech thee; come, sit by me.

Mar. My name, sir, is Marina.

Per. O, I am mock'd, And thou by some incensed god sent hither To make the world laugh at me.

Mar. Patience, good sir, Or here I'll cease.

Per. Nay, I'll be patient; Thou little know'st how thou dost startle me, To call thyself Marina.

Mar. The name Marina Was given me by one that had some power; My father, and a king.

Per. How! a king's daughter? And call'd Marina?

Mar. You said you would believe me; But, not to be a troubler of your peace, I will end here.

Per. But are you flesh and blood? Have you a working pulse? and are no fairy? No motion? Well; speak on. Where were you born?

And wherefore call'd Marina?

Mar. Call'd Marina, For I was born at sea.

Per. At sea? thy mother?

Mar. My mother was the daughter of a king; Who died the very minute I was born, As my good nurse Lychorida hath oft Deliver'd weeping.

Per. O, stop there a little!

[*Aside.*] This is the rarest dream that e'er dull sleep

Did mock sad fools withal: this cannot be.

My daughter's buried. Well:—where were you bred?

I'll hear you more, to the bottom of your story, And never interrupt you.

Mar. You'll scarce believe me; 'twere best I did give o'er.

Per. I will believe you by the syllable. Of what you shall deliver. Yet, give me leave:—How came you in these parts? where were you bred?

M. The king, my father, did in Tharsus leave Till cruel Cleon, with his wicked wife, Did seek to murder me: and having woo'd A villain to attempt it, who having drawn, A crew of pirates came and rescued me; Brought me to Mitylene. But now, good sir, Whither will you have me? Why do you weep?

It may be,

You think me an impostor: no, good faith; I am the daughter to king Pericles, If good king Pericles be.

Per. Ho, Helicanus!

Hel. Calls my gracious lord?

Per. Thou art a grave and noble counsellor, Most wise in general: Tell me, if thou canst, What this maid is, or what is like to be, That thus hath made me weep?

Hel. I know not; but Here is the regent, sir, of Mitylene, Speaks nobly of her.

Lys. She would never tell Her parentage; being demanded that, She would sit still and weep.

Per. O Helicanus, strike me, honour'd sir, Give me a gash, put me to present pain; Lest this great sea of joys rushing upon me, O'erbear the shores of my mortality, And drown me with their sweetness. O, come hither,

Thou that beget'st him that did thee beget; Thou that wast born at sea, buried at Tharsus, And found at sea again! O Helicanus, Down on thy knees, thank the holy gods, as loud As thunder threatens us: This is Marina.—What was thy mother's name? tell me but that, For truth can never be confirm'd enough, Though doubts did ever sleep.

Mar. First, sir, I pray, What is your title?

Per. I am Pericles of Tyre: but tell me now My drown'd queen's name (as in the rest thou hast

Been godlike perfect), thou'rt the heir of kingdoms,

And another life to Pericles thy father.

Mar. Is it no more to be your daughter, than To say, my mother's name was Thaisa?

Thaisa was my mother, who did end, The minute I began.

Per. Now, blessing on thee, rise; thou art my child.

Give me fresh garments. Mine own, Helicanus (Not dead at Tharsus, as she should have been, By savage Cleon,) she shall tell thee all:

When thou shalt kneel and justify in knowledge,
She is thy very princess. Who is this?

Hel. Sir, 'tis the governor of Mitylene,
Who, hearing of your melancholy state,
Did come to see you.

Per. I embrace you, sir.
Give me my robes; I am wild in my beholding.
O heavens bless my girl! But hark, what musick?
Tell Helicanus, my Marina, tell him
O'er point by point, for yet he seems to doubt,
How sure you are my daughter. But what musick?
Hel. My lord, I hear none.

Per. None?
The musick of the spheres: list, my Marina.
Lys. It is not good to cross him; give him way.

Per. Rarest sounds!
Do ye not hear?

Lys. Musick? my lord, I hear—
Per. Most heavenly musick:
It nips me unto list'ning, and thick slumber
Hangs on mine eyelids; let me rest. [*He sleeps.*]

Lys. A pillow for his head;
[*The Curtain before the Pavilion of Pericles*
is closed.]

So leave him all.—Well my companion-friends,
If this but answer to my just belief,
I'll well remember you.

[*Exeunt Lysimachus, Helicanus, Marina,*
and Attendant Lady.]

SCENE II.—THE SAME.

Pericles on the Deck asleep; Diana appearing
to him as in a Vision.

Dia. My temple stands in Ephesus; hie thee
thither,

And do upon mine altar sacrifice.
There, when my maiden priests are met to-
gether,

Before the people all,
Reveal how thou at sea didst lose thy wife;
To mourn thy crosses with thy daughter's call,
And give them repetition to the life.¹

Perform my bidding, or thou liv'st in woe:
Do't, and be happy, by my silver bow.
Awake, and tell thy dream. [*Diana disappears.*]

Per. Celestial Dian, goddess argentine,
I will obey thee!—*Helicanus!*

Enter Lysimachus, Helicanus, and Marina.

Hel. Sir.
Per. [To *Helicanus*.] My purpose was for
Tharsus, there to strike

The inhospitable Cleon; but I am
For other service first: toward Ephesus
Turn our blown sails; eftsoons² I'll tell thee why.
Shall we refresh us, sir, upon your shore,
And give you gold for such provision
As our intents will need?

Lys. With all my heart, sir; and when you
come ashore,

I have another suit.
Per. You shall prevail,
Were it to woo my daughter; for it seems
You have been noble towards her.

Lys. Sir, lend your arm.
Per. Come, my Marina. [*Exeunt.*]

¹ Rehearse them vividly.

² Shortly.

Enter Gow, before the Temple of Diana at
Ephesus.

Gow. Now our sands are almost run:

More a little, and then done.

This, as my last boon, give me
[For such kindness must relieve me,]

That you aptly will suppose
What pageantry, what feats, what shows,

What minstrelsy, and pretty din,

The regent made in Mittylin,

To greet the king. So he has thriv'd,

That he is promis'd to be wiv'd

To fair Marina; but in no wise

Till he had done his sacrifice,

As Dian bade; whereto being bound,

The interim, pray you, all confound.

In feather'd briefness sails are fill'd,

And wishes fall out as they're will'd.

At Ephesus, the temple see,

Our king, and all his company.

That he can hither come so soon,

Is by your fancy's thankful boon. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III.—THE TEMPLE OF DIANA AT
EPHESUS: THAISA STANDING NEAR THE
ALTAR, AS HIGH PRIESTESS; A NUMBER OF
VIRGINS ON EACH SIDE; CERIMON AND OTHER
INHABITANTS OF EPHEBUS ATTENDING.

Enter Pericles, with his Train; Lysimachus,
Helicanus, Marina, and a Lady.

Per. Hail Dian! to perform thy just command,
I here confess myself the king of Tyre:

Who, frighted from my country, did wed

The fair Thaisa, at Pentapolis.

At sea in childbed died she, but brought forth

A maid-child call'd Marina; who, O goddess,

Wears yet the silver livery. She at Tharsus

Was nurs'd with Cleon; whom at fourteen years

He sought to murder: but her better stars

Brought her to Mitylene: against whose shore

Riding, her fortunes brought the maid aboard us,

Where, by her own most clear remembrance, she

Made known herself my daughter.

Thai. Voice and favour!

You are—you are—O royal Pericles!—

[*She faints.*]

Per. What means the woman! She dies!

Help, gentlemen!

Cer. Noble sir,

If you have told Diana's altar true,

This is your wife.

Per. Reverend appearer no;

I threw her o'erboard with these very arms.

Cer. Upon this coast, I warrant you.

Per. 'Tis most certain.

Cer. Look to the lady;—O, she's but o'erjoy'd.

Early, one blust'ring morn, this lady was

Thrown on this shore. I oped the coffin, and

Found there rich jewels; recover'd her, and

placed her

Here in Diana's temple.

Per. May we see them?

Cer. Great sir, they shall be brought you to
my house,

Whither I invite you. Look! Thaisa is

Recover'd.

Thai. O, let me look!
If he be none of mine, my sanctity
Will to my sense¹ bend no licentious ear,
But curb it, spite of seeing. O, my lord,
Are you not Pericles? Like him you speak,
Like him you are: Did you not name a tempest,
A birth, and death?

Per. The voice of dead Thaisa!

Thai. That Thaisa am I, supposed dead,
And drown'd.

Per. Immortal Dian!

Thai. Now I know you better.—

When we with tears parted Pentapolis,
The king, my father, gave you such a ring.

[*Shews a Ring.*]

Per. This, this: no more, you gods! your
present kindness

Makes my past miseries sport: you shall do
well,

That on the touching of her lips I may
Melt, and no more be seen. O come, be buried
A second time within these arms.

Mar. My heart

Leaps to be gone into my mother's bosom.

[*Kneels to Thaisa.*]

Per. Look, who kneels here! Flesh of thy
flesh, Thaisa;

Thy burden at the sea, and call'd Marina,
For she was yielded there.

Thai. Bless'd and mine own!

Hel. Hail, madam, and my queen!

Thai. I know you not.

Per. You have heard me say, when I did fly
from Tyre,

I left behind an ancient substitute.

Can you remember what I call'd the man?
I have named him oft.

Thai. 'Twas Helicanus then.

Per. Still confirmation:

Embrace him, dear Thaisa; this is he.

Now do I long to hear how you were found;
How possibly preserved; and whom to thank,
Besides the gods, for this great miracle.

Thai. Lord Cerimon, my lord; this man
Through whom the gods have shewn their power;
that can

From first to last resolve you.

Per. Reverend sir,

The gods can have no mortal officer

¹ Sensual passion.

More like a god than you. Will you deliver
How this dead queen re-lives?

Cer. I will, my lord.

Beseech you, first go with me to my house,
Where shall be shewn you all was found with
her;

How she came placed here within the temple
No needful thing omitted.

Per. Pure Diana!

I bless thee for thy vision, and will offer
My night oblations to thee. Thaisa,
This prince, the fair-betrothed of your daughter
Shall marry her at Pentapolis. And now,
This ornament that makes me look so dismal
Will I, my loved Marina, clip to form;

And what this fourteen years no razor touch'd
To grace thy marriage day, I'll beautify.

T. Lord Cerimon hath letters of good credit
Sir, that my father's dead.

Per. Heavens make a star of him! Yet there
my queen.

We'll celebrate their nuptials, and ourselves
Will in that kingdom spend our following days
Our son and daughter shall in Tyrus reign.

Lord Cerimon, we do our longing stay,
To hear the rest untold.—Sir, lead the way.

[*Exeunt*]

Enter Gower.

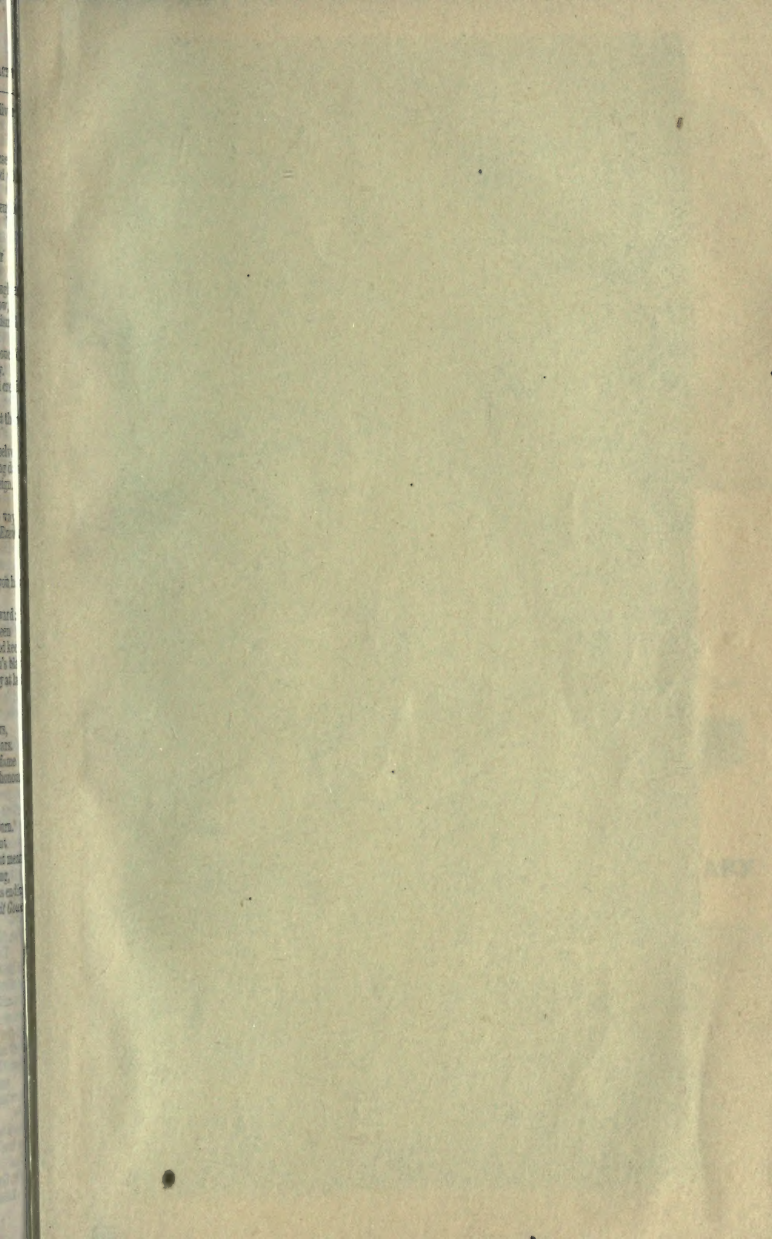
Gow. In Antioch, and his daughter, you have
heard

Of monstrous lust the due and just reward:
In Pericles, his queen and daughter, seen
(Although assail'd with fortune fierce and keen,
Virtue preserved from fell destruction's blast
Led on by heaven, and crown'd with joy at last
In Helicanus may you well descry
A figure of truth, of faith, of loyalty:
In reverend Cerimon there well appears,
The worth that learned charity aye wears.
For wicked Cleon and his wife, when fame
Had spread their cursed deed, and honour'd
name

Of Pericles, to rage the city turn;
That him and his they in his palace burn.
The gods for murder seemed so content
To punish them; although not done, but meant,
So on your patience evermore attending,
New joy wait on you! Here our play has ending.

[*Exit Gower.*]

THE END.



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